

# FosterWiki®



## THE 2024 INDEPENDENT FOSTER CARERS SURVEY

### Question 27 Additional Comments

## I. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to The Independent Foster Carer's Survey 2024 powered by FosterWiki Ltd.

We appreciate all the Foster Carers/Carers' time in completing this survey as it is your voice that needs to be heard to help raise the outcomes for the children and young people we care for.

The survey was completed by current or carers who have left fostering in the last 5 years.

The question was as follows:

*“Have transitions been planned and enacted in a way that puts the specific needs of that child first (not following a one-size-fits-all) and with consideration for the whole fostering household?”*

2238 people answered this question and left 427 additional comment responses.



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## 2. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1. No matching or transitions anymore.
2. I've never done any but if the plan for my current child goes ahead and he goes to join his siblings I am very worried about how the transition will go. The family have refused to meet me as they are worried the family know where I live. This means they are unlikely to come here for transitions. The LA revealed details that may have revealed my address, so they've messed me up and in turn, messed the boy up.
3. Terrible transition experiences - with one child being moved the day before my daughter's wedding, when he was also being separated from the brother left behind. I didn't want the boys to be separated but one was returned to family and the other stayed.
4. Long term placement.
5. Mainly by default when they keep transferring him to another service.
6. I haven't had a single placement breakdown that has been planned 2 of which affected the child and they kept trying to contact us we were told to ignore the child as it will break down the new placement. A planned ending is best for all parties with a positive ending essential.
7. Not applicable
8. Again, we have only had this once. The placement only lasted 6 weeks before we called notice on it.
9. We have our children on permanence and have had only one transition but this was with a previous IFA.
10. Sometimes, but with adoption transitions we often come off the timetable and work with adopters ourselves, we are lucky that this has worked for everyone.
11. As stated previously the removal of one sibling. First, foster child's flat at 18 we have been punished for giving notice. Our feelings were never taken into consideration. At supervision one time after I had lost my mum I burst into tears and my supervising social worker said maybe you need to go to your doctor and get some antidepressants. I was horrified and responded that I was grieving and no amount of medication would help the process.
12. Terrible.
13. Plan for placement for a new child completely ignored child already in placement.
14. I asked for additional support, including a financial element. I was said to be trying to monetise on vulnerable people. Instead of providing me with support, the children were moved quickly, two times.
15. Just plain no.
16. We were told there would be a 4-week transition period with our current YP. Then I was phoned on holiday to say his SW was telling him the next day and he would meet us once and then move in the next day as his previous placement was breaking down.
17. Young person moved to semi-independent accommodation without even seeing it.
18. We foster teenagers, generally moving into independence
19. First placement the child had a lovely im transition to family and settled well. Second the child wasn't told they were moving to another carer rather than family till 1wk before (CSW knew for 4 weeks), and arrangements were only confirmed the afternoon before - highly anxious 6yr unable to even know when he'd leave, how he'd travel and who with. Same day move 9wks earlier to us from placement breakdown with another carer (who overdosed in the home), so he was all over the place

at moving again.

20. It was made clear that I had to change my plans to accommodate the transition

21. We had a placement breakdown, and the child was told 2 days before moving in despite the decision

to have him placed on another placement 2 months prior.

22. We have fought hard for this and have usually been listened to.

23. No experience of this.

24. It seems it is dependent on the particular SW, or the attitude of the team the SW is in, as well as the urgency of the need for a move.

25. Transitions are planned as per the needs of a Senior Social worker to meet budgets. There's no real person-centred care, it's a great concept in practice, but in reality, it's never about the child at all.

26. But only after a battle where I had to get the guardian and IRO involved

27. Definitely not, 9 years in placement, since the child was a day old and STILL no further forward,

28. We as the carers were last to no transition plan which happened within 5 days

29. We planned and did a 6-week transition for our YP to move in. The school was given our "All About Us" booklet so they could support his transition and I met the school 4 weeks prior to him moving in. I was also invited to the pep before he moved to us. 4.5 weeks into the transition he wanted to move in but we stuck to 6 weeks, so he didn't feel rushed.

30. No, we had one placement with XXXX Local Authority, and it was handled horrendously. The child was not told they were moving, the social worker did not allow us to tell them or make time to tell them themselves and instead picked them up from school one day and moved them.

31. Long term.

32. As long as we have led it.

33. Omitting important details from chronology to carers just to secure placement.

34. Usually last minute.

35. Spoken about yes, but the reality is usually constrained by time & happens more suddenly

36. As mentioned previously.

37. We gave a year plan of a long-awaited date for a week's holiday and the placement for the respite was allocated 18 hours before we left. but we were also told if there was no accommodation available, just leave the child with an appropriate bag and they would find someone to take care of the child till we returned.

38. A recent transition into adoption had a delay, the issue was resolved in court so we were informed on Wednesday that the child's adoption intros would start on Monday.

39. Not at all at times.

40. last placement- child was taken with 2 days' notice despite significant progress being made.

41. The planning varies.

42. Definitely not! It's whatsoever they can put in a form and ticked off!

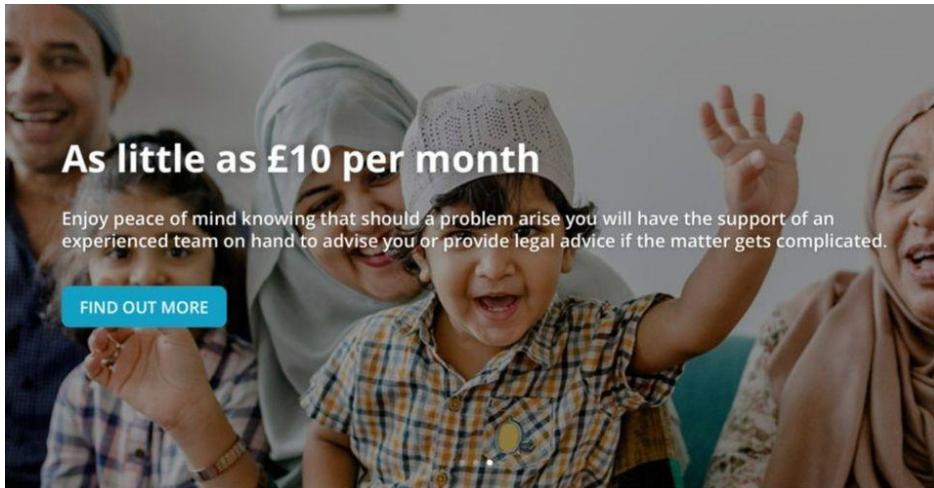
43. Really depends on the workload of the child's Social Worker and the LA.

44. Adoption transitions are handled with pure care for the child. Back to family plans are an absolute disgrace and whatever the family wants regardless of the child's feelings.

45. Yes for one child but not another.

46. Partly.

47. One transition was very poor.
48. I've had to fight to get input and have a role in the plan.
49. Due to a lack of availability for a new placement.
50. Most of our placements have been planned and therefore plenty of preparation. Our last child visited for 1 hour one day and was moved to 7.30 the next morning.



<https://nupfc.com/>

## FosterWiki Toolkits



FosterWiki New Foster Carers Toolkit



FosterWiki Fostering Teenagers Toolkit



FosterWiki Toolkit for New Social Workers



FosterWiki Toolkit for Top Ten Tips

Vist our toolkits at [FosterWiki.com](https://FosterWiki.com)