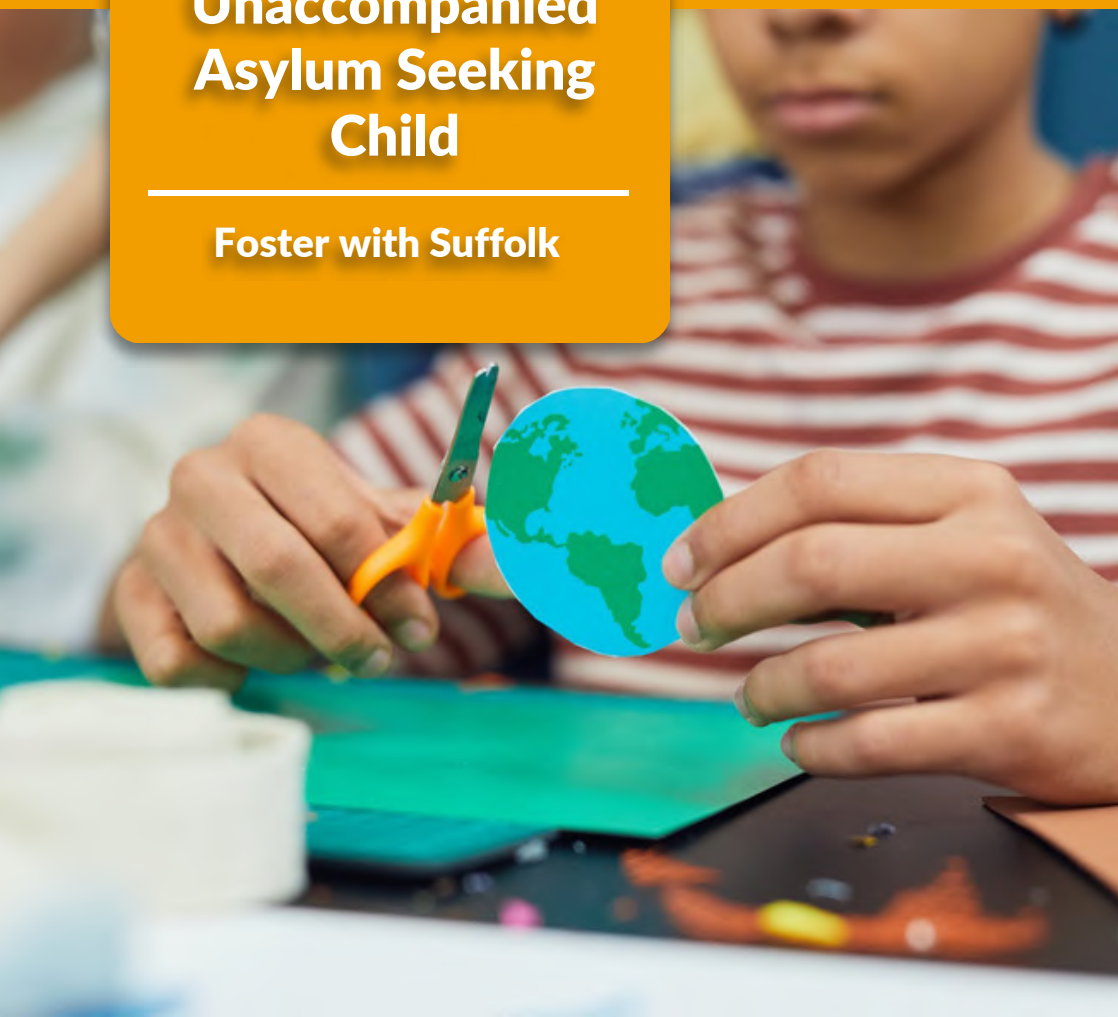




Suffolk
Fostering & Adoption

Fostering an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child

Foster with Suffolk



Could you be the safe home and friendly family at the end of their journey?

Suffolk County Council supports young people who make the journey to reach the UK.

Suffolk County Council is proud to accept Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who arrive spontaneously into Suffolk and from other regions of the country under the government National Transfer Scheme (NTS).

We want to ensure we have foster homes ready to support these children and young people.



Why our young people need you

The journey for an asylum seeking child can be full of danger and threat.

A child may be claiming asylum in the UK because they're unable to live safely in their own country in fear of **persecution**.

This persecution may be due to their **race, religion, nationality, political opinion**, and more.

They risk harm and even death by taking dangerous routes to get to safety, like stowing away on lorries, on boats, or dinghies that are not seaworthy.

An asylum seeking child relates to any child under the age of 18 who has arrived to the UK without parents or guardians to safely look after them. They will be applying for asylum in the UK in their own right.

These young people deserve to be somewhere safe, and you could provide the safe home at the end of their journey.

Young people arriving without their immediate family members may be worried about what is happening to them.

They may not be able to contact their family as this would put them and their families at risk.



“We can learn so much from sharing our homes with UASC. The education it has given me and my birth children is phenomenal. We are in awe of the decisions they have made, the journeys they have endured and the challenges they have conquered.”

Tracey - Suffolk UASC Foster Carer

As a UASC Foster Carer, you will be supported, through training, to understand the trauma these young people have experienced.

The role of a foster carer for these young people is similar to fostering other teenagers.

However, there are some areas that you will require and receive additional support with.

● Young people may have limited or no English language skills

You will be provided with support to be able to communicate with the young person in your care

● Young people will have had limited or no access to education

The young person will be supported by their social worker, virtual school and a specialist youth worker to explore their options and support them into education

● The process of seeking asylum will be unfamiliar to the young person

They will be provided with access to legal services to support them with this

● As a foster carer you may also be unfamiliar with the process

Your supervising social worker and the child's social worker will be able to support you to understand the process



Asylum seeking children arrive to Suffolk from all over the world, we try to match them as best we can.

We continue to diversify our fostering offer to reflect the different cultures, religions, nationalities and ethnicities we support. The most important thing for our children is the offer of a welcoming home full of fun and encouragement.

The pie charts below show the types of asylum seeking children who have been referred to our fostering service:

Figure 1: Age

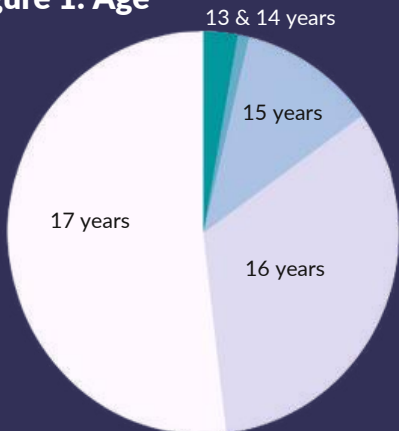


Figure 2: Nationality

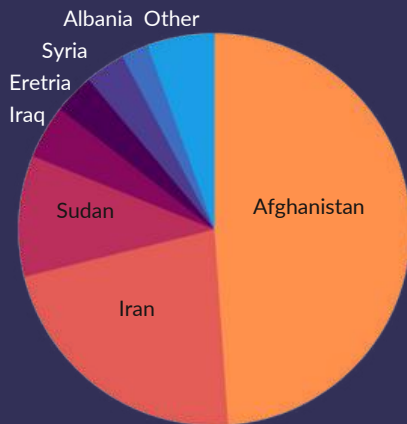
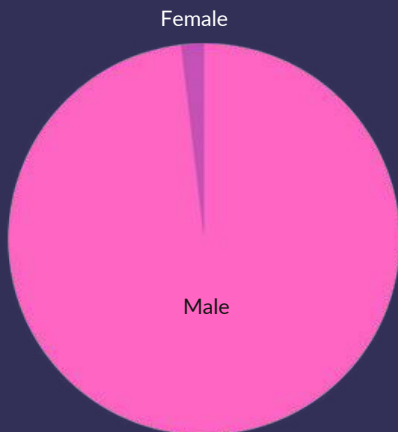


Figure 3: Gender



These demographics can change depending on lots of factors, but particularly as a result of tensions and troubles around the world.

Figures as of September 2022 shown.

How we further support these children and their foster parents

- **We work closely with the Home Office and UK Border Force to support our children with their asylum journey to ensure a smooth process.**

It's an anxious and stress-provoking time for our children, so taking care of them is our priority.

- **The Red Cross service can help our young people try and identify family members abroad.**
- **Suffolk County Council work closely with mental health practitioners who have experience of working with children with a trauma-focused approach.**
- **The Suffolk UASC and Leaving Care team are linked with community charities and agencies who will also be able to support you.**

The UASC team have strong links with semi-independent accommodation providers across Suffolk to help children when they want to live independently. The team also supports UASC Stay-Put if this is a viable option post-18.

As a foster carer, you will receive a weekly payment which includes an allowance.

This will cover the cost of caring for a child. You will also receive a fee that provides a level of income.

You'll generally receive **between £386 and £549** per week for UASC, depending on your experience and the complexity of the child's needs.



If you're already a foster carer, or you're currently being assessed, and are keen to know more, please speak to your supervising social worker or assessing social worker.

They can direct you to more literature about supporting UASC and tell you when the next UASC Q&A session for potential foster carers will be held.



A stylized logo for Suffolk Fostering & Adoption, featuring a yellow sun with rays and a yellow mountain range.

Suffolk Fostering & Adoption

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Suffolk's Fostering Service



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