



**JOURNEY
2 FOSTER**



**ENHANCE YOUR RECRUITMENT
AND EMPOWER YOUR CARERS**

**FOSTER
TALK**
#SUPPORTINGTHOSEWHOCARE

A small graphic element at the bottom right of the page, consisting of a stylized 'J' shape with a yellow-to-purple gradient, similar to the main logo.

ABOUT JOURNEY 2 FOSTER

JOURNEY 2 FOSTER GIVES YOUR PRE-APPROVAL CARERS THE SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING TO PREPARE THEM FOR A POSITIVE FUTURE IN FOSTERING.

Written and delivered by experienced social workers, **Journey 2 Foster** is a training course like no other. It provides learners with an introduction to the fundamentals of becoming a foster carer, delivered in a group setting, allowing for reflection, debate and participatory exercises, to develop an understanding of themes and topics associated with fostering, children and their families.

As its title states, FosterTalk acknowledge that for a prospective foster carer, they are on a 'journey' to their approval, and the training provides the learning required at this stage of the journey, coupled with clear links to fostering assessment areas and future training expectations on which to build within their fostering service.

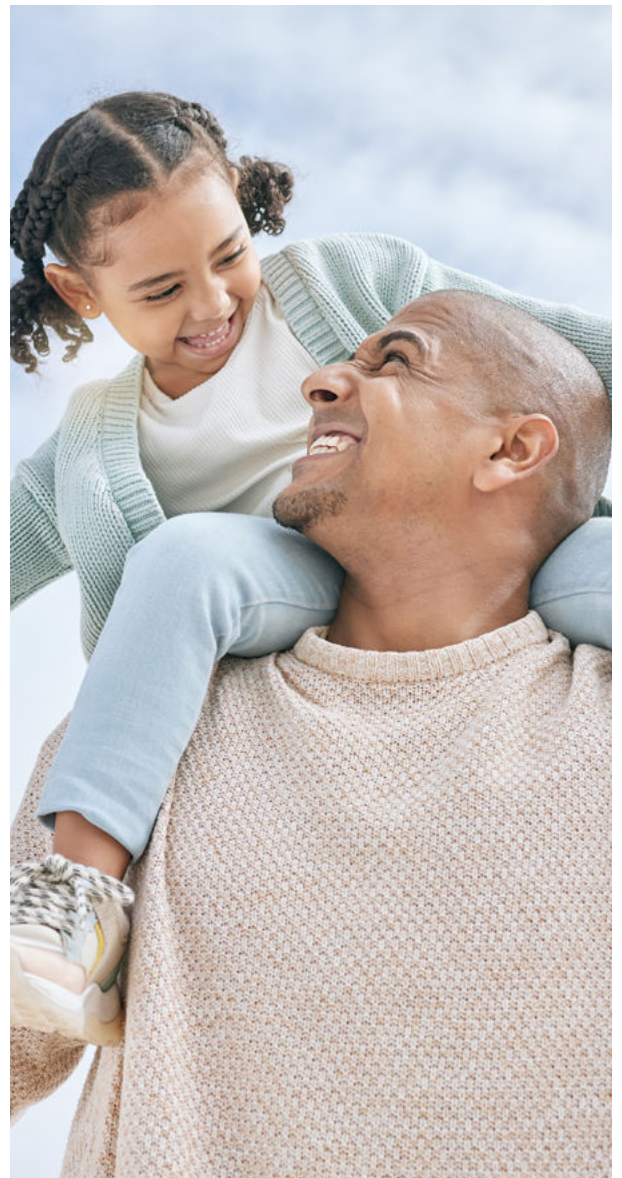
There are 6 modules which provide a balance of theoretical, legislative and practical learning in areas that underpin the fostering task, whilst capturing the views of children and foster carers throughout.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Journey 2 Foster is suitable for all pre-approval foster carers.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ A fully interactive 3-day training course
- ✓ Option to choose virtual or classroom-based delivery
- ✓ Dedicated training facilitator with years of experience in the fostering sector
- ✓ Ongoing support for your prospective carers
- ✓ Course handbook including case scenarios & further resources
- ✓ Real foster carers speaking about their experiences in video recordings
- ✓ Scenarios adapted from real life experiences of foster carers are used to bring to life the realities and rewards of becoming a foster carer
- ✓ E-learning homework to complete after the course



BENEFITS AT A GLANCE



UP TO DATE CONTENT

Journey 2 Foster is reviewed and refreshed every year to align with any legislation updates or best practice changes.



REAL LIFE CASE STUDIES AND VIDEOS

We share the stories and experiences of real carers who provide relatable and insightful experiences of fostering.



HASSLE FREE

We offer a simple booking process and full admin management ensuring a hassle free process for you and your team.



FLEXIBLE DELIVERY

We understand that timing is everything, that's why we work with you to deliver training at a date and place to best suit your needs.



EXPERT TRAINERS

Our trainers are experts in their field with real life experience and understanding of what it takes to foster.



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK REPORTS

To support your carers' ongoing assessments, we provide participant reports, so you don't have to send a team member to the training.

Journey 2 Foster was amazing... I've learnt so much about what to expect and how to prepare for the first steps in my fostering journey. It's helped to confirm that I made the right decision and I look forward to opening my home and proving the love and support needed for my foster children.

Maxine - New Foster Carer



TRUSTED BY



COURSE CONTENT

INTRODUCTION MODULE

Our introduction module brings the learners into the delivery and themes of the training, recognising the start of their journey. It enhances the group dynamics and familiarity and sets a supportive learning environment for the rest of the training. There is also an opportunity to link their assessment with the **Journey 2 Foster** course through our assessment Q & A, led by our facilitators, experienced social work professionals.

MODULE 1 - WHAT FOSTER CARERS DO AND WHAT CHILDREN IN CARE NEED

Module 1 introduces the learner to thinking about their role as a foster carer and the type of fostering they are stepping into. Applicants can feel overwhelmed with so much new information, this provides a gentle but informative start to the learning. It helps them think about what is meant by abuse and neglect and becoming more assured in their understanding. The module starts to connect the role of the foster carer, the understanding of abuse and neglect to the needs of the children and young people in their care.

MODULE 2 - UNDERSTANDING ATTACHMENT

Module 2 moves the learner through into developing insight and a basic understanding of underpinning theories and models in foster care. The learners will explore attachment theory and the secure base model and why this is key in the care of children and young people. They will also be able to link the concepts of brain science and the PACE approach to shape their understanding of the impact of trauma and how their care is crucial in helping a child move forward from the impact of early life trauma.

MODULE 3 - WELCOMING A YOUNG PERSON INTO YOUR HOME

Module 3 focuses on welcoming a child and the developing relationship. It encourages participants to see the world through the eyes of the child and why they may see the world differently. Change, transitions, trust and communication are key concepts in this module to understand what it may take to support a child. This module uses videos and scenario-based case study to explore real life experiences and to be able to think about what they would do to ensure a child is welcomed in their home

MODULE 4 - SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT

Module 4 is concerned with task specific aspects of the role, including a basic understanding of the legal and policy frameworks surrounding foster care. It covers the essential provision of supervision and support for a foster carer and the importance of this in providing reflection and support in caring for children. It explores the difficult topic of allegations, in a factual and informative way, but with a sensitivity and understanding of the impact of this on foster carers. The module also shares learning around safe care principles, ensuring the learner is empowered in ways to minimise the risk of allegations.

MODULE 5 - PROMOTING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Module 5 re-connects the learner with some of the concepts initiated in Module 2, such as secure base and the impact of loss for children, and develops these further, to promote understanding of the concept of identity, how a child sees the world shaped by their experiences of abuse and neglect, and the impact of this on behaviour and relationships. It explores how foster carers can help a child develop a positive sense of self. The module focuses also on the importance of family time, promoting family membership, balanced with the difficulties that can be associated with family time and what foster carers can do to help build positive relationships with birth family.

MODULE 6 - IDENTITY AND FOSTER CARE

Module 6 builds on the concept of identity introduced in Module 5, and embeds this in the wider topics of culture and diversity, understanding and celebrating difference. It provides understanding of issues within LGBTQ+ and disability for example and the importance of a foster carer's relationship and approach with children in their care to promote acceptance and helping the child develop a positive sense of self.



DELIVERY / TIPS

Journey 2 Foster is delivered over a three-day training period, either face to face or virtually. We offer flexibility in terms of delivery, and days/timings which can be bespoke to your service.

Journey 2 Foster is packed full of essential topics. We would suggest running the course over a 3 day period both virtually or face to face, to ensure applicants have sufficient time to explore themes and understand the learning.

We want to stress the importance of giving your prospective foster carers enough time and input to progress their learning and development.

Here's an example of how a Journey 2 foster course can be structured;

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 10:00am - 11:30am | First Learning session |
| Comfort break | |
| 11:45am - 01:00pm | Second learning session |
| Lunch break | |
| 01:30pm - 03:30pm | Third learning session (within learning comfort break) |
| 03:30pm - 04:00pm | Reflections and evaluations |

COSTING

Our costing is dependant on numbers, style of delivery and location.

Please contact us on training@fostertalk.org to discuss your bespoke quote. FosterTalk members also received 10% saving on Journey 2 Foster bookings.



ADDITIONAL MODULES

At FosterTalk, we recognise that our Journey 2 Foster is an in depth learning experience as part of a prospective carers preparation, however in addition to this, we are able to offer modules that offer wider learning in more detail, for example, the modules below:

BIRTH CHILDREN

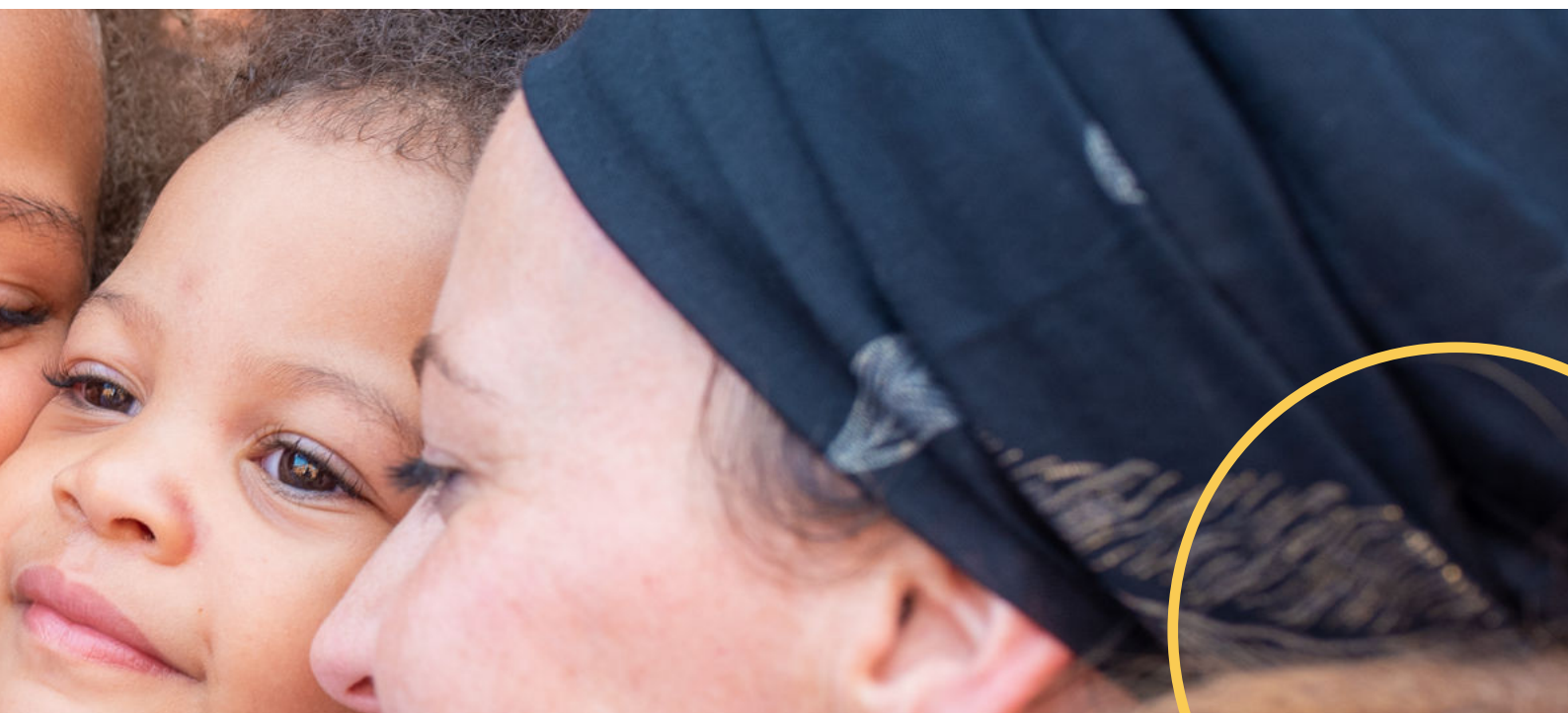
This module for birth children is a key addition to supporting the transition of a family to becoming a fostering family. The module will focus on the assessment experience through a child's eyes, welcoming a child into their home, accepting difference, safe care and confidentiality, parents and sharing, goodbyes and endings and wellbeing. It is delivered in a workshop style that can be delivered virtually or face to face.

KNIFE CRIME AND GANGS

This additional module is an example of a bespoke module, covering an aspect of child criminal exploitation that has been a growing concern for parents and carers over recent years. The module covers the concept of what CCE looks like and how children are vulnerable to it's influence. It provides a valuable insight into signs and clues for foster carers to recognise and respond to. It describes the importance of a team around the child approach in working together support children and young people.

BESPOKE

We can develop additional modules on topics that are relevant to your service or locality to provide a bespoke learning experience for your prospective carers.



HOW DOES JOURNEY 2 FOSTER LINK WITH THE TRAINING SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS?

The trainer refers to the TSDS throughout the course to ensure the message is clear and encourages early completion of the standards before the 12 month deadline. It is explained that PFC's can start to evidence the standards during the assessment. Using the course handbook to record and reflect on subjects introduced during the course with their assessing social worker is a good way to do this, and again is encouraged.

The **Journey 2 Foster** course modules cover all the standards in general and more specifically as outlined below. By the end of the course, PFC's will be able to begin to start evidencing the standards, even if it is only theoretically through exercises and case studies or with actual evidence depending upon their previous experiences personally or through relatable employment. We are not saying that they will have met all of the standards by the end of the course, as this is not the aim of the standards – they are post-approval and will require the PFC's to have children in placement to give good quality evidence to their supervising social worker that they can apply the theory to their practice.

Post approval, Fostertalk are able to offer a TSDS programme to support foster carers to fully complete their evidence workbooks, we also deliver this for staff too.

IS THIS COURSE CERTIFICATED?

Journey 2 Foster contributes to the evidencing of the TSDS and CPD. All applicants will receive a course certificate after completion.

HOW DOES THIS COURSE DIFFER FROM OTHERS ON THE MARKET?

Journey 2 Foster has a robust presence among similar preparation courses and is regularly updated to take account of emerging themes and developments in children's and fostering services. There are additional bespoke modules that can be provided and a suite of e-learning modules that further enhance and consolidate the learning.

WILL THERE BE FEEDBACK GIVEN ON EACH APPLICANT?

Yes there is feedback written by the facilitator on each participant and provided to the fostering service.

HOW DO APPLICANTS ACCESS THE E-LEARNING MODULES?

Fostertalk are able to set up participants with access to the Care 2 Learn platform on request from the fostering service.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOUR TRAINERS HAVE?

All facilitators are qualified social workers with a depth of experience in fostering and children's services.

IS THIS SUITABLE FOR APPLICANT'S FAMILY/SUPPORT MEMBERS TO ATTEND?

The course is for fostering applicants only, however the course material and detailed handbook will be given to each participant and they are encouraged to share their learning in relevant areas with their support networks/family as appropriate.

HOW DO YOU ENSURE APPLICANTS ARE ENGAGED?

The combination of different learning materials, such as video's, exercises and case studies, debate and e-learning are able to capture a wide audience and meet the learning preferences of participants. We can have individual conversations with fostering services and participants should there be particular learning needs we need to be aware of.





Contact us today to find out how Journey 2 Foster can empower your carers with the skills, knowledge and understanding to succeed.

EMAIL US ON
training@fostertalk.org

CALL US ON
0121 758 5013

VISIT
fostertalk.org/training-course-journey-2-foster/