CONWY
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Directorate of Social Care and Housing

Fostering

Uned Plant a Theuluoedd

Children and Families Unit

Children who are 'looked after' are mainly cared for by foster carers. Research and our experience show us that the best place for most of these children to be cared for is in a foster family.

Who fosters?

Fostering nowadays is not about taking in a child and bringing them up as your own. It is about helping someone else's child at a time of great difficulty. Parents are encouraged to stay closely involved in their children's lives and to continue to be responsible for them. Foster carers may work closely with parents. Children will often return home, although some may stay in long-term foster care, be placed for adoption, or move into independent accommodation, depending on their age and maturity.

We have foster carers from all walks of life, and the main condition is that they have time to give to children. We value the experiences and skills people bring to fostering. Foster carers can be single, married or in a relationship. They may be employed or unemployed, in rented or their own accommodation, young or not so young. We welcome applications from people of any race, religion and culture.

Why do children need fostering and what kinds of children need a foster carer?

There are many reasons why parents are not able to care for their children at home. There may be a family crisis. Some children and young people may have suffered physical or sexual abuse or neglect. In some cases, children are removed from their parents' care by a court order, in other cases children go into care through negotiation and agreement with their parents. Some families experiencing difficulties are supported by short-break care for a child – a period of accommodation, usually on a regular planned basis. The Family Link Scheme provides short-break care for children with disabilities.

Children and young people between the ages of 0 and 18 can be looked after away from their family. We try to keep brothers and sisters together.

What is involved in assessing foster carers?

As you would expect, potential foster carers go through a number of background checks including enquiries of the Criminal Records Bureau, Probation, NSPCC, police, health and education. We get personal references from people who know the potential foster carer or carers well, and who are able to give an honest opinion about how fostering will affect people within the family and what sort of foster carer the person will make.

We talk to all adults and children (depending on their age and understanding) in the household, but obviously concentrate on those people who will be taking on the parenting role. We ask applicants to fill in a form that gives basic details about themselves and their thoughts on fostering.

The assessment process for potential foster carers can take several months. A social worker from the Family Placement Team carries out the assessment and works with the family in putting together a report of the applicant's experience, interests and skills that are relevant to fostering. We also offer initial training alongside the assessment which we expect all applicants to complete. The completed assessment report is presented to Conwy Fostering Panel for them to consider the application to foster. The panel will then make a recommendation on approval based on the assessment report. Applicants can go to the panel meeting if they want to.

What about support and training?

All foster carers have a nominated supervising social worker from the Family Placement Team who will visit regularly and provide support and guidance to the foster family.

The Children and Families Unit offers a rolling programme of training courses relevant to caring for children which approved foster carers are encouraged to go on. Some foster carers go on to apply for the level-3 NVQ Caring for Children and Young People Award.

All foster carers receive a maintenance allowance to help them care for their foster child or children. Carers who are working towards, or who have completed, their level 3 NVQ Award also receive a fee.

The Conwy Foster Care Association:

- is run by foster carers;
- provides support and information to approved carers;
- provides opportunities to meet other carers; and
- arranges social events for foster families and their foster children.

How to find out more about fostering in Conwy

If you would like to know more about fostering in Conwy, we would be pleased to hear from you. You can contact the Family Placement Team at:

Children and Families Unit
The Civic Annex
Abergele Road
Colwyn Bay
Conwy
LL29 8AR
Phone: 01492 514871

You can get this leaflet on audiotape, in Braille and in large print. If you want one of these, please phone 01492 574 065.

If you want any of our information in a language other than Welsh or English, we will try our best to get it translated for you.

You can get more information about this leaflet from:

Directorate of Social Care and Housing
Builder Street
Llandudno, LL30 1DA.
Phone: 01492 574 065

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CONWY
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cyfarwyddiaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol a Gwasanaethau Tai

Maethu

Uned Plant a Theuluoedd

Children and Families Unit

Mae plant sydd 'dan ein gofal' fel arfer yn byw efo gofalwyr maeth. Mae ymchwil a'n profiad wedi dangos i ni mai'r lle gorau i'r rhan fwyaf o'r plant hyn gael gofal yw mewn teulu maeth.

Pwy sy'n maethu?

Y dyddiau hyn, nid yw maethu yn golygu gofalu am blentyn a'i fagu/magu fel eich plentyn eich hun. Y bwriad erbyn hyn yw helpu plentyn rhywun arall ar adeg pan fo anhawster mawr yn ei fywyd/bywyd. Caiff rhieni eu hannog i aros mewn cysylltiad agos efo bywydau eu plant, ac i barhau i fod yn gyfrifol amdanynt. Gall gofalwyr maeth weithio'n agos efo'r rhieni. Yn aml, bydd plant yn dychwelyd gartref, er y gallai rhai aros mewn gofal maeth tymor hir, gael eu mabwysiadu, neu symud i mewn i lety annibynnol, gan ddibynnu ar eu hoedran a'u haeddfedrwydd.

Mae gennym ofalwyr maeth o bob lliw a llun, a'r brif amod yw bod ganddynt amser i'w roi i blant. Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi'r profiadau a'r sgiliau sydd gan bobl i'w cynnig i faethu. Gall gofalwyr maeth fod yn sengl, yn briod neu mewn perthynas. Gallant fod mewn gwaith neu'n ddi-waith, mewn cartref wedi ei rentu neu eu cartref eu hunain, yn ifanc neu ddim mor ifanc. Croesewir ceisiadau oddi wrth bobl o unrhyw hil, cred a diwylliant.

Pam fod plant angen gofal maeth a pha fathau o blant sydd angen gofalwyr maeth?

Mae llawer o resymau pam nad yw rhieni yn gallu gofalu am eu plant gartref. Gallent fod yn mynd drwy argyfwng teulu. Mae'n bosibl fod rhai plant a phobl ifanc wedi dioddef camdriniaeth gorfforol neu rywiol, neu wedi eu hesgeuluso. Mewn rhai achosion, caiff plant eu tynnu o ofal eu rhieni drwy orchymyn llys, mewn achosion eraill, mae plant yn mynd i ofal yn dilyn trafodaethau efo'r rhieni a chyda'u cytundeb. Caiff rhai teuluoedd sy'n dioddef anawsterau gefnogaeth drwy ddarparu gofal 'gwyliau' byr ar gyfer y plentyn – cyfnod mewn llety, fel arfer, am gyfnodau bwriedig rheolaidd. Mae'r Cynllun Cyswllt Teulu yn darparu gofal tymor byr ar gyfer plant gydag anableddau.

Gellir gofalu am blant a phobl ifanc rhwng 0 – 18 oed i ffwrdd oddi wrth eu teulu. Ceisiwn gadw brodyr a chwiorydd gyda'i gilydd.

Sut caiff gofalwyr maeth eu hasesu?

Fel y byddech yn disgwyl, mae darpar-ofalwyr maeth yn gorfod mynd drwy nifer o wiriadau cefndir sy'n cynnwys holi'r Biwro Cofnodion Troseddol, y Gwasanaeth Prawf, NSPCC, yr heddlu, iechyd ac addysg. Rydym yn cael tystlythyrau personol oddi wrth bobl sy'n adnabod y darpar ofalwr/aig neu ofalwyr maeth yn dda, ac sy'n gallu rhoi barn onest am sut y bydd maethu yn effeithio ar bobl yn y teulu, a pha fath o ofalwr/aig maeth fydd yr un dan sylw.

Rydym yn siarad efo pob oedolyn a phlentyn (gan ddibynnu ar eu hoedran a'u dealltwriaeth) yn y cartref, ond yn amlwg yn canolbwyntio ar y bobl hynny a fydd yn gweithredu mewn rôl rhieni. Gofynnwn i ymgeiswyr lenwi ffurflen sy'n rhoi manylion syml amdanynt eu hunain a'u teimladau ynglŷn â maethu.

Gall y broses asesu darpar-ofalwyr maeth gymryd nifer o fisoedd. Mae gweithiwr/aig cymdeithasol o'r Tîm Lleoli Plant efo Teuluoedd yn cynnal asesiad ac yn gweithio efo'r teulu er mwyn llunio adroddiad ar brofiad, diddordebau a sgiliau'r ymgeisydd sy'n berthnasol i faethu. Hefyd, rydym yn cynnig hyfforddiant dechreuol ar yr un pryd â'r asesiad, a disgwyliwn i'r holl ymgeiswyr gwblhau'r hyfforddiant hwn. Caiff yr adroddiad asesu wedi ei gwblhau ei gyflwyno i Banel Maethu Conwy, er mwyn iddynt ystyried y cais i faethu. Yna, bydd y panel yn gwneud argymhelliad ynglŷn â chymeradwyo yn seiliedig ar yr adroddiad asesu. Gall ymgeiswyr fynd i'r cyfarfod panel os dymunant.

Beth am gefnogaeth a hyfforddiant?

Bydd gan yr holl ofalwyr maeth weithiwr/aig cymdeithasol o'r Tîm Lleoli Plant efo Teuluoedd a fydd yn eu goruchwylio ac yn ymweld â hwy yn rheolaidd er mwyn darparu cefnogaeth ac arweiniad i'r teulu maeth.

Mae'r Uned Plant a Theuluoedd yn cynnig rhaglen dreigl o gyrsiau hyfforddi sy'n ymwneud â gofalu am blant, a chaiff gofalwyr maeth sydd wedi eu cymeradwyo eu hannog i wneud yr hyfforddiant. Mae rhai gofalwyr maeth yn mynd yn eu blaenau i wneud cais am NVQ Lefel-3 mewn Gofalu am Blant a Phobl Ifanc.

Mae'r holl ofalwyr maeth yn cael lwfans cynnal i'w helpu i ofalu am y plentyn neu'r plant maeth. Mae'r gofalwyr sy'n gweithio tuag at, neu wedi cwblhau, eu NVQ Lefel 3 hefyd yn cael ffi.

Mae Cymdeithas Gofal Maeth Conwy:

- Yn cael ei rhedeg gan ofalwyr maeth;
- Yn darparu cefnogaeth a gwybodaeth i ofalwyr sydd wedi eu cymeradwyo;
- Yn darparu cyfleoedd i gyfarfod gofalwyr eraill; ac
- Yn trefnu digwyddiadau cymdeithasol ar gyfer teuluoedd maeth a'u plant maeth.

Sut i ganfod mwy am faethu yng Nghonwy

Os hoffech wybod mwy am faethu yng Nghonwy, byddwn yn falch o glywed oddi wrthych. Gallwch gysylltu efo'r Tîm Lleoli Plant efo Teuluoedd yn:

Uned Plant a Theuluoedd
Anecs y Ganolfan Ddinesig
Ffordd Abergele
Bae Colwyn
Conwy
LL29 8AR
Ffôn: 01492 514871

Gallwch gael y daflen yma ar dâp sain, mewn Braille ac mewn print bras. Os ydych angen un o'r rhain, yna ffoniwch 01492 574 065.

Os ydych chi eisiau unrhyw wybodaeth mewn iaith ar wahân i Gymraeg neu Saesneg, fe wnawn ein gorau i geisio cael cyfieithiad i chi.

Gallwch gael mwy o wybodaeth am y daflen yma o:

Cyfarwyddiaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol a Gwasanaethau Tai
Builder Street,
Llandudno, LL30 1DA.
Ffôn: 01492 574 065

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