

Foster Carer of the Year Awards 2018

Saturday, 12th May 2018
Hilton Hotel, Belfast

in partnership with Fostering Network NI

Foster Carer of the Year (and Foster Carers of Distinction):

Patricia and Colm Gray – Northern Trust (Draperstown)



l-r: Kathleen Toner (Director Fostering Network NI), Patricia & Colm Gray and Una Carragher (Manager Regional Adoption & Fostering Service)

Patricia and Colm Gray have been fostering for the Northern Trust for 11 years. Alongside running a busy sheep farm and raising four children of their own, Patricia and Colm have looked after toddlers, mothers with their babies, as well as teenagers and say they simply can't imagine doing anything else.

The couple received three nominations - from a fellow foster carer and two social workers - all of whom highlighted the way the couple are child centred and able to bring the best out of the children in their care.

Patricia and Colm see fostering as a lifestyle. They say: "This is who we are and the rewards outweigh any challenges". *(courtesy of Fostering Network NI)*

Foster Carers of Distinction:

Frances Lavery – Belfast Trust (South Belfast)



l-r: Kathleen Toner (Director Fostering Network NI), Frances Lavery and Una Carragher (Manager Regional Adoption & Fostering Service)

Sean & Jill Kearney – Belfast Trust (Tandragee)



l-r: Kathleen Toner (Director Fostering Network NI), Sean & Jill Kearney and Una Carragher (Manager Regional Adoption & Fostering Service)

Linda and Joe McLeigh – South Eastern Trust (Downpatrick)



l-r: Kathleen Toner (Director Fostering Network NI), Linda & Joe McLeigh and Una Carragher (Manager Regional Adoption & Fostering Service)

Helene Goodwin – Western Trust (Omagh)



l-r: Una Carragher (Manager Regional Adoption & Fostering Service), Helene & Andrew Goodwin and Kathleen Toner (Director Fostering Network NI)

Orinda and Jamie Philip – Kindercare (Portstewart)



l-r: Una Carragher (Manager Regional Adoption & Fostering Service), Orinda & Jamie Philip and Kathleen Toner (Director Fostering Network NI)

Mary and Daniel Maechling – Foster Care Associates (Newcastle)



l-r: Kathleen Toner (Director Fostering Network NI), Linda & Joe McLeigh and Una Carragher (Manager Regional Adoption & Fostering Service)

Julie and Evan Jones – Action for Children (Dromore, Co Down)



l-r: Una Carragher (Manager Regional Adoption & Fostering Service), Julie & Evan Jones and Kathleen Toner (Director Fostering Network NI)