

transferring to foster wales flintshire

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Flintshire





transferring to foster wales

Foster Wales is the national network of not-for-profit Local Authority fostering services across Wales, and our **Flintshire** team is your local support network.

We're not your standard fostering agency – we're far more connected.

Choosing us is about choosing people, not profit – as a not-for-profit organisation, all our funding goes directly into the fostering service we provide.

We're dedicated to working as a team with foster carers to help build brighter futures for local children. We help them stay in their familiar local environments, when it's right for them.

already a foster carer?

As your local authority fostering service we are responsible for all the children and young people in care in Flintshire.

We work closely with the team around the child: children's social workers, independent reviewing officers, childcare support workers, schools, educational psychologists and health, to provide the best possible outcome for the children in our care.

There are so many benefits for children when they are placed with in-house foster carers. If you are currently a foster carer with a private agency this guide will provide all the information you need about the transfer process.

Alternatively, if you are relocating and foster for another local authority, please give us a call for a chat. We can then speak to your current team to determine the right transfer process for you.

local authority fostering service	independent fostering agency
<p>.gov website (usually)</p>	<p>.com website (usually)</p>
<p>Local authority not-for-profit fostering teams are part of the same organisation working alongside the social workers who are responsible for the children.</p>	<p>Private, limited, for-profit businesses. Groups of fostering agencies are often owned by private equity.</p>
<p>Legally responsible for children coming into care and usually contacting their own foster families first</p>	<p>Or not-for-profit charities usually with a .org website.</p>
<p>Carers are matched with a preferred age range of children, from babies to teenagers.</p>	<p>Rely on the local authorities to contact them about children.</p>
<p>Caring for children who live and attend school within the county area, helping them to stay in their community.</p>	<p>Typically older children, with challenging needs or sibling groups when local authorities are not able to match with their own foster carers.</p>
	<p>Cover a wide geographic area</p>



why transfer to foster wales flintshire

We are part of the local authority's children's services team responsible for providing safe and stable homes for children in need of care.

Choosing us is about choosing people, not profit.

We are friendly, familiar, on the ground in Flintshire. We have local knowledge of both our children and our foster carers, and are available whenever you need us. We understand Flintshire.

With Foster Wales Flintshire you will be a key part of our team. We will be beside you every step of the way. You will always have a team to encourage you, guide you and support you. You will always be included, valued and respected.

You'll have access to a number of local foster care support groups where you'll be able to meet other foster carers in similar situations, share experiences and stories, and build relationships. You will find new communities and people who understand.

Encouraging and maintaining local connections and contacts, enabling children to continue at their school and supporting them with contact with birth family and friends where that is part of their individual care plan, means that we are all working together to achieve the best outcomes for local children

Providing the necessary advice, support and training when it is needed means that we are able to build better futures for local children with the help of local foster carers.

Moving from your current fostering agency or current local authority to Foster Wales Flintshire is simple. Just give us a call on [01352 701965](tel:01352701965) for an initial chat or you can easily contact us via our website: fosterwales.flintshire.gov.wales

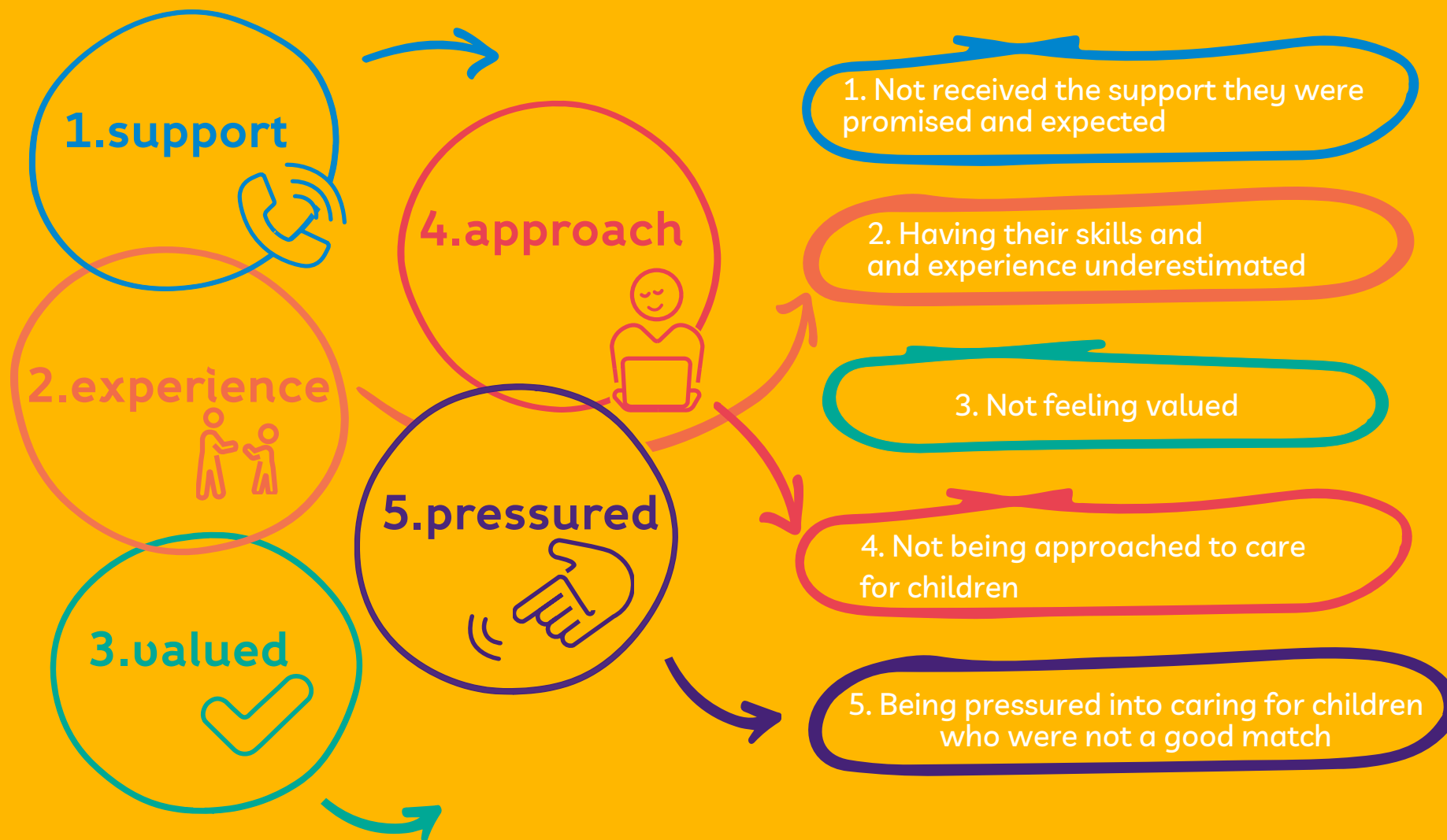
We will talk about how the process will work best for you, how we will support you, identify needs and ensure that the process is as straightforward as possible.

We have a lot of experience of the transfer process whether you have a child or young person living with you already, or not, and can alleviate any concerns and deal with any issues that might arise.

what to expect from us

- A support network of over 160 foster carers based in Flintshire.
- Support from your Mockingbird hub carer and team, an extended family that provides planned and emergency sleepovers, peer support and social activities.
- A comprehensive learning and development programme, which includes both face-to-face and virtual learning, with specialist training and development where required.
- An individual learning record and development plan, filled with all of the transferable skills and experiences you will have gained along the way, and sets a path for your future.
- A therapeutic service, supporting our children and foster carers.
- Professional support 24/7 for advice, guidance or support. You will never feel alone with us.
- Access to a number of local foster care support groups, regular events and activities where you can get closer to other foster families, gain new experiences, friendships and lasting memories.
- Significant financial support and generous allowances.
- Free membership of The Fostering Network (TFN) and the Association for Fostering and Adoption (AFA) Cymru.
- Blue Light card membership with access to more than 15,000 discounts.
- 50% discount off your council tax.
- 5 extra days annual leave if employed by Flintshire County Council.

reasons others have transferred



Route 1 not currently looking after a child

- 1. Have a chat with your Foster Wales Flintshire team.**
Our support starts here. We will talk about why you want to transfer and what you would like to gain from transferring to your local authority.



- 2. After an initial visit, when you have made the decision to transfer, you will need to inform your current agency that you have applied to foster with Foster Wales Flintshire and that, once your assessment is completed, you intend to resign from their agency.**

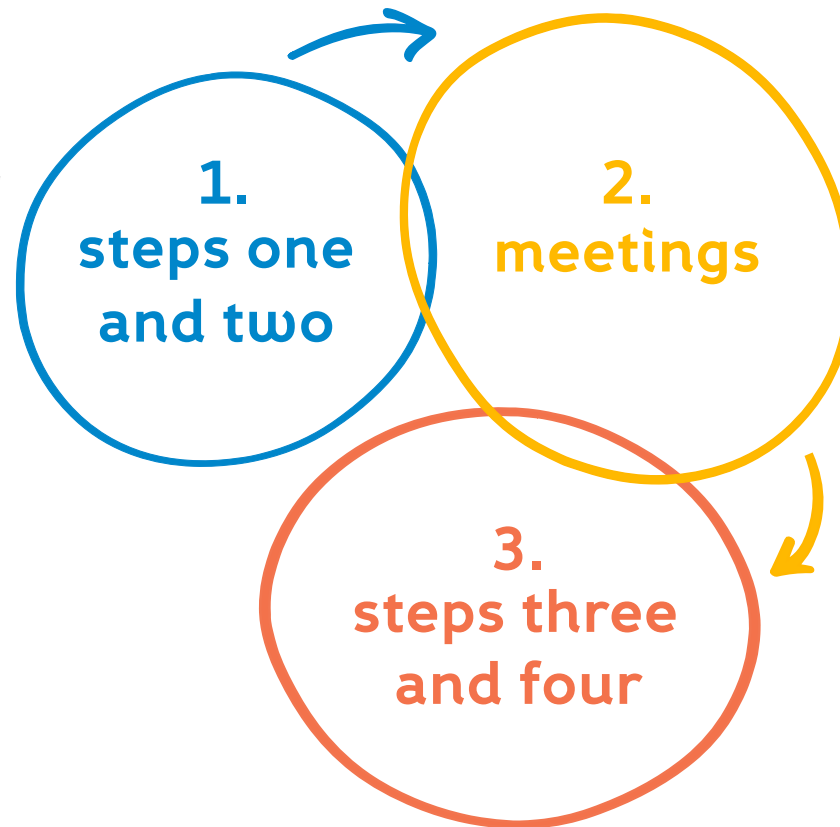
- 3. You will then meet your assessing social worker, who will be with you throughout your assessment process.**
We will carry out a new assessment, and will contact your existing agency to access existing documentation to capture your previous fostering experience and training.

- 4. Once your assessment is completed you will attend our Foster Panel who will make a recommendation on the terms of your approval.**
Once you are approved you can give 28 days' notice to your current agency.

Route 2 currently caring for a child

1. Following the initial steps of Route 1, once you have informed your agency of your wish to move to Foster Wales Flintshire, they will advise the child's independent reviewing officer of your intention to move.

They will then hold a meeting including everyone involved in the care of the child: yourself, the local authority that placed the child, your current agency, and us.



2. The meeting will:
 - Ensure the needs of the child/ren continue to be met and their care plan(s) discussed with us as your new support team.
 - Discuss the needs of the child and you as foster carers, and how we will support those needs.
 - The circumstances in which Foster Wales Flintshire can place another child or children once your transfer to us is completed.

3. While all this is going on we will continue with the assessment and approval process.

frequently asked questions

Do I have to have a formal assessment to transfer to Foster Wales Flintshire?

Yes, but it should be a faster process than your previous assessment if you can provide us with your original assessment. You will have to attend Preparation to Foster training, and undergo the usual background checks and your assessment will then be presented to our foster panel in the usual way.

Do I need experience of fostering to transfer to Foster Wales Flintshire?

If you are an approved foster carer with another local authority or fostering agency, but have not yet fostered a child with them, you can still transfer to us. While we value experienced foster carers and those already caring for children who wish to transfer, we also welcome those who are starting their fostering journey. We understand that the realities of fostering with an agency do not always meet your initial expectations.

At Foster Wales Flintshire it's the skills and experience you bring that matter most. We will ensure the best match for you and your family and provide the necessary local support and training to meet the needs of the children in your care.

assessment?



experience?



support?



Can I transfer if I already foster a child from Flintshire local authority?

Yes, you can and we would actively encourage this. Your child is already being supported by us and our childcare team. As the key people in the team around the child working directly with us will enable the other professionals working with the child to work more closely with you and ensure that the child's care plan reflects their needs and work together to build better lives for looked after children .

Can I transfer if I already foster a child with another local authority?

Yes, you can. As ever, the main priority is the child's welfare. We will discuss, with you and your local authority, the on-going care plan, explore any potential impact and whether it is in the child's best interest remain in your care when you move Foster Wales Flintshire. We would wish to keep an open dialogue with you and your current LA, so you should discuss your move with them too.

How long will it take to transfer?

We make every effort to approve your transfer as quickly as possible and aim to have you approved within as short a timescale as possible, ideally within 4-6 months.

transfer?



other local authorities



timing?



why some of our foster carers joined the foster wales team

"A supportive network of local people who you can talk to, who are also carers with similar experiences, makes such a difference."

"Keeping the child's sense of identity and familiarity is very important and can help them to settle into their new home and surroundings."

"We wanted the children to still have access to their friends, family and where possible their school."

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