

SUNBEAM FOSTERING GROUP

A FOSTER CARER'S

GUIDE TO TRANSFERRING TO SUNBEAM FOSTERING GROUP



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▶ A message from the Recruitment & Marketing Manager

Thank you for your interest in transferring to Sunbeam Fostering Agency. I am very pleased to share the guide to transfer with you and look forward to working with you. I understand transferring foster providers is a big decision and at sunbeam we are here to offer support and guidance to make the process as easy as possible. One of the ways we do this is by offering a fast-track assessment to approved foster carers which means you will be approved within 2 months. During the fast-track assessment sunbeam will be doing many things at the same time whilst still incorporating the same rigorous safety checks. The fast-track assessment will be similar to your Form F assessment, including all checks, assessment and attending panel.

I am also delighted to introduce you to be involved in our Sunbeam Referral scheme. If you know any friends or family members who would like to be a foster carer or are already approved foster carers, feel free to recommend sunbeam and we will pay the following incentives:

Sunbeam Referral scheme

New to fostering carers - £850

Existing carers with placement - £ 1,250

Existing Carers without placement £1,500

Existing carers with 2 or more placements - £1,750

We are also hosting virtual Q&A sessions throughout the year that you can also join to learn more about the recruitment and approval of foster carers. If you know anyone that is interested in becoming a foster carer this would be a great opportunity for them to meet the team and have their questions answered or even begin their fostering journey! If you know someone who is interested in becoming a foster carer or someone who is an approved foster carer and would like to move to Sunbeam, please give us a call on 020 8799 0930 or contact on my details below.

Muhammad Iqbal

Marketing & Recruitment Manager

Email: muhammadi@sunbeamfostering.com

"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"



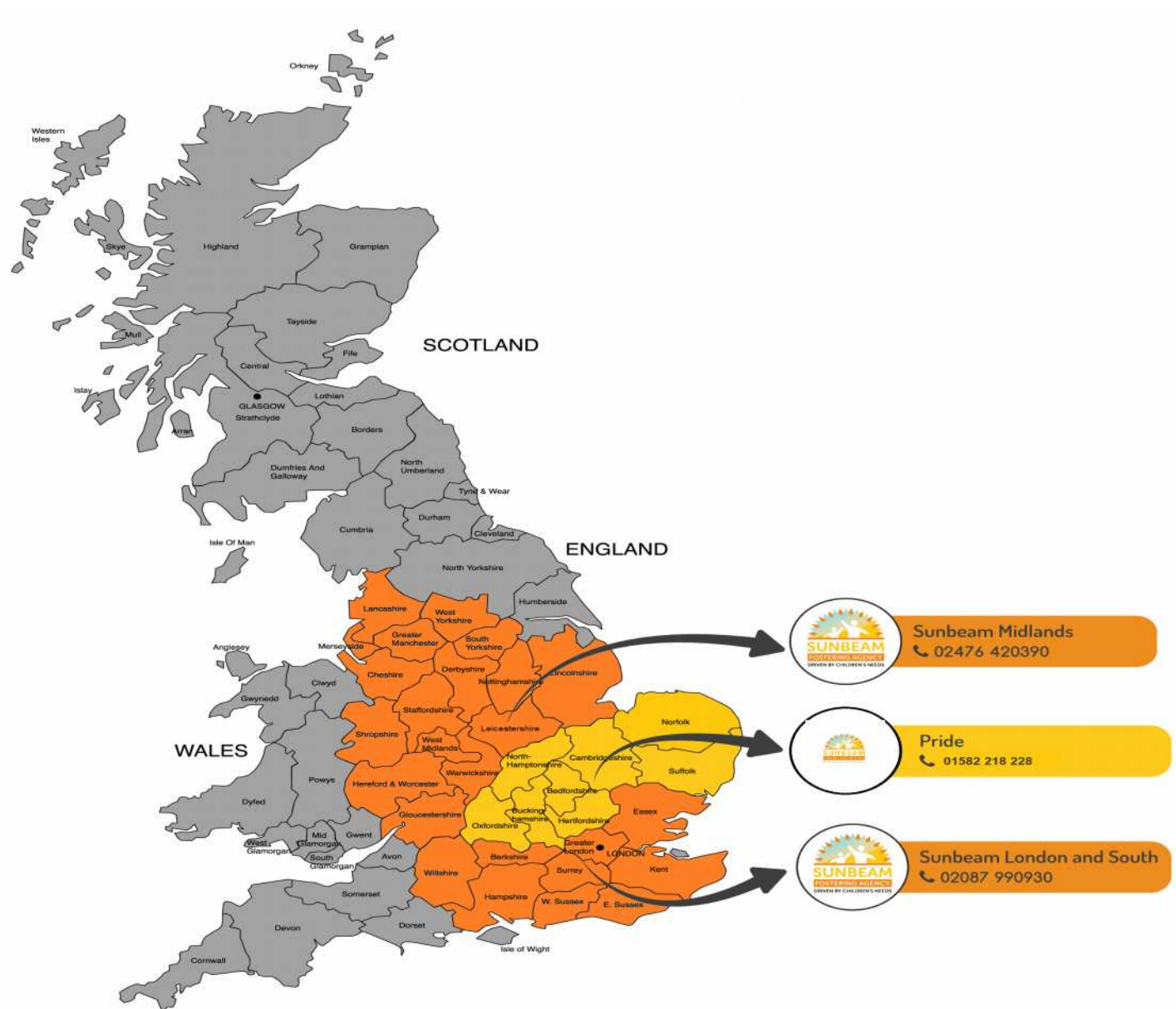
support

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▶ Introduction

Sunbeam Fostering Agency is one of the largest independent fostering agencies in the UK. We welcome foster carers from a diverse range of backgrounds and all ages. We are operating across 3 broad regions:



Sunbeam started in 2000 in West London and has since progressively developed across the UK. Currently we care for over 500 children and young people, we have over 400 approved fostering households.

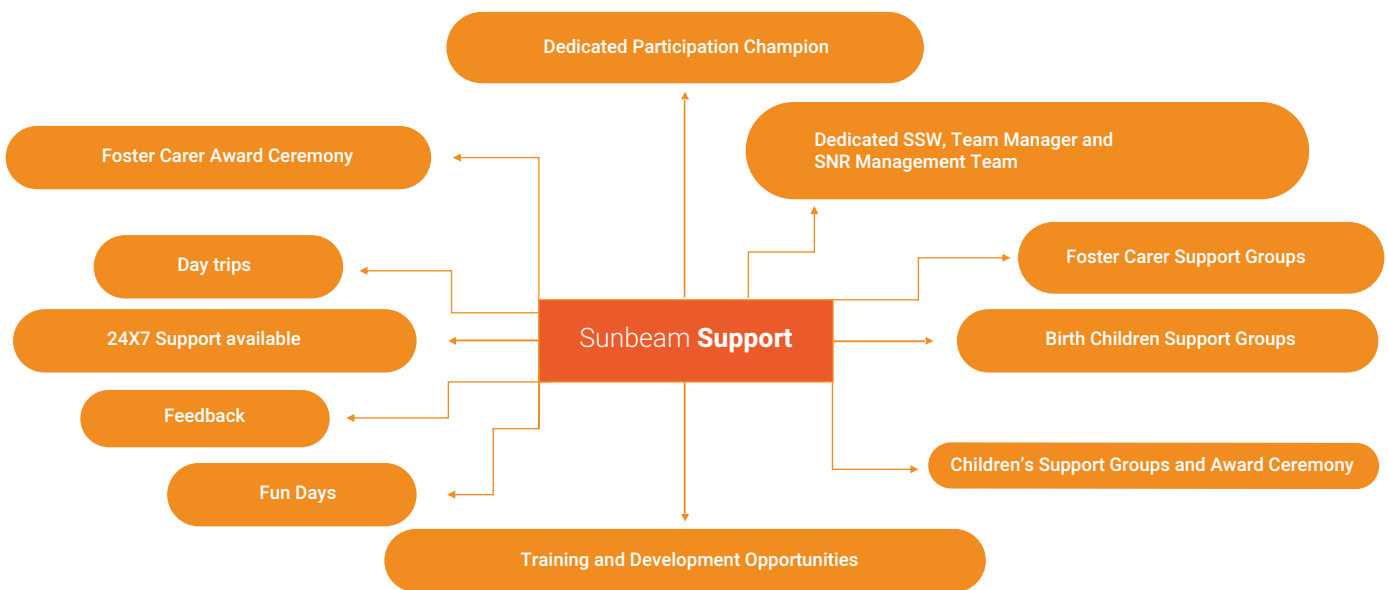
Sunbeam is one of the largest providers of independent foster care placements in the UK. The organisation was started by three social workers who remain at the heart of the organisation and our ethos of being 'driven by children's need's' is an established strap line running through the veins of our 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
- Midlands branch registration: Coventry, Warwickshire
- 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
- Nottingham
- Birmingham
- Portsmouth
- Northampton
- Blackburn



▶ 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.

▶ 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.

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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

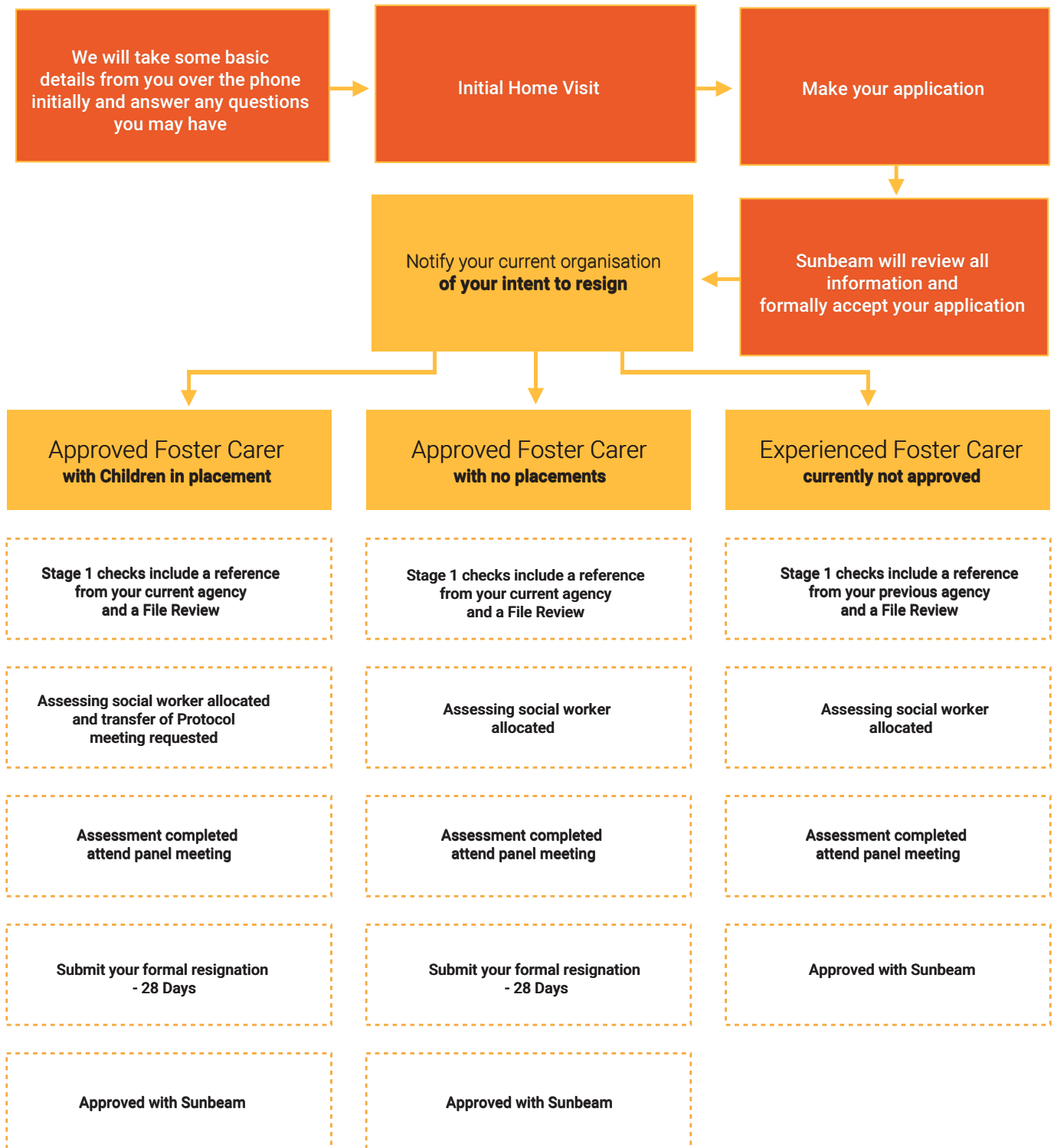
- ▶ you can do this via telephone (020 8799 0930)
- ▶ through our website online chat,
- ▶ or by making a call back request (www.sunbeamfostering.com)



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



► What OFSTED says about Sunbeam Fostering London

Foster carers and staff are provided with a broad range of comprehensive training to ensure that children and young people are protected.

The agency has ample resources and is appropriately staffed to meet the needs of all those attached to the agency. The supervising social workers are very familiar with the children and young people and speak knowledgeably of their needs and progress.

Commissioners believe that the agency works well and supplies suitable placements to children and young people.

► What OFSTED says about Sunbeam Fostering Midlands

There is a good matching process. Managers and the staff work in close partnership with the placement team, foster carers and professionals to ensure that they can meet the needs of the children before they move in with foster carers.

Staff and foster carers are well supported through a range of systems, including regular supervision sessions, annual appraisals, support groups and therapeutic group sessions. Staff feel valued by their manager and enjoy the training and development opportunities she provides.

► What OFSTED says about Sunbeam Pride Fostering Service

Children make good, and in many cases exceptional, progress in all aspects of their lives. They feel valued and respected. Because of this, they flourish. A number of children stay in long-term and stable placements that meet their individual needs well, with their brothers and sisters when appropriate.

Placing authorities and external agencies spoke positively about the agency. Professional working relationships are strong.



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► What Foster Carers say about Sunbeam Fostering

Sunbeam is like a family. I've learned a lot since joining Sunbeam. The agency has excellent social workers and a friendly team who are always willing to help foster carers. Special thanks to the directors and managers who gave me an opportunity to serve the community

We are having a great time with Sunbeam. All the staff at Sunbeam has always been very helpful. It most definitely is a very progressive company to work with!

Thank you Sunbeam for all the help and support over the last few years. Our Social worker have been wonderful and we couldn't have done it without them. We aim to make a difference to any young person that we foster and with the help of Sunbeam we do!

► What Local Authorities say about Sunbeam Fostering

"We have been working with Sunbeam Fostering for a number of years now and we have always found their service to be very professional and friendly. The matching with the Foster Carers and other young people in placement is always very well considered; one of the reasons why so few of our placements with Sunbeam cares do breakdown."- **IOW**

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support that you not only show to us a local authority but to all of our young people that we place in your care". **Surrey CC**



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📍 LANGLEY

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

📞 LONDON: 020 8799 0930

📍 MIDLANDS

383 Broad Lane Coventry West
Midlands CV5 7AX.

📞 MIDLANDS : 024 7642 0390

📍 SUNBEAM PRIDE

113 New Bedford Road, Luton
Bedfordshire LU3 1LE

📞 SOUTH : 01582 218 228