

	Adoption	Fostering under Interim or Care Order	Fostering under Section 20	Special Guardianship Order	Regulation 24 – temporary approval as a Foster Carer for a child you know	Child Arrangements Order	Private Fostering
Type of Assessment I will have and who will undertake this, how long will it take?	Prospective Adopter Report (PAR) Adopt South West. Typically, 12 weeks	Form F Fostering Service	Form F Fostering service	Special Guardianship assessment Special Guardianship Team Typically, 12 weeks	Viability Assessment including to include Police checks The Child's Social Worker This arrangement is for a maximum of 24 weeks	This is dependant on the decision of the court	A private fostering arrangement assessment will be completed within 6 weeks of referral.
Can I make all parenting decisions about the child	Yes, without exception once an order has been made	No, decisions made by the Social Worker/Court. but you will have delegated authority on a range of day to day parenting decisions.	No, all decisions made by parent/s. Those day to day parenting decisions delegated by parent/s to carers will be outlined in the delegated authority document.	No. You cannot change the child's name or remove the child from the country for more than 3 months without the consent of everyone the parents or permission of the Court	No, dependant on the order under which the child is in care as per fostering	No, decisions made are in conjunction with birth parents with them having overriding decision making unless the court state specifics when the order is made	No, decisions are made by the birth parents. A written agreement may be made with parents and carers with delegation of some day to day parenting decisions
Is there a chance the child's birth parents could ask to have them returned at any stage?	No, without exception once an order has been made	Yes, although you can apply for a Special Guardianship Order or an Adoption Order once the child has lived with you for one year	Yes, they could seek the children being returned at any time	Yes, they can apply to the court to have the child returned	Yes, as per Fostering under Care Order or Section 20	Yes, the parent/s can apply to the court to have the child returned	Yes, the parent/s can seek the child's return at any time
What financial assistance will I be entitled to?	Adopter/s may be eligible for an adoption allowance on completion of a financial assessment. Access to the Adoption Support Fund subject to availability and eligibility	Fostering allowance payable	Fostering allowance payable	The special guardianship allowance is means tested on an annual basis	Fostering allowance payable	None	Financial support to be arranged between the parent/s and the private foster carer.
Will the child still see their parents and/or other birth family members?	Direct contact is at the sole discretion of you as the adopter/s once the Adoption Order is granted. unless direct contact is ordered by the Court. Indirect contact is typically yearly	Contact or Family Time arrangements will be set out in the child's court care plan, these may be risk assessed by the Social Worker and must be endorsed by the Independent Review Officer.	Contact/Family Time is at the parent/s request with Social Worker advice and assistance	Contact/Family Time agreed at the point the court order is made and can be contested in court by birth parents at any time	As per fostering and is dependent on the type of order	The court order will state what the contact will be	Contact/Family Time is at the parent/s request
What support will I get?	Assessment of support needs provided on request.	You will be allocated a Supervising Social Worker who will visit you, provide advice and supervision and undertake annual reviews. The child will have an allocated Social Worker	You will be allocated a Supervising Social Worker who will visit you, provide advice and supervision and undertake annual reviews. The child will have an allocated Social Worker	A support plan will be created at the point of the court making the order. A family practitioner may be available to offer support and guidance (subject to availability). A duty line is available for advice and support.	You will be allocated a Supervising Social Worker who will visit you, provide advice and supervision and undertake annual reviews. The child will have an allocated Social Worker	No automatic support unless there are concerns about the child's welfare	There will be an allocated social worker There is an advice and duty phone line for advice and support.