



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

30th July 2026

The Foster Care Charity Welcomes Michael Carr as Patron

The Foster Care Charity is delighted to welcome professional chef and restaurateur Michael Carr as its new Patron.

For Michael, this role is deeply personal.

Having grown up in care himself, he knows just how important it is for children and young people to feel safe, supported and valued. He also knows the life-changing difference that foster carers can make.

Today, Michael runs a successful bistro with his partner. But his journey began with the support of a foster family who helped him find stability, confidence and a sense of belonging. His foster mum, who was a chef, introduced him to cooking and sparked the passion that would go on to shape his career.

Now, Michael wants to use his experience to help others.

Michael said:

"Becoming Patron of The Foster Care Charity means a lot to me because fostering changed my life.

"My foster carers gave me the support and stability I needed when I was growing up. They believed in me, encouraged me and helped me see what was possible.

"My foster mum introduced me to cooking and that's where my passion for food began. What started in her kitchen became the career I have today.

"If I can use my story to help children feel supported, encourage foster carers or help more people understand fostering, then I'll be proud of what we achieve together."

Barbara Allies, Deputy CEO of The Foster Care Charity, said:

"We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Michael to The Foster Care Charity family.

"Michael's story is a wonderful example of why fostering matters. With the right support, encouragement and care, children can thrive and go on to achieve amazing things.



"What makes Michael so special is his genuine passion for helping others. He understands the challenges children can face, but he also understands the power of feeling safe, valued and believed in."

"We are incredibly excited to work alongside him. His voice, experience and enthusiasm will help us shine a light on fostering, celebrate the amazing work of foster carers and inspire more people to support children and young people."

Children are at the heart of everything The Foster Care Charity does. Together with Michael, the charity looks forward to helping more children and young people feel supported, find a sense of belonging and build brighter futures.

ENDS

For media enquiries, please contact:

Catherine Anderson Jones – Marketing

The Foster Care Charity

Phone: 01684 892380

Email: hello@fccharity.org.uk

www.fostercarecharity.org.uk

Notes to Editors

The Foster Care Charity is a not-for-profit fostering charity dedicated to helping children and young people thrive. Children are at the heart of everything the charity does. Through fostering, the charity works to ensure children have the stability, support, sense of belonging and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

Michael Carr is a professional chef and restaurateur who spent part of his childhood in care. Inspired by his foster mum, who was a chef, Michael developed a passion for cooking that led him to build a successful career in hospitality. He now runs his own bistro and is passionate about raising awareness of fostering and supporting children and young people with care experience.



Michael Carr – Patron Biography

Michael Carr is a Norfolk-based chef, restaurateur and entrepreneur, and the Patron of The Foster Care Charity.

Michael has worked in professional kitchens since the age of 16, building his career from the ground up through hard work, determination and a passion for food. His love of cooking was first sparked by his foster mum, who worked as a chef and introduced him to the kitchen from a young age. That early inspiration would go on to shape both his career and his future.

Over the years, Michael has held senior chef positions across East Anglia, including Head Chef at The Lawns Hotel in Holt, and appeared on BBC MasterChef: The Professionals in 2019.

In 2024, Michael and his partner Charlotte opened Michael's Bistro in the heart of Holt, Norfolk. The restaurant celebrates local produce, drawing inspiration from the finest Norfolk ingredients, Michael's travels and his commitment to creating memorable dining experiences in a warm and welcoming environment.

Away from the kitchen, Michael is passionate about mentoring others and sharing his knowledge. He enjoys helping aspiring chefs develop their skills and believes strongly in the value of support, encouragement and creating opportunities for others.

Michael's appointment as Patron of The Foster Care Charity is deeply personal. Having spent much of his childhood in care, he understands first-hand the importance of stability, belonging and positive relationships. He credits his foster carers with helping shape the person he is today, giving him the support and encouragement that enabled him to build a successful career and future.

As Patron, Michael is committed to raising awareness of fostering, challenging misconceptions about children in care and championing the life-changing impact foster carers can have. He hopes his own story will inspire others and help ensure more children and young people feel heard, supported and able to achieve their full potential.

Michael lives in Norfolk and continues to run Michael's Bistro alongside his partner Charlotte.