

A guide to transferring to us.

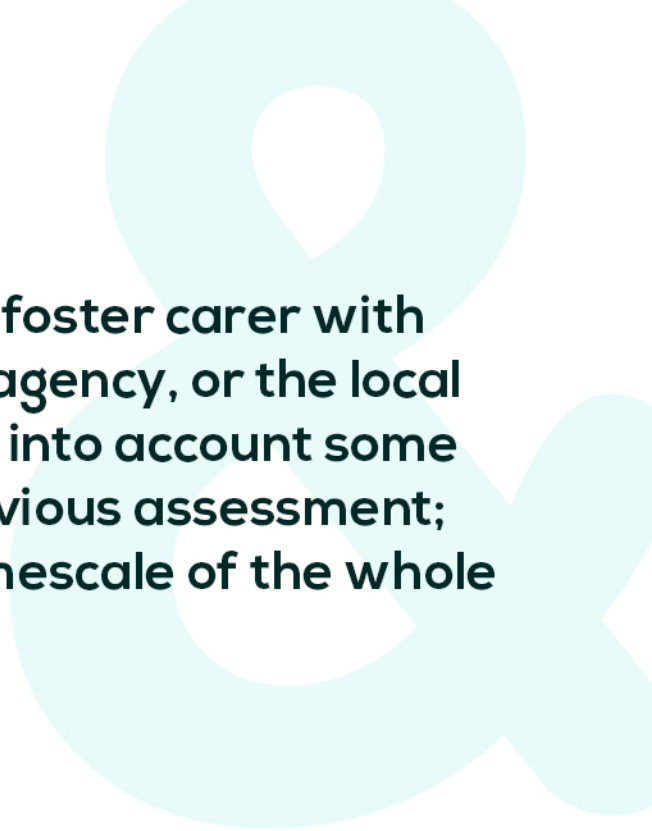


Thank you for considering a transfer to Channels & Choices Therapeutic Fostering, we hope that you find this transfer guide helpful.

Please do not hesitate in contacting us if you have any questions which you feel have not been answered.

**Talk to our
team**





If you are currently an approved foster carer with either an independent fostering agency, or the local authority, we will be able to take into account some of the information from your previous assessment; streamlining and reducing the timescale of the whole process.

The procedure for transferring to Channels & Choices if there is NO CHILD in placement

- You will need to let your current fostering service know in writing that you are considering a move to Channels & Choices.
- Once your current service has received the letter we can begin our assessment.
- After we have finished our assessment and we have confirmed that we are going to seek approval via our fostering panel you can then give your resignation to your current service- This needs to be in writing and we recommend that this is delivered by hand or recorded delivery. Once this is done your registration with the current service will end automatically after 28 days and will not require any further action by you or the service or their panel to take effect. Please note that you cannot be approved by more than one fostering service at a time and therefore we would aim for the 28 days notice to end on the date of your Channels & Choices fostering panel date.

The procedure for transferring to Channels & Choices where A CHILD is in placement

- You will need to let your current fostering service and the child's placing authority know in writing that you are considering a move to Channels & Choices.
- The child's placing authority will, within 28 days arrange a meeting and the following people would normally attend: you, someone from your current service, someone from Channels & Choices and someone from the placing authority. (usually the social worker and someone from their commissioning team.)
- If there is more than one child placed with you the different placing authorities will talk to each other about who would lead the organising of the meeting (usually the placing authority that has had the child with you for the longest period of time). Sometimes the placing authority may ask us to arrange the meeting which we would be happy to do.

The meeting will consider these different issues:

- Is it in the child's best interest to remain with you and how will the care plan continue to be followed if you transferred?
- How a transfer could affect the child/ren in placement, including relationships, activities and support that the child has developed whilst in placement with the current fostering service.
- How will we support you and the child to meet the child's (and your) support needs.
- What would we do or who would we consider placing with you if you had another placement vacancy.
- Agree a plan with the current fostering service to ensure that you have continuity of approval when transferring to Channels & Choices. We would expect to agree a date between 2-4 months from the date of the meeting
- Agree a plan for the transfer of fees from the placing authority to us and from us to you.
- The views of the child, parent and other interested parties. The views should be gained before the meeting by the placing authority.
- The placing authority can only terminate the placement if the decision was reached during a case review. If this is the decision, arrangements and timeframes are to be agreed by all parties and a move should take place no longer than 3 months from the meeting (unless there are exceptional circumstances).

• Once the Channels & Choices fostering panel has made its recommendation, this has been ratified by the agency decision maker and we are ready to approve you it is your time to send your resignation to your current fostering service- we recommend that you deliver this by hand or by recorded delivery. Our decision maker will approve you 28 days later. Please note that you cannot be approved by more than one fostering service at a time and therefore we would ensure that your approval with Channels and Choices commences on the date that your 28 days notice to your current fostering service ends.

Payments to you

If it has been agreed that a child's placement will continue with you, we would, as a minimum continue to pay you your current rate which you receive from your current fostering service. In most cases (dependent on your current rate), this will increase as we pay a higher rate than the vast majority of other providers.

Ready to talk?

If you wish to go ahead with the transfer we will help guide you through the process from start to finish and can help you compose the necessary letters and documentation which you may need to send to your current fostering service or Local Authority.

**Talk to our
team**

Compare us to your current fostering agency.

On the next page you'll find a handy Foster Agency Comparison Guide. Use this to record your current strengths and benefits against what you would receive as a foster carer with Channels & Choices.



Foster Agency Comparison Guide

Thank you for downloading this comparison guide.

Now you can ask the questions you need to make the right decision about which agency is going to support you and your child for a long career you will love as a foster carer.

We've put together a list of strengths and benefits you should expect to receive from a fostering agency on the next page so you can compare other agencies with what Channels & Choices has to offer, allowing you to make an informed decision.

When you've done your research, our fostering admin team would love to tell you more. Request a callback with Kerrie or Sarah today.

**Talk to our
team**



Agency Checkpoints

Tick all that apply....



Channels &
Choices

Agency 2

Agency 3

Award winning Therapeutic Community which recognises the importance of the foster carers role in the development of the service.



Guaranteed work even if you don't have a fostering placement.



Excellent support including 24 hour helpline and access to a highly experienced professional network including Psychiatrist, Psychotherapists and Social Workers.



Specialist training from leading therapeutic childcare experts.



Rewarding career with excellent progression opportunities and market leading fostering payments.



Annual appreciation bonus as well as Summer and Winter Bonuses.



Generous 'settling in fee' when children first move in with you.



Immediate access to in-house education for children with zero wait time.



Immediate access to in-house therapy services for children and foster carers.



Immediate access to in-house expert assessment such as ASC, ADHD for children



Minimum 22 night respite entitlement per year.



Local events and fun community activities throughout the year for the whole family



Recognition of the importance birth children play within the fostering families, this includes targeted activities and specialist 1:1 support.



Overall score

