

SUNBEAM FOSTERING GROUP

A FOSTER CARER'S

GUIDE TO TRANSFERRING TO SUNBEAM



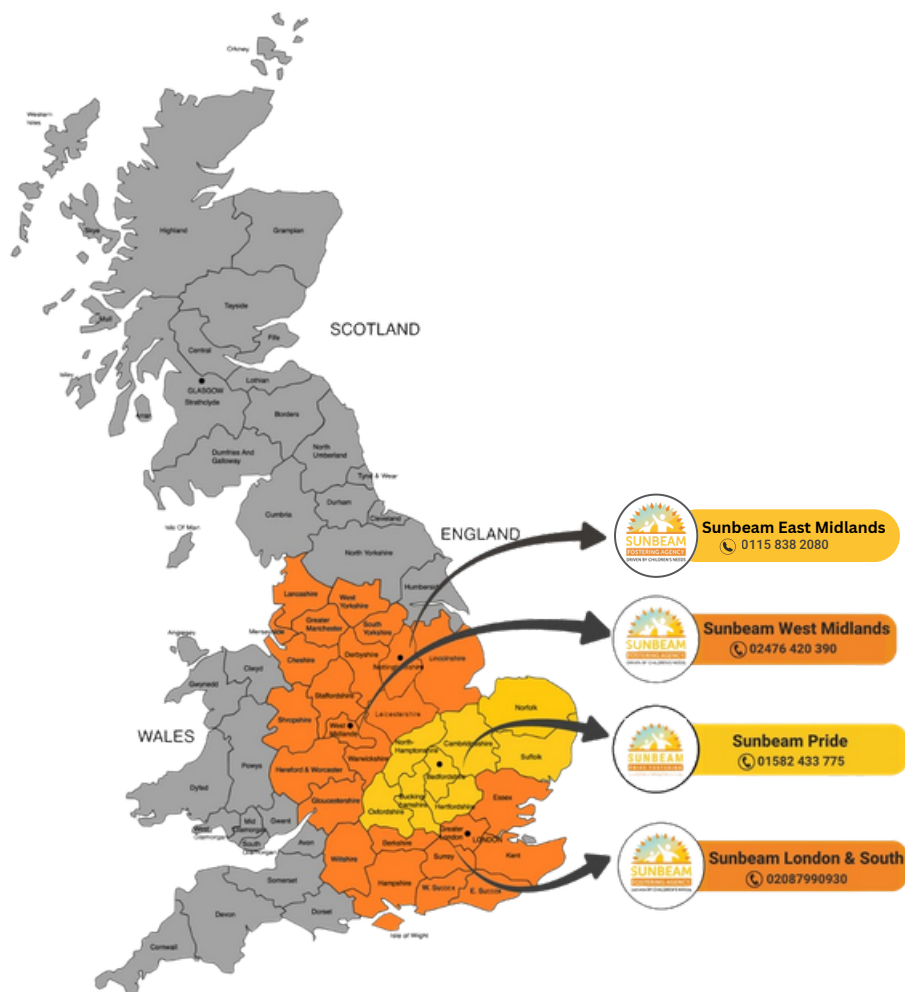
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► Introduction

We are very pleased that as an approved or experienced foster carer you are considering continuing your fostering career with Sunbeam. Sunbeam is an established independent fostering agency operating across 4 broad regions:



Sunbeam started in 2000 in West London and has since progressively developed across the UK. To date we have over 500 carers available throughout the UK providing foster care to over 700 children across the group.

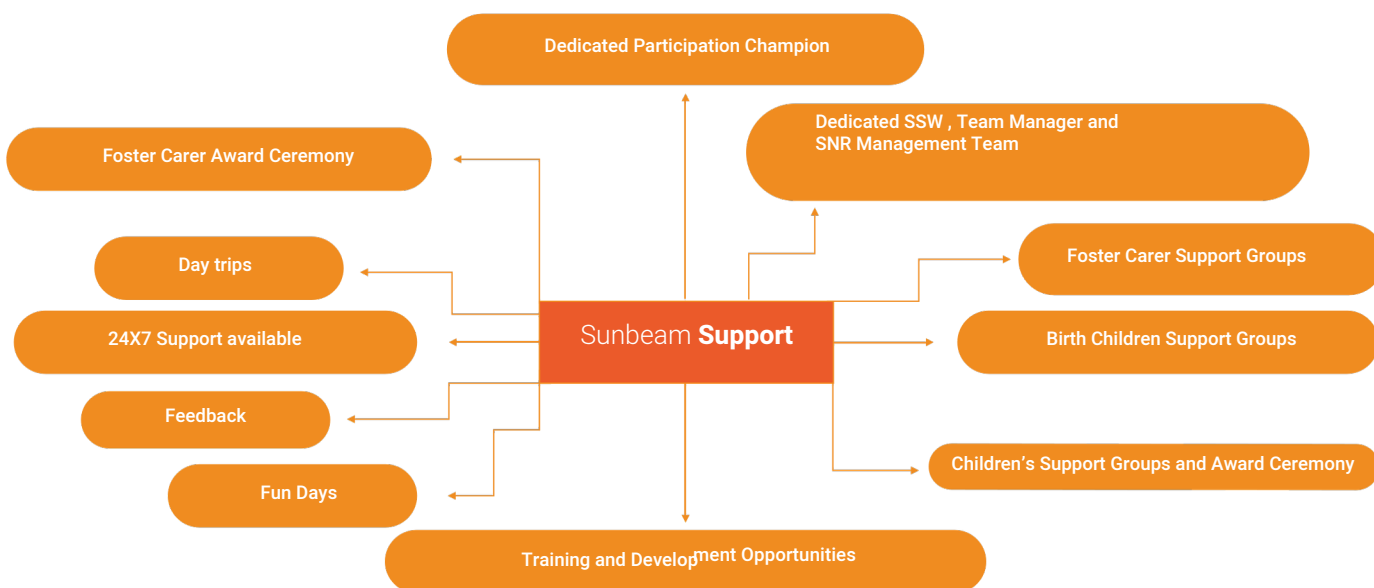
Sunbeam are one of the largest providers of independent foster care placements in the UK. We look after on average 700 children and young people across our respective registered offices. The organisation was started by three social workers who remain at the heart of the organisation and our ethos of being 'driven by children's need's' is an established strap line running through the veins of our service. We are pleased to have developed a reputation for quality supportive foster care placement and share strong working relationships with placing local authorities.

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To further support the development of our service Sunbeam holds strong positions on key contracts with the placing authorities. These include:

- All authorities across the East and West Midlands.
- Hertfordshire, Luton and the Home Counties, Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire.
- Across London and the South, including Croydon, Lambeth, West and East London and to the South
- Central including Hampshire, Surrey, Reading, Oxfordshire and Portsmouth / Southampton



▶ Excellent Support

We believe that Support is fundamental to successful placements for children and young people and the development of our foster carers:

▶ Local offices and resource centres

We provide local support to you through the following:

- Local Social Workers
- Local training venues
- Local activities for foster carers/children
- Local "Meet the Managers" events

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Registered Offices

Our registered offices with Ofsted as follows:

- Head Office: Langley, Berkshire
- West Midlands office branch registration: Coventry
- East Midlands office branch registration: Nottingham
- Sunbeam Pride Office: Luton, Bedfordshire

Resources Centres

We have many resource centres in different locations to support our carers . We have three resource centres only in London to make it easy for all our foster carers. Overall we have seven resource centres across our locations and as most progressive agency we will be expanding in the future.

- Croydon
- Walthamstow
- Wembley
- Birmingham
- Portsmouth
- Northampton

Foster Carer Testimonials

"Fostering is a rewarding experience as it allows you to actually make a difference for a child/young person. I feel happy being able to make such a difference whether it is for one day or several years." -**ASMA, London**

"We have been fostering for the last 8 years and feel proud to be a part of the Sunbeam family . At the beginning , wethought it's a tough job, but the skills to foster initial training and the whole assessment procedure to become a carer was interesting , and it gave us both a broad insight into both the tough and rewarding side of what we were likely to encounter." -**HANNAH AND KASHIF, London**

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► Dedicated Participation Champion

Our Participation Champion oversees all participative activities for Foster Carers, Children and Young People, and Birth Children. Through continued reflection, development, and innovation our aim is to provide effective support to all our foster carers and our Participation Champion will make sure this happens

► Support Groups

We hold regular local Support groups for Foster Carers throughout the year. We encourage participation in Support Groups, and Foster Carers are supported to take the lead in designing these to meet their needs.

We also hold regular support groups for children and young people, mostly during schools breaks. These are led by the Supervising Social Workers, there are planned activities for the children and young people, usually these will be targeted to specific ages so we can ensure that all our children and young people have an opportunity to attend a group, which is relevant to their needs and age.

In addition, we hold a number of events throughout the year including:

- Birth Children support Groups
- Fun Days
- Day Trips
- Awards Ceremonies
- Training

We continue to build on our comprehensive training programme for foster carers. We understand that our foster carers have different levels of experience and development requirements and therefore we have tailored training, which meets the needs of all levels of experience. Flexible Training weekdays, weekends and through online training courses.

► Participation, Feedback and Service Development

Feedback is important to us, that's why we encourage feedback from all stakeholders regularly, this ensures that our service is developing, we aim to go above and beyond just meeting the needs of our stakeholders. Foster Carers have daily opportunity to provide feedback, we conduct annual surveys, feedback at reviews and specific events.

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▶ Referral Scheme

We offer a generous referral scheme to thank our carers and supporters who recommend foster carers interested in transferring to us. If you know a foster carer who is thinking about transferring, or anyone who would like to start fostering please contact us we are happy to assist every step of the way.

New carers or carers that have previously fostered : £1000

Existing carers without placement : £1,500

Existing carers with 1 placement : £1,750

Existing carers with 2 or more placements : £2,000

▶ Get in Touch

” At Sunbeam we are always here to support you
If you are satisfied please
Talk about us
If we can do better please
Talk to us

To refer someone you can contact us on the below

Call us on 020 8799 0930 to speak with a member of our recruitment team.

Email us at recruitment@sunbeamfostering.com and we will get back to you promptly.

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► Why Choose Sunbeam

We understand the importance for Foster Carers to be supported effectively financially in caring for children and young people. Our Foster Carers receive clear information regarding all payments and expectations related to the Fostering Allowance. The reward element is competitive and reflects the hard work and dedication our foster carers provide to the children and young people they look after. We are happy to discuss potential financial packages for Foster Carers transferring with children to ensure there is no shortfall in the continued financial support package.

There are a number of reward element incentives for foster carers also, including;

- Long Service
- TSD and Training completion
- Annual Holiday contribution

Sunbeam is dedicated to providing quality, supportive foster placements to children and young people. We work in partnership with placing authorities and our foster carers to ensure every child or young person placed in our care receives every possible opportunity to develop and grow into successful young adults. We have a persistent focus on achieving the very best outcomes for the children and work as a team to enable them to achieve their full potential.

The work we undertake in regards to monitoring and developing the service ensures that every child and young person's individuality is recognised. We understand that there is no one size fits all approach to caring for children and young people.

Placement endings – we strive to ensure that children and young people receive positive placement endings, this includes being rehabilitated home to their family, moving onto adoptive parents or onto independence or being placed as a supported lodger with their foster carers.

To read more about why choose Sunbeam, please visit the below link
<https://sunbeamfostering.com/why-choose-sunbeam-fostering-foster-care>

► Making a formal application / transferring to Sunbeam:

Sunbeam has experienced recruiters for foster carers and supports foster carers who are transferring from other organisations. We understand that this may not be an easy decision for you, which is why we undertake an initial home visit, prior to you making a formal application, we hope that during this visit we can address any concerns you have and provide you with an opportunity to learn more about our organisation, our team, our foster carers and the support and care we provide to you as foster carers. We would also talk about the type of foster children who may potentially be placed with you and the relationship we share with your local authority and surrounding local authorities.

Contact Us

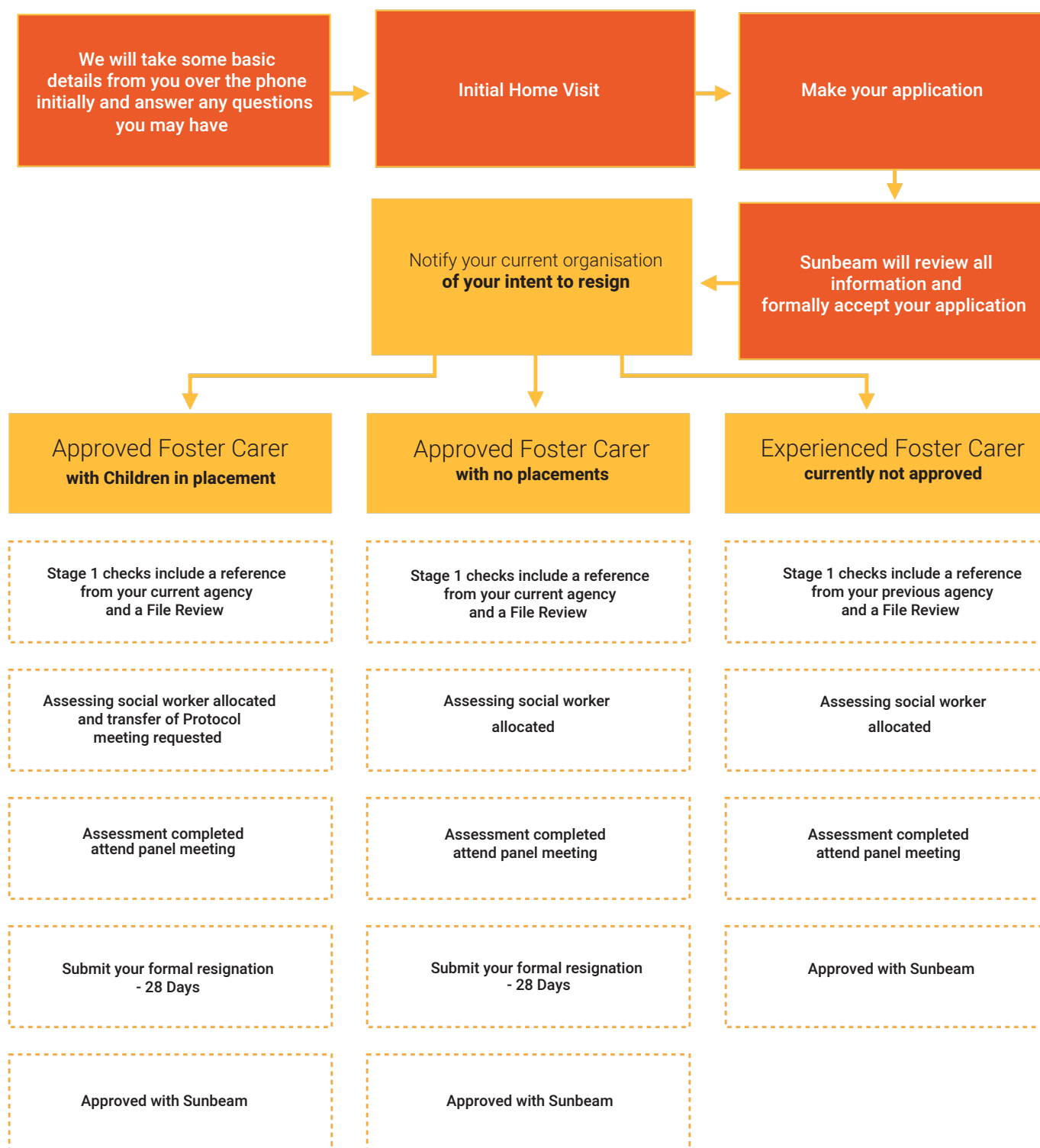
- you can do this via telephone (020 8799 0930)
- through our website online chat,
- or by making a call back request (www.sunbeamfostering.com)



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The below table details the different steps to the application and assessment process:





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LANGLEY

Sunbeam House, 12 Waterside Drive,
Langley, Slough, SL3 6EZ, UK

LONDON: 020 8799 0930

WEST MIDLANDS

383 Broad Lane Coventry West,
Midlands CV5 7AX.

WEST MIDLANDS : 024 7642 0390

EAST MIDLANDS

Melrose House, 9 Waverley St,
Nottingham NG7 4HF

EAST MIDLANDS : 0115 838 2080

SUNBEAM PRIDE

113 New Bedford Road, Luton,
Bedfordshire LU3 1LE

PRIDE: 01582 218 228