



## What needs to happen for you to transfer to a different fostering service?

In the first instance you will need to inform your current fostering service that you're considering transferring to another service.

Your service should discuss your reasons for transfer and try to support you to remain. If you have made your decision, your current service should explore how they will support you to transfer elsewhere.

The fostering services you have approached should not begin an assessment before your current fostering service has been made aware of your intentions to move.

## Do you currently have a child/children fostered with you?

YES

NO

Once you have notified your current fostering service of your intention to transfer the placing authority must:

- Inform social workers, independent reviewing officers and the commissioning team, and arrange a planning meeting with them, yourself, and your recruiting fostering service.
- If there is more than one placing authority, all need to agree who will arrange the **planning meeting**.

The recruiting service may begin an assessment once you have formally informed your current service of your intention to transfer.

### Co-ordinating the transfer process:

- You cannot be approved by more than one fostering service at the same time.
- The recruiting fostering service must plan and co-ordinate your fostering assessment and approval with you and your current fostering service.
- Your resignation date needs to coincide and take effect before the recruiting fostering service can approve you with their service.
- The **planning meeting** between the recruiting and current fostering service must address: **support, finances, and information sharing**.

### The planning meeting will cover:

- **Child's needs:** Is it in the child's best interests to continue living with you? How will their needs be met if transfer takes place? During this time a review of the current care plan should also take place.
- **Placement move:** If a statutory review determines the current foster placement does not meet the child's needs, this may necessitate a move to an alternative foster placement. Timescales must be agreed.

### Timescales of your resignation and approval:

- Your resignation/termination with your current service and the approval with your new service must be co-ordinated to ensure a seamless transition and continuity of your approval from one service to the other. Only then can the new fostering service seek to approve you via the agency decision maker, who is responsible for deciding whether a person is suitable to be approved as a foster carer (following recommendation from a fostering panel).
- The recruiting fostering service will advise you of the date to submit your written 28 days' notice which will align with the post panel agency decision date.

- Other areas to address:**
- **Support:** How/what support will the recruiting fostering service provide you, to ensure the needs of the child in your care can continue to be met.
  - **Finances:** Discuss and agree the financial payments i.e. your fostering allowances, fees, and any additional administration fees.
  - **Information sharing:** The current fostering service should, with your permission, share your relevant assessment and review information, including any concerns. They must also provide a reference to the recruiting fostering service within regulatory timescales.

Fostering services should refer to **The Fostering Network's full transfer protocol** to ensure regulatory compliance and best practice throughout this process.

