

1. Spotlight on Fostering

Last week (23 - 29 October) the Family Link Plus team at Gloucestershire County Council staged a takeover of the fostering service's marketing channels! Family Link Plus (FLP) is a specialist team within the GCC fostering service that provides daytime or overnight support for families across Gloucestershire with children who have complex health needs or disabilities.

During the week, FLP featured radio adverts and an event at Sainsbury's in Stroud, as well as profiles of its short break foster carers and staff, a blog post, and launched its [new short film](#) which proudly promotes this popular service.

Fantastic bonds are formed between Family Link Plus carers, the children and their families. Many carers support the same people for years, watching them grow from children to young adults. One parent says of the service, "Having a family link plus carer is a huge weight off my shoulders. I know my child is safe, I can go out and do something myself and she's going to be having fun whilst I'm doing it. It gives us time as a family to do what others take for granted – just normal stuff like shopping!"

FLP's motto is 'Give a little time, make a big difference' and they would like to hear from anyone who thinks they could embrace the opportunity to become a short break carer. Get in touch on 01452 426860 or check out the Takeover page at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering/familylinkplustakeover

2. Build Back Better Fund

I still have funds available for community projects and each councillor has been awarded a top-up of £10,000. Funds have to be spent by January 2025, so please do get in touch if you have a project that is ready to go. This can be a wide range of projects, including digital inclusion for school children, community activities or one off events, wildflower planting, nature information boards, etc etc.

Information can be found here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/business-property-and-economy/finance-funding-and-grants/build-back-better-grant-scheme/>

3. Fix My Street

[Fix My Street](#) has replaced the Report It function on our website. The introduction of Fix My Street is one of the key innovations of the Highways Transformation Programme to improve customer experience and boost efficiency as the customer friendly app makes it easier to report highways issues and stay up to date with repairs.

A wide range of issues can be reported; from potholes and blocked drains to faulty street lights, damaged pavements and flytipping.

Some of the benefits and features of Fix My Street include:

- Being able to use the map to see which issues have already been reported or add a new report.
- Anyone can sign-up to receive updates about the work being done.
- Download the Fix My Street app to make reports from your phone.
- Reducing duplication of reports and administrative work.