

Appendix 3

Example of a Temporary No Detriment Approach used in Fostering Services

Transfer of IFA Carers with Protected Payments

Attracting experienced foster carers from Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) is a key mechanism for strengthening in-house fostering provision within a short timeframe. Nationally and locally, evidence consistently demonstrates that financial uncertainty is a significant barrier for carers considering transfer to a local authority fostering service.

The proposed transfer arrangements reflect a nationally recognised approach to foster carer transfer, supported by practice guidance developed by Foster Wales. The guidance promotes a no-detriment principle for transferring carers, underpinned by time-limited protection of existing payments. This approach is intended to support carers to transfer with confidence while maintaining financial sustainability for local authorities.

Under the proposed arrangements, eligible carers transferring from IFAs may receive temporary protection of their existing payment package, subject to defined criteria, time limits and review arrangements. This removes a key barrier to transfer, enables the authority to attract experienced carers, and increases in-house fostering capacity without the lead-in time associated with new approvals.