



fosterplus
more than fostering

Guide to Transferring for Foster Parents

Contact us
t: 0800 3698512
www.fosterplus.co.uk



We know that choosing to transfer to another fostering agency is a big decision, but sometimes it's the right step to make. The work you do as a foster parent is vital in making sure vulnerable children get a chance to lead happy, healthy lives, so you should feel supported, valued and treated as a fellow professional by your service provider.

At Fosterplus, we care deeply about our foster carers and the children we look after across England and Scotland. For over 30 years, our focus has always been on providing stability to young people in care, which we achieve through our expertise in careful matching. This commitment to continuity, and extensive support, is what sets us apart, and we hope to welcome you into our family of foster carers very soon.

**Thank you,
Fosterplus**

When is the right time to transfer?



Choosing to transfer isn't normally a decision you make overnight. It takes careful thought and consideration, especially when you have a child in your care. Or you might find it difficult if you've been loyal to a fostering provider for a long time. But there are some key warning signs to look out for that could indicate it's time to move on.

Lack of support

Children in the care system are likely to have experienced a lot of trauma and emotional difficulties, so it's crucial for fostering agencies to provide professional support whenever needed. If you're not receiving a high level of support, such as 24/7 help, a dedicated social worker and regular support groups, it might be worth speaking to other agencies to compare.

Lack of suitable referrals

As a foster parent, your passion for helping children in need is likely the reason you got into this field. However, if you're not receiving referrals, or are being referred young people that you can't care for, this can be disheartening for all involved. At Fosterplus, we have a strong reputation for having a low rate of 'unplanned endings' (when a child leaves the placement before its expected time), which makes for happier foster parents and better outcomes for children.

Feeling isolated from the fostering community

Feeling like you're not part of a team or community can be discouraging. If your current agency isn't fostering relationships with staff, social workers, and other foster parents, it might be time to look for a different agency.

Lack of financial support

Being a foster parent is both challenging and rewarding, but you should be compensated accordingly. While fostering allowances vary, you should feel like your financial rewards reflect the hard work you do. It's also worth comparing other perks and benefits too, such as holiday, birthday and religious festival allowances that allow you to create happy memories with the children in your care.

High staff turnover

In every company, people come and go, but when staff turnover is high, it could signal deeper issues within the agency or local authority. Consistent relationships are vital for a child's growth and development, so it's important to work with an agency that is committed to building and maintaining solid, consistent relationships.

100%

of our inspected services at Fosterplus are Good or Very Good



Why choose Fosterplus?

Our mission is to “provide positive and stable family environments for the children and young people placed with our foster carers and ensure that, with the right support, they can thrive emotionally and academically.”

Many children who enter our care have experienced a disrupted childhood, and our aim is to break this cycle and provide more stability. We do this by carefully matching the right foster parents to the right children, and making sure we provide the very best support and guidance. Our matching process is unrivalled in its detail, commitment, and ability to secure positive, long-lasting foster care placements.

A careful, considered approach

Everything we do is with careful thought and consideration – from the initial matching of foster parents with children, through to the training we offer. Our work is designed to keep foster families together and to provide stability and positive outcomes.

Regular and suitable placement opportunities

We’ve been expertly matching foster parents with children for over 30 years, during which we’ve built strong connections with hundreds of local authorities. This means you can rely on us to always find the right match when you’re ready to welcome a child into your home.

Exceptional, ongoing support

As an independent agency, we can go above and beyond in the support we offer your family; providing an experienced and passionate team of social workers, 24 hour support line, regular support groups and activities, online services, and get-togethers with other foster families.

Great outcomes for children

This is what fostering is all about and we’re especially proud of our track-record, which is a real testament to our approach and commitment to quality. This is reflected in our excellent Ofsted and Care Inspectorate reports, as well as the feedback we receive from local authorities.

I have been a foster carer for 15 and a half years with Fosterplus. They have always supported me to provide the very best care for the children I look after.

Lynne,
foster carer

Ofsted said...

Children live happily and thrive in secure long-term, well-planned placements. The manager has reviewed placement stability across all placements and is taking action to ensure this is the experience for all of the children.

**8 offices
across
England &
Scotland**

**30+ years
of making a
difference**

**Around 200
extraordinary
foster
parents**

**Over 200
children in
our care**



Fast tracked to foster

Transferring to Fosterplus

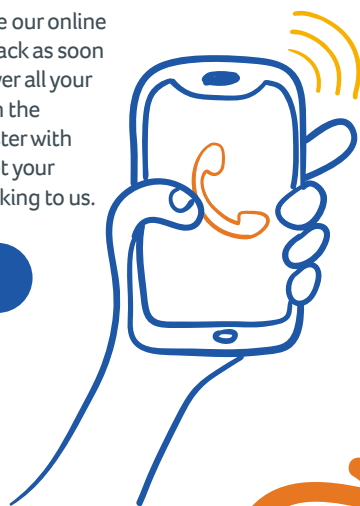
We offer a clear, four step transfer process to become a Fosterplus foster parent to make everything as stress-free as possible. It's fully confidential, and we'll be on hand every step of the way.

A lot of the information from your previous assessment will be applied to your new Form F, allowing us to fast-track your assessment and approve you in as little as 3 months!

1 Enquiry

If you're interested in transferring to Fosterplus, the first step is to give us a call on 0800 3698512 and speak with a member of our team. Alternatively, you can complete our online form and we'll give you a call back as soon as possible. Our team will answer all your questions and talk you through the process and what it's like to foster with Fosterplus. You don't need to let your current agency know you're talking to us.

Enquire Now



2 Initial Visit

This can be in person or via an online video call, depending on which you prefer. The visit is a great chance to get to know each other, discuss what Fosterplus can offer you, and talk through the details of fostering with us – including our support, referrals, allowances and the process of transferring with a child already in your care.



3 Application & Assessment

If you decide you'd like to go ahead and apply to Fosterplus, you will need to let your current fostering provider know that you're considering a transfer. **This is just a notice of intent and is not a resignation.** You can then proceed with completing an application form, which can be filled in online, or on paper if you prefer. At Fosterplus, our Recruitment Manager will support you with your application and can provide a template to use for your notice of intent to transfer.

Once you've submitted your application and provided us with a copy of your notice of intent to transfer, we'll begin your assessment as soon as possible. As you likely know from your previous assessment, this will involve several social worker visits, where your assessor will gather information and complete your Form F for you. As you're an experienced foster carer, we'll fast-track your application and aim to get you approved within 3 months.



4 Panel & Transfer

As soon as your Form F assessment is completed, we'll invite you to Panel. Our independent panel members will send a recommendation about your approval status to our agency decision maker, who will approve you as soon as possible.

As soon as you're approved, you'll need to formally resign from your current fostering agency or local authority. 28 days later, you'll automatically transfer over to Fosterplus when your new contract starts and your old one ends.





Transferring with a child in your care

“Fosterplus were very efficient, the process was very quick but thorough and the support has been brilliant from day one. They’re always on hand when I need them.”

- Hugh, foster parent

When you want to transfer with an existing placement, it’s incredibly important to put the child’s welfare first. Everybody involved needs to agree that the transfer arrangements are in their best interests and won’t bring disruption to their life. The process is largely the same, but there are two key differences when you transfer with a child in your care.

- 1** At the point of sending your notice of intent to your current provider, you also need to send this letter to the child’s placing authority.
- 2** Within 28 days of the notice of intent being received, there will be a Transfer Protocol Meeting. This meeting is to establish that transferring won’t negatively impact the child’s wellbeing or progress, and that we here at Fosterplus can continue to meet their needs. It’ll involve yourself, the child’s placing authority, your current fostering provider and Fosterplus.

Matching you with the right children

This is what we do best. When a child is matched with the right foster family, it's a better experience for everyone. Children in care have already gone through a lot of upheaval, so it can be heartbreaking if a placement doesn't work out because they've been matched with an unsuitable foster family. This is why we put so much energy into careful, considered matching.

The considerations

At Fosterplus, there's far more to matching than just studying paperwork and making an informed guess. It's a detailed and well-considered process, and we involve everyone as much as we can.

We've developed and sustained an outstanding reputation for quality matching with only 3% of our families waiting for a foster child, against a national average of 17% reported by Ofsted.



The child

When a child comes into care, we use the information we receive about their experiences, vulnerabilities, personality and needs, so we have a real understanding of them as a person and the environment they would thrive in.



The foster parent

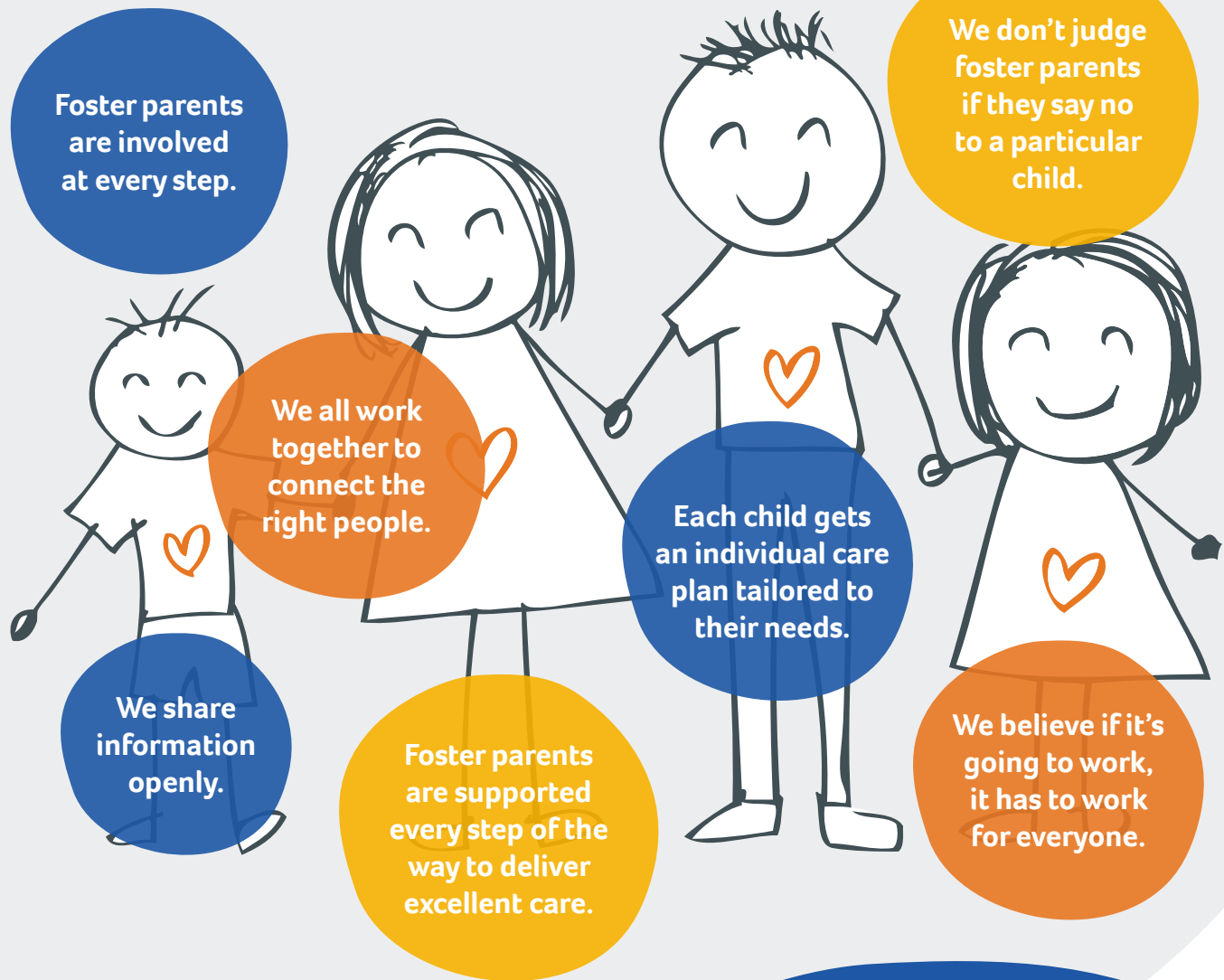
Throughout your assessment and time with us, we really get to know you, including your home life, interests and personality, as well as your experience, preferences (for example, age of children) and training.



Professional expertise

As well as experts from the foster child's local authority, we have our own in-house team to call on too, including referrals officers and social workers. Their views help inform our decision-making.

How we make it work



“The matching process at the beginning was great and we were matched so well with the boys. Fosterplus have spent so much time and effort on matching us with the right children and have done extensive research to make this experience great for us.”

Lisa & Andy, foster parents

There's a world of benefits waiting for you at Fosterplus

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“Our social worker has been such an important part of our lives, she is there for us no matter the time of day. It's things like this that really stay with you because, regardless of what happens during your fostering journey – you will always be supported wholeheartedly. That's the reason why I chose to foster with Fosterplus, as the level of support and care is just amazing.”

Sarah & Steven, Foster parents

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Great support for the whole family

Our social workers have realistic caseloads, compared with many agencies and local authorities, so always have time to visit you regularly and maintain contact. We also make sure you're always connected to the support you need 24/7/365. This ranges from regular support groups and events, through to direct access to Fosterplus management, an out of hours service and online resources.

Tailor-made training opportunities

With an extensive range of training courses to choose from, we're able to create a personalised programme to meet your individual interests, needs and schedule - all the way through your fostering career. This means you'll be able to continuously broaden your knowledge, develop your skills and take your career in whatever direction you want, including into specialist areas such as neurodiversity, mental health and disabilities.



Regular placement opportunities

With over 30 years' experience across England and Scotland, we've built strong and long-term relationships with our commissioning partners, resulting in a regular stream of referrals.

Rewards and incentives

Independent agencies such as Fosterplus tend to offer a more generous financial package. We offer our foster families a competitive fostering allowance, plus other benefits such as ad-hoc allowances, rewards and recognition, as well as access to an exclusive platform called The Exchange, which offers hundreds of discounts for family days out, holidays, shops, restaurants and more..



Free membership to Foster Talk


All our foster carers receive free membership to Foster Talk, which provides a range of services such as legal insurance to protect against allegations, helplines to give daily advice and guidance, counselling at any time of the day or night, as well as support and training to help you feel safeguarded in your role.



Get up to £3,000 through our Refer-a-Friend scheme

As you'll know, we need more and more people to step up and become foster parents. When you refer a friend to foster with us, who is new to our community, and they're successfully approved, we'll give you £1,500 as a thank you. You'll then get another £1,500 after they've completed their first year of fostering with us.



A photograph of two women walking in a park with autumn leaves on the ground. The woman on the left is wearing a denim jacket over a plaid shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a white cable-knit sweater. They are both smiling and looking at each other. A large blue circular graphic is overlaid on the image, containing a quote and the name of the woman on the right.

“I love going on the Fosterplus days out, it gives you a chance to be involved and the children to meet each other and have a great day out with people who understand what they’re going through. In my personal opinion, Fosterplus training is a brilliant thing to do – any training I’ve been to with my mum I’ve found extremely helpful!”

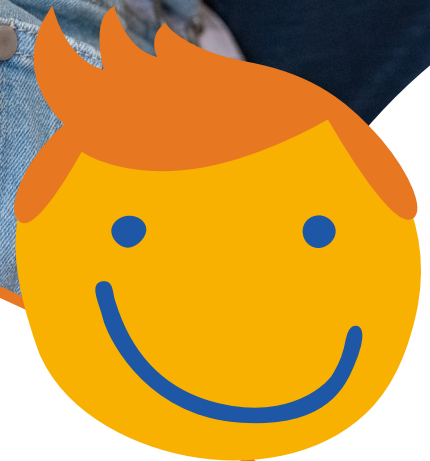
Yasmin, birth child

Allowances and rewards with Fosterplus

You can't count the rewards of fostering in terms of money but, even so, the financial side of things is important – not just to cover the costs of caring for children (entertainment, pocket money, activities and holidays) but to recognise your hard work and professionalism. That's why we offer our families a range of financial support:

- A competitive, tax-free fostering allowance of between £20,187 and £30,768 per year. This works out as a monthly allowance between £1,682 - £2,564.
- Payment increases in line with inflation and your experience.
 - Additional allowance payments such as for birthdays and religious festivals.
 - 2 weeks paid respite in England and £600 holiday allowance in Scotland.
- Membership to a rewards platform where you can benefit from offers and discounts at many high street retailers.

In addition, when you transfer to Fosterplus, we will always aim to match and possibly improve on your current fostering allowance.



Transferring checklist

Taking the step to transfer fostering agencies isn't always easy, but we're here to help. Before you make any decisions, make sure you've done the following...



Research different agencies to find the perfect match. While all fostering agencies are there to provide homes to children in need, they all have their own values, benefits and approaches, so you need to find one that aligns with your own principles.



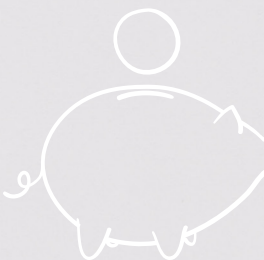
Ask questions and enquire. You're not committing to anything when you send an enquiry, and it's important to speak to people to get a feel for the agency's culture.



Get it in writing. If you're offered any extra benefits or incentives, be sure to get written confirmation so you've got everything to hand before moving ahead.



Don't be afraid to discuss finances. Fostering allowances vary depending on placement type, your location and how many children are in your care, so it's important you know what to expect before transferring.



If you want to apply, send your notice of intent. When you decide to apply to another foster agency, you must send your current provider a notice of intent. If you have a child in your care, you have to also send this letter to the child's placing local authority. If you apply to foster with us, we can give you a template to make this easier for you.





We're here to support you

Whether you've made up your mind or need to ask us a few more questions about Fosterplus, our friendly advisors are here to help. Get in touch today and we'll call you back at a suitable time to discuss transferring and help you decide if we're the right match for you.

Get in touch

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