

Foster Carer Buddy Support

Are you a CFC foster carer and would like to offer support to new foster carers? This is what you need to know!

Allocation of a Buddy

We will allocate you to a new foster carer, based on your interests and situation, such as if you are a solo carer, we would allocate you to another solo foster carer. Or if you had experience in a certain area of fostering, we would allocate you to someone who has an interest in the type of fostering you have experience in.

There will also be a Buddy coordinator – Sam Williams, who will be available to chair Support Agreement Meetings and to check in with foster carers involved in the Buddy programme. Sam will also offer drop-in sessions on Mondays at 1pm for any quick questions/discussions or reflective discussions which can be booked in as needed.

Description of the Support

This is support for prospective foster carers throughout their application process and, if approved, their first year of being approved or as support is needed.

The idea would be that prospective foster carers would be assigned an existing foster carer who can offer support, guidance, and someone to link in with for a chat.

Interested?

Contact Sam Williams on:
07432890534 or
samanthaw@communityfoster
care.co.uk
Or you can speak to your
Supervising Social Worker



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The role of the Buddy

As an existing foster carer, you will have attended Induction training to become a Buddy. You will need to agree to offer support to an allocated Buddy for at least 12 months, or as long as it's needed for the prospective or new foster carers.

This support could include checking in via phone calls and text messages, meeting up in the community, meeting up at CFC activity days and having set sessions to cover topics of discussion such as recording, preparing for a placement, annual reviews etc.

Each Buddy will have been a foster carer for at least 12 months and can commit time to this support role.

Being a Buddy will mean you are offering a helping hand to new foster carers in the early stages of fostering, helping them prepare for a new placement, getting ready for their first annual review or just someone for them to relate to who has been through the same assessment process as them.

The support that comes from this role, should be decided between yourself and the new foster carer(s). It should be reasonable to fit around both of your commitments but should also be a positive working relationship where they feel comfortable to just pick up the phone, even for the odd question or a check in.

Support Agreement Meeting

This meeting will be attended by yourself, the new foster carer who is needing support and the Buddy coordinator – Sam Williams.

In this meeting we will discuss what support the new foster carers want or need, what the Buddy is able to offer around their own commitments and this will be drawn together in a Support Agreement document for each party to refer back to when needed.

The relevant contact details for your Buddy and the Buddy coordinator will be shared during this meeting.

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