

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Fostering and Adoption Week**

Fostering and adoption awareness week organised by the Social Services Department of the Care Agency last week proved to be a great success in raising the awareness in our community to the issues surrounding adoption and fostering children in Gibraltar. Following the launch at a reception hosted by Samantha Sacramento, Minister for Social Services, social workers were available for drop in sessions at the John Mackintosh Hall throughout the week.

These proved to be popular and saw a good response from people showing genuine interest in being prospective foster parents or adopters. The social work professionals were supported during these sessions by foster parents and individuals currently undergoing the fostering and adoption training who were able to provide other interested individuals with an insight into their own experience.

Minister for Social Services, The Hon Samantha Sacramento, noted: "I am very pleased at the success of this awareness campaign. There has not been an awareness campaign on this subject for many years and never has it happened in this scale. The effort put in by social workers has been outstanding and this has yielded very good results, I am extremely proud of my team for raising the profile of such an important issue so effectively. The response from stakeholders and interested members in the community has been very encouraging indeed."

Should you be interested in learning more about adopting or fostering a child in Gibraltar please contact the Care Agency Social Services Department on 200 78528 and ask to speak to the adoption and fostering social worker or email [adoptionandfostering@careagency.gov.gi](mailto:adoptionandfostering@careagency.gov.gi), the team would be happy to arrange a meeting and explain what can be expected from the process and how you can make a difference to a child in Gibraltar.