



Becoming a foster carer in Sefton

If you decide to become a foster carer with Sefton, we will support you every step of the way. The process takes 6 – 8 months and it's during this time that you will learn more about the role and we can get to know you. This really is a two-way process.

You are not obligated to continue with the process if at any time you would like to leave or put on hold, we will completely support your decision.

What are the steps to becoming a foster carer?

STEP 1: GET IN TOUCH

You might be nervous about speaking with us for the first time, which is normal. Don't worry, this is a very informal chat. We would love to hear from you and answer any questions.

STEP 2: HOME VISIT

By now you've had chance to think about fostering and what's involved. We're sure you'll have more questions. A member of the fostering team will visit you at your home for an in-depth chat. This will give you the opportunity to explore the options available to find out if it's right for you and your family.

STEP 3: ASSESSMENT

The assessment helps us find out more about you and the natural qualities and experience you have to become a foster carer.

We will talk about you and your family about your hobbies and interest. We will also discuss caring for looked after children and young people and the type of children and fostering that will best suit you and your family.

At this point we will also speak to your family members and support network and carry out the necessary checks

STEP 4: THE SKILLS TO FOSTER PREPARATION GROUP

At the same time as your assessment, you will attend a three-day preparation training course. This will give you an understanding of fostering in Sefton, why children come into care, as well as your role as a foster carer. During the group sessions you'll meet some of our carers who are open, friendly and eager to tell you what the role is really like. This training is key to your fostering assessment.

STEP 5: THE FOSTERING PANEL

The fostering panel is a group of professionals drawn together from a variety of backgrounds.

They will review and discuss your application with you, before making a recommendation regarding your approval as a foster carer.

Our panels are warm and welcoming. You will be fully prepared with full support from us prior to and during the meeting.

STEP 6: APPROVAL AND PLACEMENT

Once you're approved, you'll receive information about training opportunities and meet your supervising social worker. Your social worker will work with you to find a suitable match and support you in your role as a foster carer.