The Formentera Office of Social Welfare is launching a family foster care service for at-risk and underage islanders. This service, as Rafael Ramírez, Councillor of Social Welfare, pointed out, aims to allow "children who are under the guardianship of local government to be hosted by an alternative family temporarily".

Ramírez pointed out that the Consell "has increased the number of professionals working with minors, planned a care home to serve at-risk children under 12 and now is launching this new service; all to protect the interests of vulnerable and at-risk minors".

"As an administration we have an obligation to protect islanders who are not yet 18, and we consider that with this service we can offer underage youth the best possible family environment in which to grow up", said Ramírez, who also believes that "a foster family has the opportunity to love, educate and provide a safe home to minors who need it".

Family screenings and training

Formentera families who join the programme will undergo screening and receive training from Consell de Formentera staff. This team will also support host families on an ongoing basis. The service will evaluate applications based on various criteria and economic, personal and socio-family factors.

This foster family programme is framed by regulations that include financial assistance for parenting support and training. "Economic costs should not factor into the decision to foster or into the care that children receive", stressed Ramírez.

To raise awareness, sensitise Formentera residents and interest more families in hosting, the Consell has launched the campaign 'Open Your Home and Grow as a Family' (*Obre ca teua i creix en família*).

Interested parties can contact Formentera Office of Social Welfare at 971 321 271 or by email

at benestarsocial@conselldeformentera.cat .

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Communications Office
Consell de Formentera

