

transferring to foster wales conwy



maethu
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Conwy

foster
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CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
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transferring to foster wales

Foster Wales is the national network of not-for-profit Local Authority fostering services across Wales, and our Conwy 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?

You have already made the incredible decision to make a difference by coming a foster carer. Perhaps you are already fostering with an independent fostering agency, a local authority in our Foster Wales network or are considering moving to Conwy County Borough Council.

As a local authority, we are the corporate parent for children and young people who are currently cared for. As a Fostering Service we ensure to work closely with the team around the child. From the child's foster carer, to children's social worker, childcare support worker, schools, education coordinator, clinical psychologist and children looked after nurse. We are all under one roof with the same goal in sight - to provide the best possible outcome for the children in our care.

local authority fostering service	independent fostering agency
<p>.gov 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>Legally responsible for children coming into care and usually contacting their own foster families first</p> <p>Carers are matched with a preferred age range of children, from babies to teenagers.</p> <p>Caring for children who live and attend school within the county area, helping them to stay in their community.</p>	<p>.com website (usually)</p> <p>Private, limited, for-profit businesses. Groups of fostering agencies are often owned by private equity.</p> <p>Or not-for-profit charities usually with a .org website.</p> <p>Rely on the local authorities to contact them about children.</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 conwy

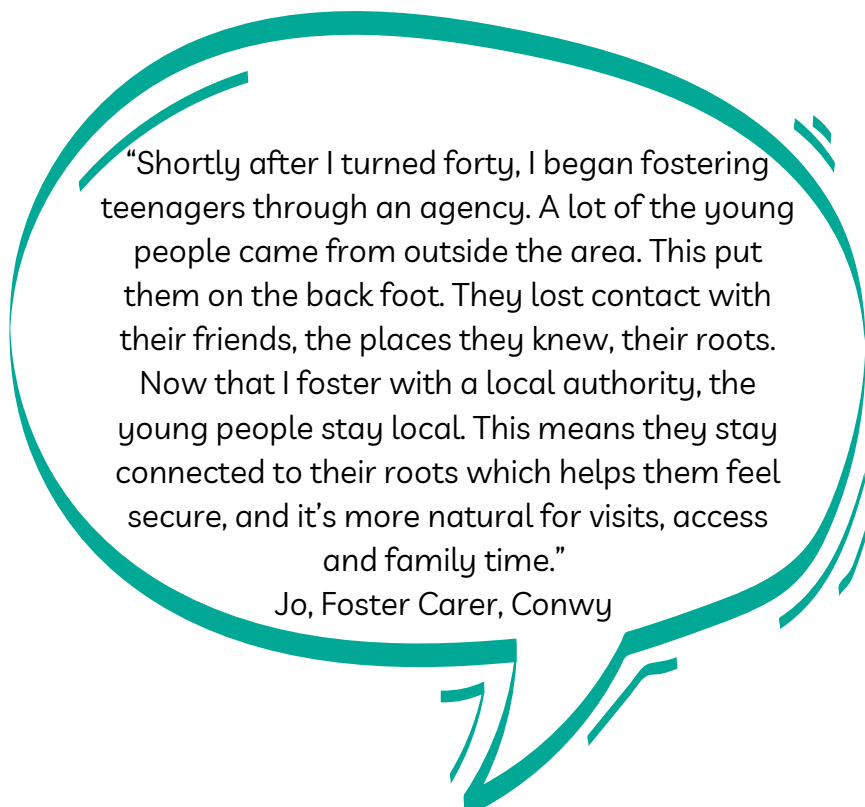
We are the first port of call for all local children and young people who need foster care. Everything we do is local – from Colwyn Bay, to Llanrwst, to Penmaenmawr and Kinmel Bay.

What this means in reality is that you would be able to help us provide safe and stable homes for our children and young people in their local area. This means they will be able to see friends and family, stay in their local schools and continue attending their local activities.

It is about making a **real difference**, **right now**, to children in the heart of your community.

There are many other benefits of fostering with Foster Wales Conwy. You will be a key part of a team who are all working collaboratively with the child at the full-front of all that we do. We are a knowledgeable Service that includes Childcare Teams, Education Teams, Training, Safeguarding and Legal Department and many more. We are all under one roof which enables us to work closely together.

In local authority fostering, we are all here to support and value our foster carers, without making a profit.



“Shortly after I turned forty, I began fostering teenagers through an agency. A lot of the young people came from outside the area. This put them on the back foot. They lost contact with their friends, the places they knew, their roots. Now that I foster with a local authority, the young people stay local. This means they stay connected to their roots which helps them feel secure, and it’s more natural for visits, access and family time.”

Jo, Foster Carer, Conwy

Every year around 50 foster carers transfer from commercial fostering agencies to local authority fostering in Wales.

Transferring to us starts with a chat, there is no pressure. We know that change can feel daunting and that is why we support you step by step, until you are happy you’re making the right choice.

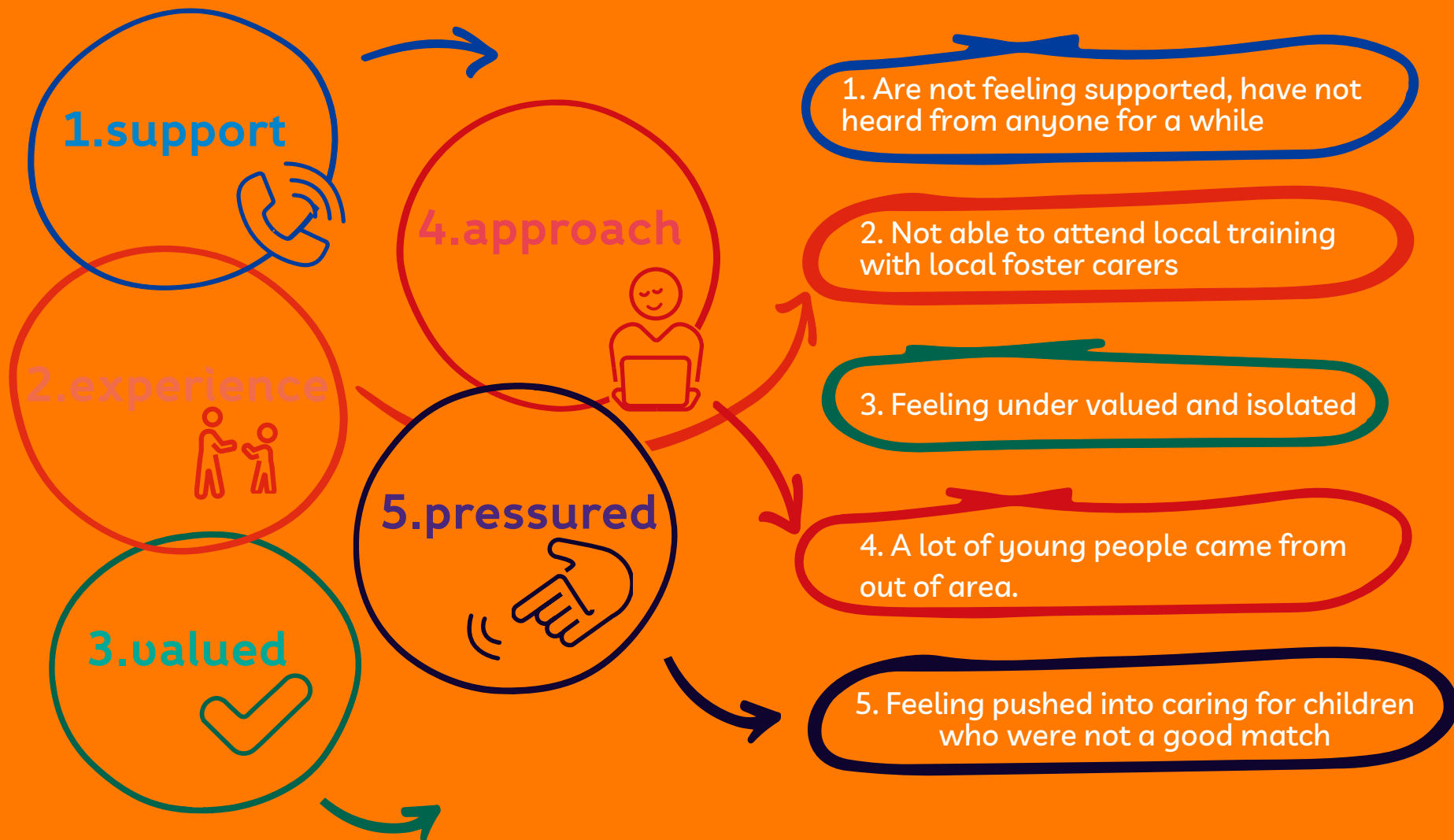
Give us a call on **01492 576350** for an initial chat or you can easily contact us via our website: fosterwales.conwy.gov.wales

what to expect from us

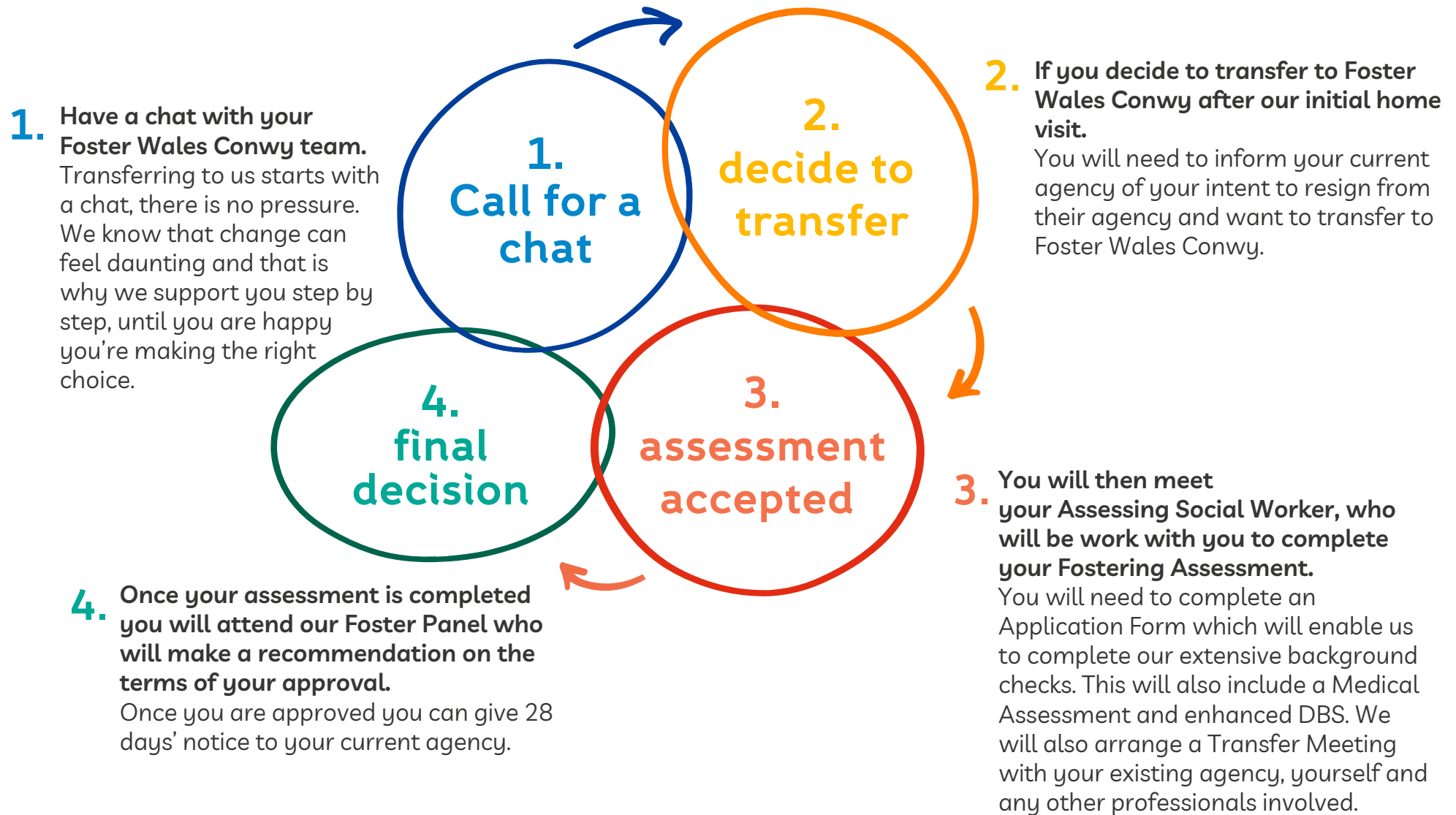
- Pre Approval Support and Training
- A support network of local foster carers based in the Borough of Conwy
- A Fostering Learning & Development Framework, which includes face to face, virtual and online learning
- Ffit Conwy Membership for all household members. The membership grants you access to each of the 10 centres across Conwy
- Ability to purchase a Premier Card for Venue Cymru. Giving you offers on selected shows, priority booking and 10% off Y Review Restaurant and Catlin's Café Bar
- Access to regular Support Groups, Service Days and Events/Activities (such as Welsh Mountain Zoo and Zip World)
- Access to 24 Hour Duty Line Support
- The Family Forum - which is ran by other foster families
- A reliable income of financial payments that are consistent i.e. there's no break in payment if you aren't caring for a child.
- Generous allowances for the children you care for, this includes birthday and festival allowances
- Free membership of The Fostering Network (TFN)
- Max Card and Cadw Membership which offer you the ability to access various discounts
- Care First
- Opportunity for your children to attend a Support Group specifically for them
- Annual Leave Entitlement
- Mileage Allowance
- Your own local Social Worker for ongoing support, advice and guidance.



reasons others have transferred



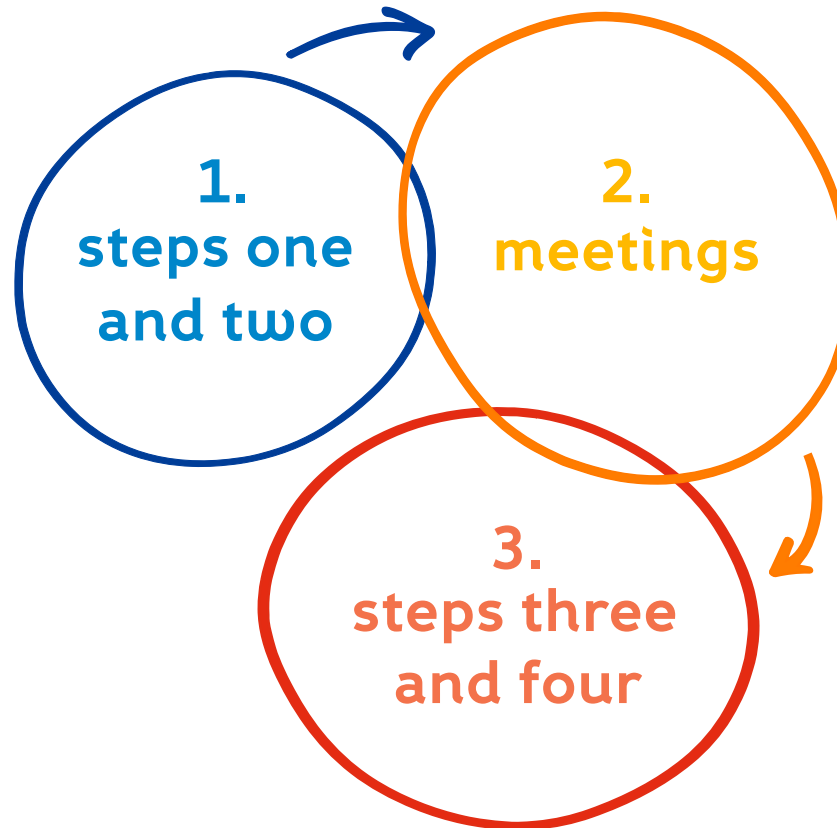
Route 1 not currently looking after a child



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 Conwy, 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.



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

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, how these have previously been met and what may be required moving forward.
 - The circumstances in which Foster Wales Conwy can place another child or children once your transfer to us is completed.
 - We will request any relevant documentation such as your last Annual Review and Form F.

frequently asked questions

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

Yes, we will still require you to complete an Application Form in order for us to complete our extensive background checks. Your fostering assessment should be a faster process, as we will request your Form F Assessment from the Agency. This will all then be presented to our Fostering Panel in the usual way.

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

If you are an approved foster carer with a independent fostering agency or local authority, but have not yet fostered a child with them, yes, you can still transfer to foster with Foster Wales Conwy.

We will welcome those at any stage of their fostering journey, as we understand the values and principles of fostering with an agency do not always meet initial expectations.

At Foster Wales Conwy it's the skills and experience you bring that matter most. We will ensure to support you every step of the way from starting your assessment to have a child come to stay with you.

assessment?



experience?



support?



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

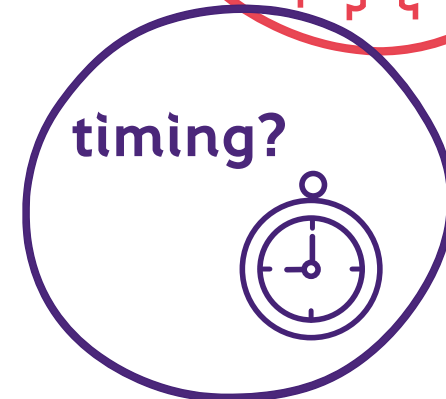
Yes, you can and we would actively encourage this. Your child is already being supported by us and our childcare team. As the key people in the team around the child working directly with us will enable the other professionals working with the child to work more closely with you and ensure that the child's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

Can I transfer if I live in Conwy and already foster a child from another local authority?

Yes, you can. As ever, the main priority is the best interest and wellbeing of the child you are caring for. We would arrange a Transfer Meeting inviting the child's Social Worker to this where we would explore their on-going Care Plan, support needs and explore any potential impact of you transferring to Foster Wales Conwy.

How long will it take to transfer?

We make every effort to allocate you Fostering Assessment to an Assessing Social Worker as quickly as possible. With your cooperation, we aim to have you at Fostering Panel and approved within a short timescale, ideally within 4 to 6 months.



why some of our foster carers joined the foster wales team

"I wanted to be able to access local support from other local foster carers who know the area and local services I could access."

"The children I care for are now able to carry on seeing their family and friends in their local area."

"The local authority have been open and honest throughout. But more importantly, human."