



Transferring to Foster Wales Swansea

**maethu
cymru**
Abertawe

**foster
wales**
Swansea



Cyngor **Abertawe**
Swansea Council

Who are we?

We are Swansea Council's fostering service.
We are responsible for the children in our care.

We have decades of experience and pride ourselves on providing the best outcomes for children and young people who for whatever reason, are unable to live at home. Children are always at the heart of everything we do.

Foster Wales Swansea believe that children and young people deserve the highest standard of care. Our sole purpose is built on the belief that every child has the right to fairness and opportunity, the right to dream, to look to the future with hope.

We work in partnership with all those involved in the child's life including health professionals, education representatives and social workers, to ensure the best interests of the child are met.

We're not a distant organisation that doesn't understand your world. Foster Wales Swansea is made up of real people who live in your community too. We are the complete local support network around you and the child. We value each and every one of our foster carers. We have a large network of foster carers in the area whose skills, knowledge, experience and support, enables us to provide the best outcomes for children.

**Working together
to build better futures
for local children**

Already a foster carer?

The aim of Foster Wales Swansea is to increase the number of foster carers working with us rather than independent fostering agencies. This is so we can provide the best outcomes for children. We know our in-house carers extremely well, in terms of their skills, strengths and experience. This means we can get the right match for the children and the carers too. Unfortunately when placing children with other agencies, we don't know the carers. It also ensures that any savings accrued from carers transferring over to us, can be invested in supportive services for the children and carers, including early psychological and therapeutic intervention.

We take pride in putting the children at the heart of everything we do which is why we take a holistic approach to their needs by working as a team around the child. We work side-by-side with the children's social workers.

There are unmeasurable benefits for both foster carers and the children when we place children with our own in-house carers.

This guide should provide you with the information you need about the transfer process. If you do decide to transfer to Foster Wales Swansea, we'll support you every step of the way and do all we can to make the process of joining us as simple as possible.



Why transfer to Foster Wales Swansea?

As a not-for-profit organisation responsible for the children in our care, Foster Wales Swansea believe in working as a team with foster carers to build better futures for local children by helping them stay in their local area.

We are the real people in your area already supporting the children in need of looking after. We're not a distant, faceless corporation that doesn't understand your world. We're familiar and friendly, available, and accessible whenever and wherever you need us. We're people who understand your way of life.

We want your fostering future to be a success, so we take time and care to match you with the right child for you and your family. We believe that better matches make for more sustainable, stable placements, and create better outcomes for foster children and foster carers alike. Wherever your fostering future takes you, we'll be beside you every step of the way with all the dedicated local support, expertise and training you'll need to create a better tomorrow for the local children in our care today. It's what we do. It's what we've always done.

By having a passionate and committed foster carer team in-house, we can ensure all financial and time savings are poured back in to supporting children and families who need it.

Foster carers who work with Foster Wales Swansea help us to better understand what our children really need. In addition, we will work with you to understand what you need as a foster carer to be the best you can be in your role. It enables us to embed local networks of support and better encourage positive connections to a child's locality, including their schooling and time with birth family and friends. By providing what you need to support the child in the best way possible, means there are better futures for all involved. By working directly with us – the people responsible for the children in your care - we will be better informed to ensure you get the advice, training and support you need to do this.

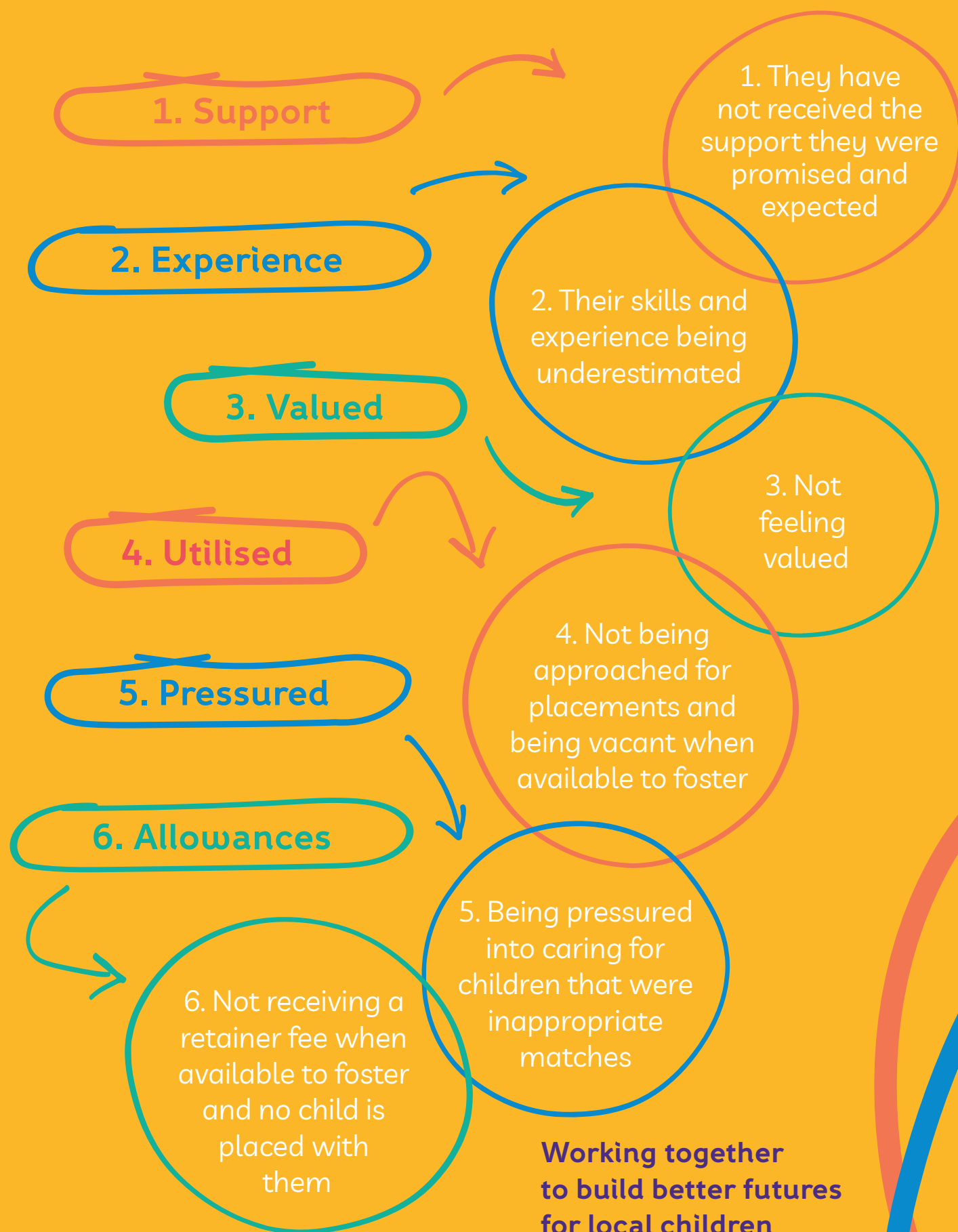
What to expect from us?

Our offer

- The largest fostering service in Swansea with over 140 local foster carers
- In-house foster carers are approached first for placements
- An experienced team at the end of the phone
- Regular visits and extensive support from a dedicated social worker
- 24/7 support
- Buddy scheme where new carers can gain support from experienced foster carers
- Flexibility with the different types of fostering available
- Flexible, regular and extensive training
- Access to a therapy service
- Considered matching
- Support groups for the whole family, including regular free activities for carers' own children
- Competitive financial allowances
- Additional allowances for birthdays, holidays, religious festivals and Christmas
- Payments to foster continue even when no children are placed. If you're available to foster then we will make sure that you are rewarded financially
- Access to an independent advice and mediation worker
- MAX discount card which can be used at visitor and leisure attractions across the UK
- Passport to Leisure card – discounts at local leisure and cultural venues
- Social activities/events throughout the year for the whole fostering household
- Paid membership to The Fostering Network



Reasons others have transferred



How to transfer to Foster Wales Swansea

We aim to make the transfer process as straightforward as possible when moving from your current fostering agency to us. From our initial chat we will talk openly with yourself about how the process is going to work for you.

As you are already a foster carer, the process is going to be specific to you. We will work with you right from the start to know how we can best support you going forward, identify any needs you have, and make sure we know you inside out for future matching. Each stage of the transfer process will be unique to you and will depend on who you foster for, whether you have children currently placed with you, and how long ago your original Form F assessment was completed.

We have a lot of experience of the transfer process, so are aware of the possible pitfalls and can pre-empt the things that might slow the process down. We have now learnt how to make this as seamless as possible and you will be kept in the loop all the way through.



The process

| | I foster for a local authority | I foster for an independent fostering agency |
|---|---|--|
| Route 1 – no child currently placed with you | <p>Step 1 - Talk it over Talk this over with the Foster Wales Swansea team. Supporting you starts here. We will get to know why you want to transfer to us, talk through any current issues or concerns you have with your current local authority, and what you would like to gain from transferring over to us. We will take some details of you and arrange a home visit with one of our social workers.</p> <p>Step 2 - Decide to transfer Once we have met and you have made the decision to transfer, this is then when we would expect you to let your local authority know that you have applied to foster with us and you intend to resign. It must be clear you are not resigning yet but you intend to on the completion of your assessment with us.</p> <p>Step 3 - Assessment accepted Once we have accepted your application, you will then meet your assessing social worker, who will be with you throughout your assessment process. You will also need to attend our 'Skills to Foster' training, though your assessment can start before you attend the training in order to prevent any delay.</p> <p>The regulations mean we have to carry out a new Form F for you, but if you foster for a local authority we can easily get hold of your previous Form F assessment which means the process won't take as long as it did originally. Having easy access to your Form F will really help to aid the sessions with your assessing social worker and capture your fostering experience to-date and ongoing development and support. At this stage, we will obtain a reference from the local authority.</p> <p>Step 4 - Final decision Once our assessment is complete, you will be able to give 28 days' notice resignation to your local authority. The assessment will be presented to our fostering panel.</p> | <p>Step 1 - Talk it over Talk this over with the Foster Wales Swansea team. Supporting you starts here. We will get to know why you want to transfer to us, talk through any current issues or concerns you have with your current agency, and what you would like to gain from transferring over to us. We will take some details of you and arrange a home visit with one of our social workers.</p> <p>Step 2 - Decide to transfer / assessment accepted Once you have decided to transfer and we have accepted your application, you will then meet your assessing social worker, who will be with you throughout your assessment process.</p> <p>You will also need to attend our 'Skills to Foster' training, though your assessment can start before you attend the training in order to prevent any delay.</p> <p>Once you have completed the training, this is when we would advise you to let your independent fostering agency know that you have applied to foster with us and you intend to resign. It must be clear you are not resigning yet but you intend to on the completion of your assessment with us.</p> <p>The regulations mean we have to carry out a new Form F assessment for you. If the Independent Fostering Agency you foster with agrees to share your Form F with us then this will really help with the timescales. Having easy access to your Form F will really help to aid the sessions with your assessing social worker and capture your fostering experience to-date and ongoing development and support. At this stage, we will obtain a reference from your agency.</p> <p>However, where they decide that they won't send us a copy, we will have to start from the beginning. Where this is the case, we will prioritise your application and work hard to speed up the assessment.</p> <p>Step 3 - Final decision Once our assessment is complete, you will be able to give 28 days' notice resignation to your agency. The assessment will be presented to our fostering panel.</p> |

The process

| | I foster for a local authority | I foster for an independent fostering agency |
|---|--|--|
| Route 2 – currently have a child placed with you | <p>Steps 1 and 2 The first two steps are the same as Route 1. However, when the agency receives your intent to resign, they will ensure the child's independent reviewing officer knows of the intended change. They will then need to hold a meeting within 28 days, involving all the relevant parties – yourself, the placing authority, your current agency and us. This is often very straightforward if the child is already in the care of the local authority you are transferring to.</p> <p>Meetings They will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The needs of the child/ren, ensuring they are continued to be met and their care plan is discussed with us as your new fostering service. • The support needs of the foster child and you as the foster carer, and how they will be provided by us. • The circumstances in which Foster Wales Swansea may use any other vacancy once your transfer is completed. <p>Steps 3 and 4 In concurrence to the meeting, you will carry on the assessment process and continue with steps three and four of Route 1.</p> | <p>Step 1 The first step is the same as Route 1.</p> <p>Step 2 This is the same as Route 1, however, when the agency receives your intent to resign, they will ensure the child's independent reviewing officer knows of the intended change. They will then need to hold a meeting within 28 days, involving all the relevant parties – yourself, the placing authority, your current agency and us. This is often very straightforward if the child is already in the care of the local authority you are transferring to.</p> <p>Meetings They will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The needs of the child/ren, ensuring they are continued to be met and their care plan is discussed with us as your new fostering service. • The support needs of the foster child and you as the foster carer, and how they will be provided by us. • The circumstances in which Foster Wales Swansea may use any other vacancy once your transfer is completed. <p>Step 3 This is the same as Route 1.</p> |

Working together to build
better futures for local children

Frequently asked questions

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

Yes, but it should be a faster process than your first application as a new foster carer. We will need your original Form F (from your current provider) and we'll go through it with you. You'll also have the usual checks, like a health and finance check. Your application to transfer will go to our fostering panel for approval.

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

If you are an approved foster carer with another local authority or fostering agency, but not yet fostered a child with them, you can still transfer to us. We value experienced foster carers who want to transfer and those already caring for our children. However, we also value those just starting out on their fostering journey and you have already been assessed and provided evidence of your ability to foster in your first Form F. We understand that the realities of fostering with an agency aren't always the same as when you first apply.

At Foster Wales Swansea we treat you like real people with individual support needs and expertise. This allows us to know what matching could work well with you and what support or learning opportunities we need to provide you with so you have the confidence to best support a child.

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

You can, yes. We would actively encourage this. Your child is already being supported by their social worker who is employed by Swansea Council and part of the same department as Foster Wales Swansea. As their foster carer you are the key role in the team around your child and to have you working in-house with the rest of the team, in our experience, only improves the outcomes for children.

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

Yes, you can. The main priority during a transfer is the welfare of the child. We will need to meet with you, the child's social worker and IRO, and your current local authority to discuss the on-going care plan for the child. This meeting will explore any potential impact and if it's in the child's best interests to remain in your care as you move to another local authority. We like to keep an open dialogue with yourselves and your current local authority, so it would be good to discuss your move with them too.

How long will it take to transfer to another foster agency?

We appreciate that you are already approved to foster and won't want the process to be lengthy so we make every effort to approve your foster carer transfer as quickly as possible. The transfer application process is faster and simpler than if you were new to fostering, and we aim to have you approved within a much short time scale than a new to fostering Form F assessment.

Talk to us about joining the Foster Wales Swansea team!

If you're considering a move to Foster Wales Swansea please come talk to us, this initial conversation is strictly between you and us.

We are moving more and more foster carers in-house, so can understand your reasons for considering the move and how best we support you through the transfer process.

Deciding to transfer is completely your choice but it is important you have all the facts to inform your decision.

For initial discussions and an informal chat, contact us on **0300 555 0111** or visit **www.swansea.fosterwales.gov.wales**





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