

WHAT'S NEXT

If you are interested in finding out more about this new, exciting opportunity and working with us to support young lives, please get in touch:

 0800 358 0899

www.sandwellchildrenstrust.org/fostering

Or come along to one of our information evenings -see www.sandwellchildrenstrust.org/fostering for more details.

EMERGENCY FOSTER CARE

Foster for
 **Sandwell**
Children's Trust

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WHAT IS EMERGENCY FOSTER CARE?

Emergency foster carers provide short term care for children and young people where there is a need for them to be in a safe and secure environment at very short notice: for example, if it's felt that they are at immediate risk of harm.

There are many possible reasons why a child may need an emergency foster carer – the sudden illness of a parent or the police becoming aware of an incident at their home.

But, the outcome is always the same: an urgent need to find a temporary foster care home for the child while longer-term plans are put in place, or until it's safe to return home. Emergency fostering is usually for just a night or two but can be for a little while longer.

WORKING WITH US



We need foster carers who are willing and ready to care for our children and young people at the drop of a hat, emergency foster carers are usually required outside of normal office hours and work on a rota basis.

Ready for a fresh challenge?

Foster parents provide children and young people with a caring and nurturing environment, when they need it the most. In an emergency situation, a child will be feeling scared and alone so a supportive foster parent is vital and can make all the difference to a child feeling more settled, safe and supported.



Could you provide a safe and nurturing home to a vulnerable child or young person at short notice?

If so, emergency fostering could be for you.

SANDWELL'S PLAN

Sandwell have launched a brand new emergency fostering scheme to help some of the most vulnerable children and young people across our borough. Emergency placement foster care typically takes place outside normal working hours or at weekends.

We need more people with existing experience and expertise in working with vulnerable young people who are likely to have experienced significant trauma, abuse or neglect to come forward and provide safe, stable and positive homes at short notice.

WHEN THE PHONE RINGS - CAN YOU ANSWER THE CALL?



We need people with experience of working with children and young people in difficult contexts as emergency foster carers.

You will know little or nothing about the circumstances of the child or young person requiring emergency foster care when you get the call.

That's why you will need to be experienced, flexible, adaptable and prepared to work with children and young people as well as other professionals.

You'll work closely with duty social workers, police officers and other professionals in emergency situations.

Being a foster carer within our emergency fostering scheme will be hugely rewarding but we also understand that it will provide challenges. Because of the circumstances, children and young people in need of temporary support are often bewildered, frightened and traumatised. This, and the short-term nature of the work, makes it a unique but important form of fostering.



We will be with you every step of the way: Carers within the scheme will be allocated a supervising social worker who is responsible for providing regular supervision, carers will also be invited to fostering support groups and other foster carer activities.





HOW LONG IS EMERGENCY FOSTER CARE FOR?



Emergency foster carers will be expected to attend regular training in order to continue developing their skills and knowledge.

The Emergency Duty Service social workers have a vital role in supporting emergency foster carers out of hours.

So, as Emergency Foster Carers you'll be part of our out of hours service team.

When you need advice and support our Emergency Duty Service social workers are there 24/7 for you.



Sandwell Children's Trust's emergency fostering scheme requires approved carers to be on a duty rota. The carer will be on call and available to take placements for two weeks at a time and then have a two-week resting period.

When on call carers will be required to care for children and young people of any age, gender, background or circumstance.

Emergency fostering is a temporary foster care placement and can be anything from a couple of hours, to a few days. Often unplanned with little to no notice, there usually isn't time for foster parent and child introductions.



OFFERING A PLACE OF SAFETY

These are short-term placements to get a child out of danger and into safety, so it's a very transitional role where you'll have limited time to impact or influence a child's development.

If the child is with you for more than a day, you might have to help them get to school or attend appointments and meetings, including family time with their birth parents.



THE FINANCIAL PACKAGE

We know that the main reason people foster is to make a difference, but it is important to also understand how the finances of fostering work, to see whether fostering can work with your situation. We believe that the financial package for this scheme should recognise and reward the challenge and commitment required to support children and young people when they need it the most.

01.

Emergency foster carers will receive a payment of £262.60 per week when active /on duty in line with Sandwell's skill level five.

02.

When resting, carers will receive a payment of £217.90 per week in line with Sandwell's skill level 4.

03.

In accordance with mainstream foster carers, age related maintenance allowances are paid in addition to the above when a child is placed, to cover the cost of food, reasonable transport, activities etc.