

Foster Transition Frequently Asked Questions

In addition to this FAQ sheet we would also advise you to read the briefing sheet included in this pack.

We have developed this FAQ sheet to assist foster carers who are considering applying to be SLSW Carers. This usually happens when someone you are supporting is about to transition into adulthood. SLSW has aimed to cover as many of the most commonly asked questions as possible, but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us for a chat.



Can I continue to support the individual I supported through fostering?

We do routinely assess foster carers who wish to continue to support the individual they supported through fostering. To do so, you would complete the assessment process and the individual's care manager would secure funding and refer them then in to us.



How do I apply?

Foster carers still need to apply to SLSW and undergo our assessment process even though you may be a registered foster carer.

As a CQC regulated service we are expected to conduct our own assessments and ensure that any applicant will work to the standards that are expected of our carers.

Within this email there is a downloadable or digital application form available for you to use.



How does the individual I am supporting get referred to SLSW?

The permanency and transition team (names differ depending upon location) will work with you and the individual usually through the transition years. They will determine what the most appropriate move on plan is and they will involve relevant teams if the individual has eligible needs to receive a service once they are 18.

If the individual remains in your home, then they will need to ensure that they refer them to SLSW and that funding is agreed. A referral form is included in this email for your information.



I support other foster children; can I be dual registered?

If a foster carer wishes to remain registered with a foster agency we will endeavour to work with the agency to ensure we are very clear about who is responsible for any future matching to reduce any risks for the individuals being supported.

We would highly recommend having this conversation with the foster agency and SLSW at the time of application. The foster agency and SLSW will potentially need to determine who in the household will be subject to a DBS check and this can be complicated if an individual potentially lacks capacity- so open and transparent working is essential

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I am considering leaving foster care, can I move over to SLSW?

Generally foster carers will move to SLSW with a person already placed with them who is transitioning from children's services. In some cases, foster carers will also have other bedrooms available to utilise and in a Shared Lives arrangement a carer can potentially support up to three people at a time.

You may not be actively fostering, but you will still need to be open about your past experience of fostering.



I have received lots of training as a foster carer- do I have to do more?

Yes, all carers regardless of experience are expected to undergo training as part of the assessment process and then to engage with training updates when required. Training helps you explore the values and attitudes needed to be a SLSW Carer as well as the practical and emotional issues of supporting someone in your home on a full or part-time basis.

Training includes: Safeguarding Adults, Health and Safety and Medication Management, Equality and Diversity.

All carers are also expected to attend Mental Capacity Act training- foster carers especially usually enjoy learning more about MCA and positive risk taking as they support and enable the young person to grow into adulthood and fulfil their potential.

SLSW has a healthy attitude towards positive risk taking and encourage young people to develop their skills and support the foster carers to move away from a more risk averse culture within the children's arena. Please refer to the briefing sheet to learn more.



I have my foster assessment paperwork – can I use this to help with my SLSW assessment?

SLSW is aware that foster carers will have undergone an extensive assessment and training programme and would encourage the applicant to share previous paperwork with the assessing coordinator. However, SLSW Carers do have to undergo our own assessment process, but foster carers will find it is less intrusive and intense than a fostering assessment.



I have a DBS in place- do I need to do another one?

Yes. We require all applicants to undergo an up to date DBS check.



The foster panel was daunting- will the SLSW panel be the same?

We are told frequently that foster panels can be quite intimidating for foster carers, SLSW endeavours to keep panel members numbers proportionate, usually 3 or 4 people, who are focused on checking that the assessment process has been followed to a high standard and is not for them to assess the applicant again. Panel tends to be over Zoom and we will provide support if you need IT support. Your assessing coordinator will accompany you during this meeting.

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I have insurance in place- do I need more?

We expect SLSW Carers to have adequate insurance in place, we usually ask them to take out specific insurance through Shared Lives Plus. But if you have insurance in place then through the assessment process we can determine if this is sufficient in your role as a SLSW carer.



How often will I see my Shared Lives Coordinator (SLC)?

Foster carers will come with a range of experiences while being supported by fostering teams or agencies. Working with adult services can be very different to children's services, however SLSW does endeavour to make contact at least every 12 weeks (or as required). Sometimes this may only be a telephone call rather than a face-to-face visit. SLSW Carers are more autonomous in their role and are encouraged to contact their SLC if they require additional support.



What should be different in how I undertake my role as a SLSW Carer than a foster carer?

Essentially you will be continuing to offer the same care and support to the individual as always but adhering to adult legislation. SLSW Carers are expected to develop a mentoring style relationship as the individual transitions into adulthood and move to step away from a "parental" style. However, depending upon the individual's needs, SLSW expects SLSW Carers to be working in a way that promotes the individual's development towards independence and allows them to have the same rights and freedoms as any other adult.

Each individual will get to know their allocated SLC and involving those around the individual they will develop a support plan that identifies any aims and objectives for you as a carer to be concentrating on. This ranges from helping an individual use public transport to making a cup of tea.



What costs are associated with becoming a SLSW carer?

Foster carers are used to having a lot of their training and development needs funded by the children's services. When becoming a SLSW Carer there will be some costs involved. As a charity we always aim to keep these costs as low as possible. These costs are a DBS check (around £40 every three years), first aid training (usually about £30 depending upon the provider) and insurance (roughly £100 a year).



I usually undertake all the financial support to the young person I support, can SLSW help?

We have a specialist Funding and Benefits Team who will, when appropriate, help the young person to maximise their benefits and can take on corporate appointee responsibility. This will be discussed during the referral stage to determine the best level of support required.

Foster carers are not expected to control the finances of the individual (unless they lack capacity and it has been agreed at a best interest meeting) and there is a large spectrum of what input a

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carer may need to have.

Your SLC will work with you and the individual to develop a robust plan of how the personal finances of the individual will be managed to ensure that you are protected as much as possible and the individual is given the opportunity to develop skills in this area whilst adhering to the mental capacity act.



Will I receive the same income as when I fostered?

As with fostering, SLSW Carers are self employed and are eligible for a tax break (limitations do apply). It is impossible to answer this question fully as each individual being supported is assessed based on their own needs and this then informs the overall cost of the arrangement.

When you apply to become as SLSW Carer and the individual is referred to our service we will endeavour to determine this as early as possible and work with you to determine if the remuneration you will receive is acceptable.



What additional support will I receive?

You will have a Carer Buddy during the assessment, we also hold carer meet ups as well.



Will I get a break from my caring role?

All SLSW Carers are entitled to respite. This will be discussed in more detail depending on the needs of the individual you are supporting.