



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

transferring to foster wales blaenau gwent

maethu | **foster**
cymru | **wales**
Blaenau Gwent





transferring to foster wales

The Foster Wales Blaenau Gwent team have decades of experience supporting foster carers who look after children across the Local Authority.

Children are always at the heart of everything we do. We need more foster carers to join our passionate and committed foster carer team in house. We are not-for-profit, so we can ensure that all resources are poured back in to supporting local children and families who need it.

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.
The document is available in Welsh.

already a foster carer?

If you are currently a foster carer with a independent agency this 'Transfer to Us' guide will provide you with all the information you need about the transfer process.

By transferring to us you're becoming a part of our local Foster Wales team. We take pride in the supportive and effective environment we run. As a Local Authority fostering team, we work side by side with the children's social workers - all based locally - which is what ensures that everything we do is focused around children.

Our aim is to recruit more in-house foster carers to reduce the number of children that need to be placed with independent commercial agencies.

This way we can also ensure more investment in supportive services for local children and carers, including psychological and therapeutic intervention.

There are unmeasurable benefits for both foster carers and children when fostering in-house. Children and young people can remain local, maintain their friendships, attend the same school, keep their family bonds if it's the right thing for them and stay in familiar places. Our foster carers work closely within their local community, supported by local services and people they know.

We're looking forward to welcoming you into our fostering community.

working together to build better futures for local children

fostering with a local authority



why transfer to foster wales blaenau gwent

We are real people in your local area already supporting those children in need of being looked 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.

With Foster Wales Blaenau Gwent, you'll never be on your own, lost in the system; wherever your fostering future takes you, we'll be right there beside you every step of the way with all the support and guidance that you need.

By having foster carers who work directly with Foster Wales Blaenau Gwent, we can better understand what our children and foster carers really need.

It enables us to embed local networks of support and encourage positive connections to a child's locality, including their schooling and time with birth family and friends.

By giving you what you need to best support the child, it means there are better futures for all involved. When you're a part of our team, we will be better informed to ensure you get the advice, training and support you need.

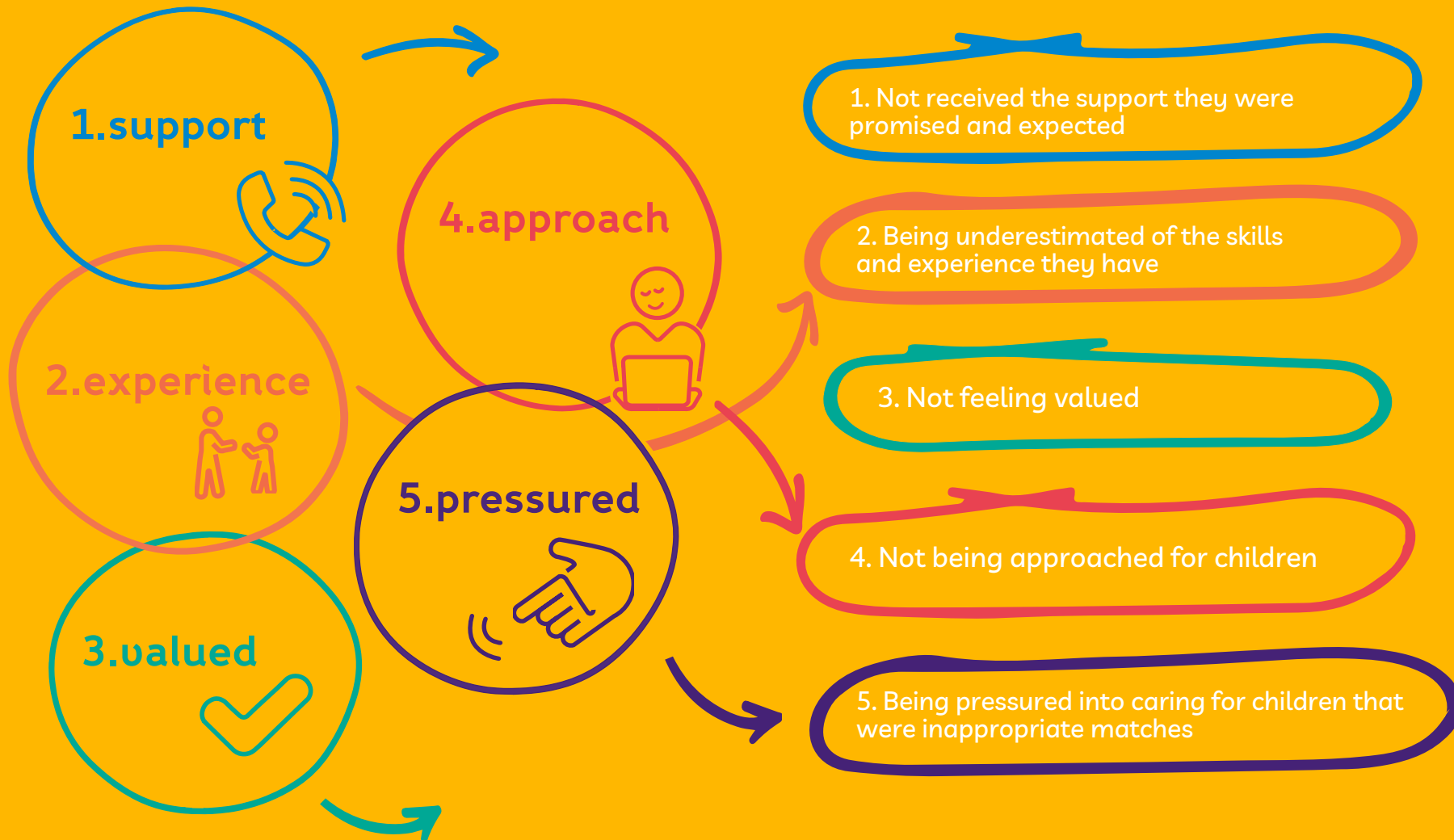
what to expect from us

- Direct access to specialist psychological support.
- A person-centred approach to your learning and development, including online training and face-to-face workshops
- Guidance, support and training from My Support Team (MyST) to help carers who look after children with highly complex needs
- Special support for children experiencing any difficulties within education
- Local forums, support groups and fostering events
- Mentoring from other foster carers, and a local foster carer association group
- Out of hours service provided by the Supervising Social Worker team you will already know well
- Attractive financial allowances and support
- A MAX card – free and discounted admission to attractions across the UK





reasons others have transferred



how to transfer

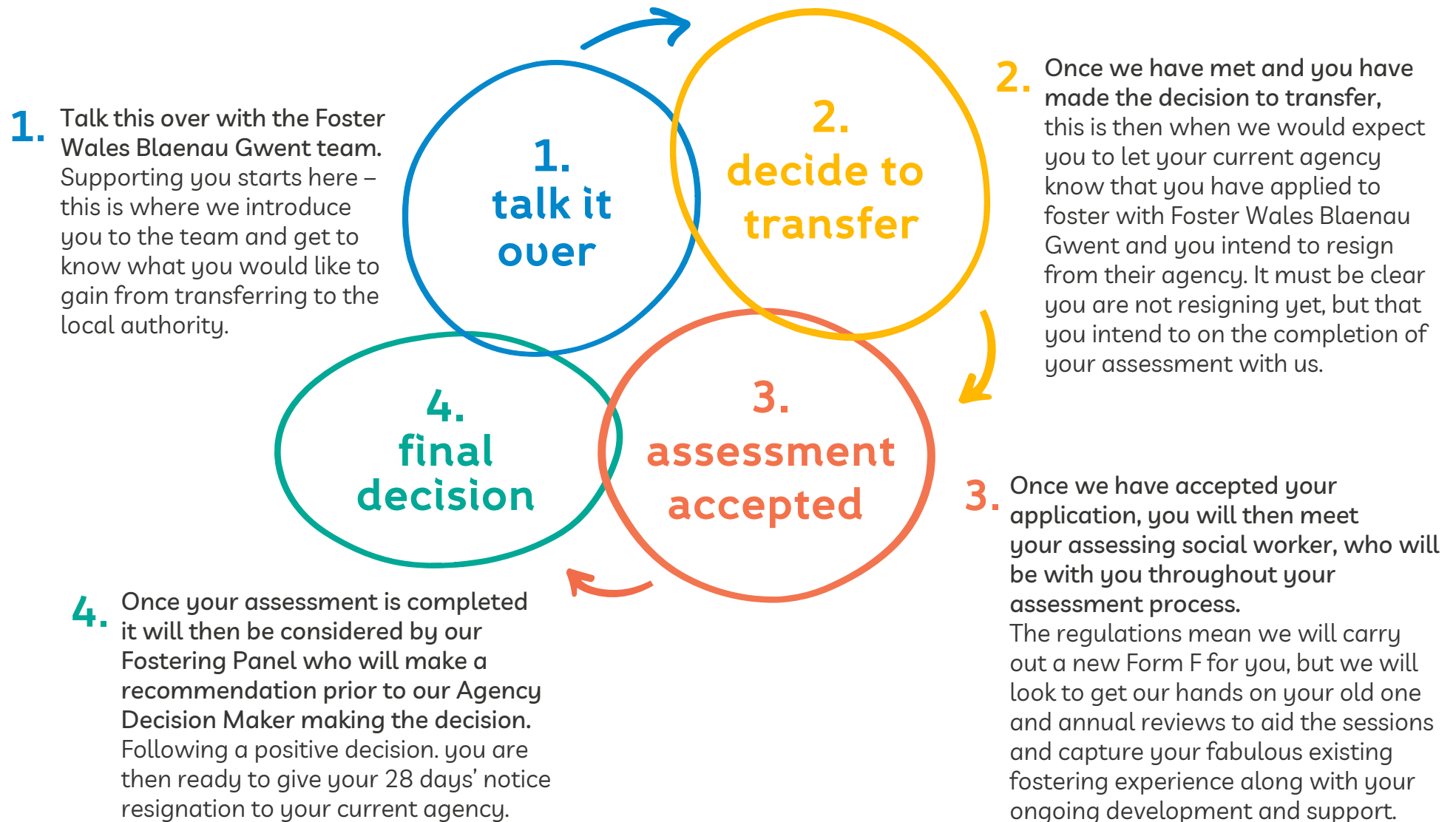
The transfer process is quite straightforward to move from your current fostering agency to the Local Authority. From our chat we will talk openly about how the process is going to work for you. As you are already in the fostering world, the process will be specific to you. We want to know how we can best support you going forward, identify any needs and make sure we know you inside out for future matching, so at each of the below stages, the experience will be unique to you.

We have experience of the transfer process, so are aware of any potential issues that may arise and can pre-empt the things that may slow the process down. We will make your transition as seamless as possible and you will be kept in the loop throughout.

We have outlined the basic process below; this slightly differs depending on whether you have a child or young person looked after living with you already.

If you are relocating and foster for another local authority, please give us a call or email, so we can speak to you and your current team to set out the right transfer process for you.

Route 1 not currently looking after a child

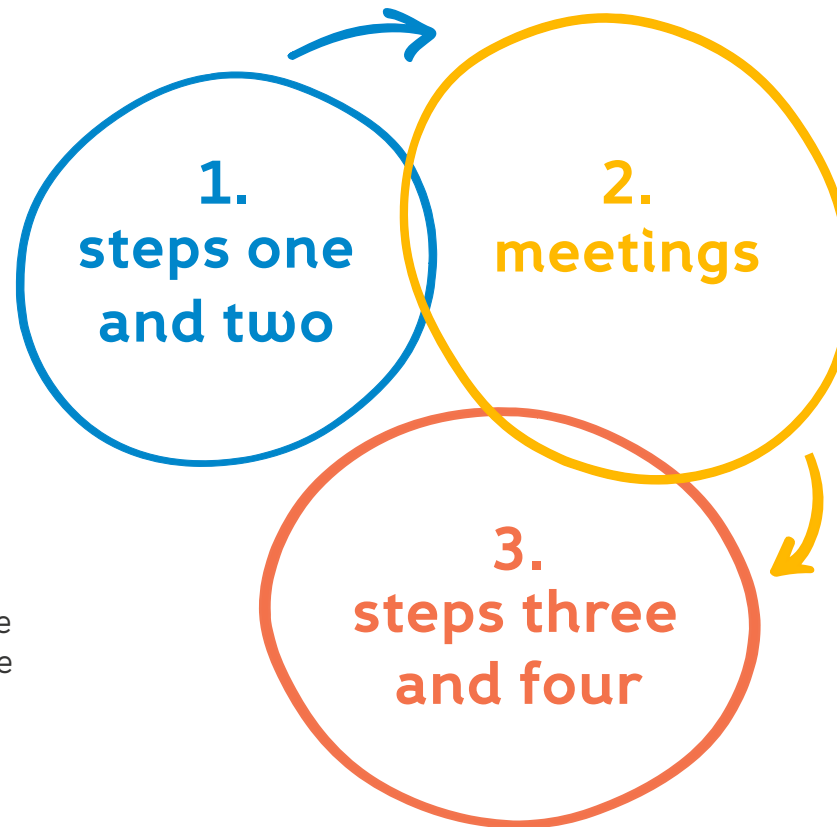




Route 2 currently caring for a child

- 1.** The first two steps are the same as route 1, but when the agency receives your intent to resign, they will ensure the child's independent reviewing officer knows the intended change.

They will then need to hold a meeting within 28 days of 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 Blaenau Gwent local authority.



- 2.** The meeting will consider:
 - Ensuring the needs of the child/ren continue to be met and their care plan is discussed with us as your new support team.
 - 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 Blaenau Gwent may use any other vacancy once your transfer has been completed.

- 3.** In concurrence to the meeting, you will carry on with the assessment process and continue with steps 3 and 4.

frequently asked questions

Do I have to have a formal assessment to transfer to Foster Wales Blaenau Gwent?

Yes, but it should be a faster process than your first ever application as a new foster carer. You'll need to provide us with 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 for transfer will go to a Fostering Panel for recommendation.

Do I need experience of fostering to transfer to Foster Wales Blaenau Gwent?

If you are an approved foster carer with another local authority or fostering agency, but not yet fostering a child with them, you can still of course transfer to us. Unless you're relocating we usually don't encourage foster carers with another Local Authority to transfer to us, however we understand that everyone's circumstances are different, so please speak to us if there is a valid reason why you want to transfer from your Local Authority to us.

We value experienced foster carers and also those just starting out on their fostering journey. You have already been assessed and approved, and understand that the realities of fostering with an agency aren't always the same as when you first apply.

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

assessment?



experience?



support?



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

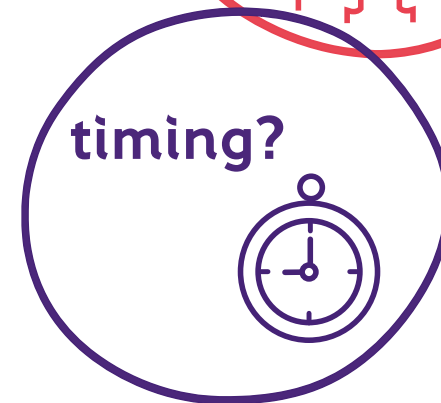
You can, yes. We would actively encourage this. Your child is already being supported by us and our childcare team. As their foster carer you are a key role in the team around your child and to have you working in house with the rest of the team, in our experience, only makes the child's care and support plan more effective.

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

You can, yes. The main priority during a transfer is the welfare of the child. We will need to discuss with you and your current local authority the best plan of action for your specific situation. This will include a meeting with all involved to discuss the on-going care and support 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 you're experienced and raring to go, so we make every effort to approve your foster carer transfer as quickly as possible. The transfer application process is 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 blaenau gwent team!

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

Find our contact details below and/or follow us on social media :



01495 357792 or 01495 356037



facebook.com/blaenaugwentcbc



Family Resource Centre, Beaufort Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5LH



twitter.com/BlaenauGwentCBC



fosterwales.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/contact-us



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