

Transfer To Soundly Fostering

If the support you're receiving no longer feels steady or personal, we're here to talk it through with you.

Thinking about moving from your current agency or Local Authority can feel unsettling. There may be things you're unsure about, conversations you're hesitant to start, or worries about what transferring might mean for you or the child in your care.

You won't be rushed or persuaded here.

We simply offer space to talk, openly and honestly, about what isn't working for you now, what support you need, and what you would hope to experience in a different agency. If Soundly Fostering feels like the right place for you, we'll walk with you through each part of the process. If not, we'll still help you understand your options.

Your Right To Transfer

As a self-employed foster carer, you have the right to change agencies.

The process follows the national Transfer Protocol. This ensures that children already living with you are not disrupted by the transfer process.

What is Transferring?

Transferring is the process of moving from your current fostering agency (or Local Authority) to another agency that may be a better fit for the way you work and the support you need.

As a self-employed foster carer, you have the right to choose the agency you work with.

Many foster carers transfer because:

- The support they receive no longer feels consistent or personal
- Communication feels unclear or delayed
- Their agency has grown and feels corporate or distant

- They want a smaller team that knows them
- They want more reflective, therapeutic support
- They feel unheard or unsupported in difficult moments
- They want to work with people who show up when life is challenging

Transferring does not disrupt any child already living with you.

This is protected under the Transfer Protocol, created by The Fostering Network.

We'll talk through exactly what this means in your situation so you feel informed and confident.

Why Transfer to Soundly Fostering

A smaller team. A steadier experience. Support you can feel.

Carers who have transferred to Soundly Fostering often describe a sense of relief, not because we promise perfection, but because our support is close, consistent, and grounded in real relationships.

Here's what transferring to us can offer:

A Team That Knows You Personally

You're never one name in a long list. We stay small on purpose, so the support you receive comes from people who truly understand your circumstances.

Support That Doesn't Disappear

Whether it's fostering-related or something happening in your personal life, we stay present. Real support doesn't stop at office hours.

Thoughtful & Honest Communication

We speak plainly and kindly, helping you navigate difficult decisions without feeling alone.

Reflective Practice That Strengthens Your Confidence

We help you make sense of what's happening emotionally for the child and for you.

Steady Guidance Through Crises

You'll have the backing of a team that responds calmly, even in situations that feel intense or unexpected.

Matching That Considers the Whole Picture

We think carefully about the child, your experience, your strengths, and the emotional reality of what you're taking on.

Transferring isn't just a change on paper; it's finding an agency whose values align with yours, and whose support feels steady and human.

How the Transfer Process Works

A clear, respectful process that's guided by people who stay close.

The transfer process follows the guidelines set out in the national Transfer Protocol. Here's what it looks like with Soundly Fostering...

Step 1

Speak to Us

We begin with a conversation about what you're experiencing, what's been difficult, and what you're hoping for.

We'll explain how Soundly Fostering works and give you all the space you need to decide whether transferring feels right.

Step 2

Decide to Explore the Transfer

If you decide to move forward, you'll let your current agency know you're considering a transfer. You must not resign at this stage.

Once they're informed, we will contact them directly and begin coordinating the next steps.

Step 3

Protocol Meeting

A transfer meeting is held between you, Soundly Fostering, your current agency and any placing Local Authorities.

During this meeting, everyone works together to agree on the terms of the transfer. The child's stability remains the priority throughout.

Step 4

Re-Assessment

Your previous assessment is still valid, but we will update it, focusing on your experience, strengths, and the support you'll need going forward.

This stage is usually far quicker than a first-time assessment. We'll arrange a panel date with you so you know the timeline.

Step 5

Panel

You'll attend panel, where your updated information is considered by professionals familiar with fostering, education, health, and social care. Within 48 hours, our Agency Decision Maker will call you with the decision and follow up with written confirmation. At this stage, you'll provide formal notice to your current agency.

Step 6

Transfer Complete

Your approval with Soundly Fostering will begin seamlessly after the 28-day notice period from your previous agency. We'll guide you through your first weeks, ensuring you feel steady and supported from day one.