

foster
wales

Neath Port Talbot

maethu
cymru

Castell-nedd Port Talbot

foster plus

step down



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council



make a real difference in your community by becoming a foster plus step down carer

Are you interested in joining our fostering community? This is a new service in Neath Port Talbot, where we are looking for foster carers to support children and young people to step down from a residential care setting (a children's home) into foster homes. As a Foster Plus Step Down Carer you will be part of a team supporting a child/ young person which includes specialist support from our experienced therapeutic team.

As a corporate parent, Neath Port Talbot Council (NPT) strives to ensure that children who are looked after by the Council are placed in the most appropriate setting to best support them to achieve their outcomes. As a Foster Plus Step Down Carer, you will play a vital role in supporting children to move from a children's home into a supportive foster home.

For a small number of children and young people who are looked after, living in a children's home supports them to have a period of stability in their lives. Some children and young people need the support of a staff team around them with therapeutic input, this need is sometimes best met in a children's home. With their needs continually assessed, after this period of stability some of these children and young people are able and ready to live within a foster home so they can develop a sense of security and safety. Therefore we have developed our new Foster Plus Step Down scheme to support them to achieve better outcomes.

As a Foster Plus Step Down Carer you will be supporting a child/ young person who has experienced difficult inconsistent parenting. They may have witnessed domestic violence, substance misuse, neglect and have been removed from their parents care to keep them safe. As a result some children and young people struggle emotionally, this is then seen in their behaviour, for example at school they may be behind with school work, they maybe excluded from school or on a reduced timetable. They may be challenging rules and boundaries that are put in place. Some young people present as confused in respect of their identity. Following the COVID-19 pandemic more young people are presenting as sad, worried and lonely which is even harder for those who are looked after. Some young people also have challenges as a result of additional needs and disabilities.

Our dedicated therapeutic team (for children who are looked after) are very skilled; they are excellent listeners and will support you to develop the skills and knowledge needed to provide consistent care.

It is important to the Council for children and young people to live within Neath Port Talbot and to be supported to develop and maintain positive links within their community. We want to ensure stability and consistency and avoid children and young people having to experience different placement moves. Therefore we have developed our new Foster Plus Step Down scheme to support children and young people to achieve better outcomes.

what skills do foster plus step down carers need?

Are you part of the Neath Port Talbot community and want to support local children and young people to live in their community

Are you a good listener

Are you patient and understanding

Are you good at problem solving

Are you committed and resilient

Have you got time to invest in getting to know young people and what matters to them

Do you enjoy participating in activities with young people to help them gain in confidence

Can you be a strong advocate and help the young person to have their voice heard

Are you able to develop and maintain positive relationships

Are you able to support school/college attendance

Are you committed to working closely with other professionals including the Council's therapeutic team to better understand how to help and support a young person in your care

Can you engage in high quality training

Are you willing to work as part of a team

how does the process work?

assessment → matching → introduction

Assessment:

If you are interested in becoming a Foster Plus Step Down Carer then our Fostering team will meet with you to provide you with further details and answer all your questions. You will then undertake an assessment which is taken to our Fostering Panel for approval. Again our team of assessors will be able to answer all of your questions and queries around how this works.

Matching:

When approved we will discuss referrals with you and match you with a child/ young person who is currently living in a children's home, awaiting a fostering family. You will receive all relevant information about the child/ young person including their experiences so far, their likes and dislikes, their hobbies, what matters to them and what they need support with.

Introduction:

There will be a robust introduction period where you will be able to spend time with the child/ young person in the children's home to get to know them and what matters to them. You will be able to link in with the staff at the children's home to understand what works well for the child/ young person and what the challenges are. There will be meetings with the child/ young person's social worker and all other agencies involved in supporting that child/ young person, for example the school, the Children Looked After Health team etc. This will support you to develop positive relationships whilst the young person maintains relationships within the home.

how will foster wales neath port talbot support you as a foster plus step down carer?

If you are a Foster Plus Step Down Carer you can expect a package of support as part of a 'team around the child' approach. As a Foster Plus Step Down Carer, **we will be there for you every step of the way.**

You support will include:

- We have an on-call system where you can contact the team for support and advice both in office hours and out of office hours
- You will have a dedicated supervising social worker who will have weekly contact with you
- You will have monthly supervision from a Supervising Social Worker
- There will be fortnightly team meetings for those involved with supporting the child/ young person for a minimum of the first 12 weeks
- You will receive support from our specialist and experienced therapeutic team including a highly experienced Forensic Psychologist, specialist social workers and outreach workers
- We will help you understand the trauma experienced by a child/ young person and how this presents in their behaviour
- We will teach you the skills to provide therapeutic parenting approach to care for children and young people; this will help you to provide good quality and consistent parenting
- Our dedicated outreach workers will provide consistent support to you and the child/ young person in your care
- We will arrange specialist training for you and we will assist you to complete a Level 2 Therapeutic Fostering Qualification (via the Centre of Excellence in Child Trauma)

financial support

Within Foster Wales Neath Port Talbot, foster carers receive a payment for the children they care for. Our allowances reflect the time carers give and acknowledge their skills and expertise in the fostering role. The payment consists of two parts; the foster carer allowance and the child's allowances.

- A carer allowance of £800 per week (applicable from 1st April 2024).
- In addition to the carer allowance of £800 per week - there is a weekly age related allowance for each child/ young person in your care. This allowance is based on the National Minimum amounts set by Welsh Government and includes payments for pocket money, holiday allowance and clothes.

An example of the Allowances as of April 2023- March 2024:-

Age	Basic	Pocket Money	Clothing	Holiday Allowance	Total per week
11-15	£157.46	£9.73	£20.30	£5.51	£193
16-17	£190.71	£15.40	£27.86	£7.03	£241

Examples of allowances received:

The combined carer fee and child's allowances (if you looked after a young person aged 11-15 years old) would be up to £993 per week.

The combined carer fee and child's allowances (if you looked after a young person aged 16-17 years old) would be up to £1041 per week.

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**This is an exciting
opportunity to achieve
better outcomes for
children and young
people being looked
after within Neath
Port Talbot.**

**If you want to make a real difference in your
community by becoming a Foster Plus Step
Down Carer, or if you have further questions,
then please contact us today on 01639 685866
or email fostering@npt.gov.uk**



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