



Hi, my name is Martin Williams. I had fostered with my wife for 10 years until she died suddenly in 2015. After Lizzy passed away, I decided to give up my full time job and become the primary carer for the two young children we had in our care at the time.

One of the children has complex needs and is only at school part time so it was a big decision to continue fostering alone.

I was obviously going through a very hard time when Lizzy died but I had to consider that the children were also going through a traumatic time too and I wanted to provide them with some stability.

As a single man caring for girls, one of the most challenging issues I faced was the onset of puberty. The fostering agency helped me with this as well as women from my support network.

The other challenge I often face is the stigma of being a single male carer. I currently care for a white girl and when we are out together I frequently get puzzled or suspicious looks from the general public who can't figure out the relationship between us. Thankfully we just laugh it off.

**Martin Williams**

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