

**Swindon Borough Council**  
**Fostering Service**  
**Refer a Friend Policy (Approved Carers)**

**Foster with Swindon- Refer a Friend Policy for Approved Carers**

**Introduction**

The aim of this policy is to identify the elements of the Refer a Friend scheme for approved foster carers.

The policy applies to referrals made after 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

This scheme & associated policy has been reviewed in January 2025.

**Key Information**

Swindon Borough Council will pay a financial incentive to a carer when they refer someone who then becomes an approved foster carer for Swindon Borough Council.

No payment will be made to a referrer if the person/household they referred does not proceed to making an application with Swindon. In order to receive the full amount, the carer must become approved with Swindon & continue to foster with Swindon for at least the first 6 months.

The payment will be a total of £750 paid at three different stages as outlined below.

A referral can only be made by one referrer per person/household. Multiple referrals for the same person/household are not valid under this scheme.

The carer should be 18 or over and hold a UK bank account.

There is no limit to the number of people/households a referrer can recommend.

To be eligible, the referrer must not be living with the applicant.

If a fostering household has previously been referred under the scheme, finances cannot be awarded twice.

Anyone living in Swindon who a carer feels may have the skills, experience and ability to become a foster carer with Swindon can be referred.

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**Financial amounts**

£250 paid on receipt of an application by the individual to foster with Swindon.

£250 paid upon the referred individuals (prospective carer) attendance at Swindon Foster Panel following a positive recommendation.

£250 paid once the carer has been approved with Swindon for 6 months.

**Process**

The carer needs to inform their Supervising Social Worker of their wish to make a referral. They will be asked to make contact with the Recruitment and Assessment Team in Swindon.

The person being referred also needs to inform the team and the time of their application also.

The carer referring will become the 'buddy' along the process, keep in touch and support the referred person/household.

The promotional poster promoting the offer is attached to this policy, this is also regularly shared with carers & in recruitment materials.

**Further Information**

Please contact the Recruitment & Assessment Team for any further information on 01793 465700 or email [fosteringrecruitment@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringrecruitment@swindon.gov.uk)

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**If you foster with us,  
refer a friend and**

**earn up to**  
**£750**

**We need kind,  
patient, committed people  
with a spare bedroom to  
become foster carers in Swindon.**

**If you're an approved foster carer with  
Swindon and know of someone who has  
these qualities, let us know  
and earn money as they  
reach key stages of  
the recruitment  
process.**

**To make  
a referral, email  
[fosteringrecruitment@  
swindon.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringrecruitment@swindon.gov.uk)  
or speak to your  
supervising social  
worker.**

