

INFOGUIDE

REFERRALS/MATCHING PROCESS

This is a quick guide to explain how the referrals and matching process takes place in our agency

- Local Authorities (LA) refer young people needing a placement to multiple databases for Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA).
- Mosaic Foster Care's referrals officer monitors these databases to identify young people that we could meet the care needs of.
- The referrals officer will make an offer to the LA, providing them with information on the Agency and the Foster Parents that we think could be a suitable match.
- If the LA are interested, the referrals officer will approach the relevant Foster Parents (and their Supervising Social Worker - SSW) with information on the young person.
- The Foster Parents and SSW will then discuss this information and make a provisional decision as to whether the Foster Parents feel they could meet the needs of the young person.
- If they do feel they could meet the young person's needs, the Foster Parents will put together a list of questions that they would like to ask and this will be sent to the LA, along with their Fostering Assessment (Form F).
- Once the LA respond to the initial questions (and if the Carers and their SSW would still like to proceed) a 'pre-placement meeting' will be arranged and is usually attended by the Foster Parent, SSW and Child Social Worker (CSW).
- If all parties are in agreement to proceed, an internal Matching Meeting will be held to discuss the potential match and if the outcome is positive, introductions between the Foster Parents and Young Person can begin.