



Dragon's Retreat Statement of Purpose 2026/27



SC435152

This document fulfils the requirements of the Children's Short Break Unit (England) Regulations 2015 Schedule 1, and the Department for Education Guide to the Children's Short Break Units Regulations including the quality standards April 2015

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The statement of purpose is a requirement of the Children's Short Break Unit (England) Regulations, April 2015. The statement is intended to provide a guide to Dragon's Retreat.
- 1.2 This document gives information about the unit which is inspected by Ofsted, and is reviewed annually by the Registered Manager and Responsible Individual.

2. QUALITY AND PURPOSE OF CARE

• Statement of the range of needs

- 2.1 Dragon's Retreat is a Short Break Unit, providing overnight care for children and young people with a range of severe and complex needs which may include a learning and/or physical disability. The children and young people who access Dragon's Retreat may require personal care, medication, behavioural management and support to attain independence skills.

• Ethos of the Dragon's Retreat

- 2.2 Our ethos within Dragon's Retreat is to make a positive difference to the personal, social and learning opportunities of the children and young people who attend. We aim to create a positive environment where children and young people are offered experiences and opportunities to assist them in achieving their individual potential, personal aspirations and goals in life.
- 2.3 Children and young people are supported through a multi-agency approach to the development of knowledge, understanding and skills, whilst being in a safe environment and being able to socialise with others and have fun. Dragon's Retreat adopts a holistic, 'person centred' approach to the care and development of children and young people and supports them to overcome barriers they may face.

• Accommodation offered

- 2.4 Dragon's Retreat is a purpose-built unit within our Allsworth Court Resource Centre designed to meet the changing needs of children with disabilities and their families. The Dragon's Retreat accommodation is on two floors with the bedrooms and bathrooms on the first floor which is accessible by stairs and a lift. Access to the unit is operated by an electronic fob system.
- 2.5 Facilities on the first floor include;
 - An adapted bath
 - Fixed and mobile hoisting equipment
 - Communal lounge area
 - Six bedrooms.

On the ground floor there is a large playroom, dining room, lounge and an adapted kitchen. There is also a fully accessible garden including specialist sensory and play equipment and within the garden is a sensory and soft play cabin.

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- 2.6 Dragon's Retreat provides weekend overnights, weekday overnights, school holiday day care. Other services provided by We are Beams at Allsworth Court include; specialist play-schemes, family support, family workshops and social community based activities available for all children and young people.
- 2.7 Dragon's Retreat is registered with Ofsted for a maximum of six children or young people overnight (6 bedded unit).

• Location of the Dragon's Retreat

- 2.8 The Dragon's Retreat is based within Allsworth Court and is situated in a quiet residential area next to a primary school. The nearest town and facilities are around 1mile away. The location of the unit has been formally assessed and there are no known significant risks in regard to location.

• Arrangements for supporting the cultural and religious needs of children

- 2.9 We are fully inclusive and sensitive to the individual needs and aspirations of children, young people and their families. We are family orientated and respectful of children and young people who have a diverse range of needs and backgrounds. All the children/young people who receive a service from Dragon's Retreat are valued as individuals.
- 2.10 Within the support planning process we recognise that children and young people have differing needs in relation to ethnicity, culture, religion, diet and sexual orientation. Families are therefore encouraged to share information regarding their young person to allow us to have a more detailed understanding of their individual needs.
- 2.11 Within the Dragon's Retreat there are specific resources which recognise ethnic, cultural and communication differences, and support workers enable the children and young people to explore these opportunities. Support workers encourage children/young people to celebrate differences, through activities, role modelling and discussions.
- 2.12 Special dietary needs and individual preferences are recognised and are included in the menu planning process.

• Compliments, Complaints and Suggestions

- 2.14 Complaints are dealt with at the earliest opportunity and by the most appropriate person in accordance with Beams' complaints policy and procedure, copies of which are available on request.
- 2.15 Within Dragon's Retreat we have developed various ways in which our children, young people and families can make formal and informal comments, observations, or complaints. These include:
- A compliments and complaints book, which is available within the unit at all times for comments to be recorded. When required young people are provided with visual guides in symbol version to support their understanding should they wish to make a complaint.

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- A Children's Guide using simple language is available which includes information on how to make a complaint and where to find support when doing so.
- Social workers are welcome to visit the children and young people, which offers an opportunity for them to give feedback regarding Dragon's Retreat.

2.16 Dragon's Retreat is committed to receiving and acting upon feedback from service users, whether this is positive or indicating dissatisfaction with the services provided. Complaints and compliments are monitored by the Regulation 44 visits each month and the Registered Manager.

2.17 Children and young people have direct access to the Registered Manager, or the Dragons Retreat Supervisor should they wish to raise a concern.

Children and their families are also able to make a complaint to Ofsted or to the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza (appointed March 2021) at:

Office of the Children's Commissioner

0800 528 0731 advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

Or

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

0300 1231231

enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

- [Access to the Short Breaks unit's safeguarding and behaviour management policies](#)

2.18 Dragon's Retreat is subject to the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership guidance, which is a 'live' online document <http://www.kscmp.org.uk/procedures>.

2.19 Beams also has a safeguarding policy. This policy is available to all staff as an electronic document in the 'We Are Beams' internal drive. Printed copies can also be made available, upon request, to children, young people, families, carers, professionals and others involved in the care and protection of a child.

2.20 Dragon's Retreat also has a Behaviour Management Policy, available in the above formats and upon request.

3. VIEWS, WISHES AND FEELINGS

• Consulting with Children and Young People

3.1 Regular consultation takes place with children and young people regarding their experience of Dragon's Retreat and how they would like the service to develop. Dragon's Retreat recognises that children and young people should be offered opportunities, choice and control where appropriate.

3.2 Consultation is part of our everyday work. Some of the methods we use include:

- Informal discussions, where the children and young people have the opportunity to express their views, opinions and feedback. This is recorded in their daily records.
- Choices in the meals provided
- Direct observations from staff
- Analysis of behavioural incidents
- Annual children's feedback forms
- Feedback from parents/carers and other involved professionals

• Beams' policy and approach to anti-discriminatory practice and children's rights

3.3 Dragon's Retreat works within the Equality Act 2010. This act protects people in the workplace and in wider society from discrimination. Discrimination can come in any of the following forms:

- Direct discrimination
- Indirect discrimination
- Harassment
- Victimisation

Dragon's Retreat has a policy on anti-discriminatory practice that all staff adheres to. The Policy is available upon request.

3.5 Should staff become aware that an individual or a family is experiencing discrimination they will pass this on to the Registered Manager as soon as practically possible.

3.6 Measures in place to protect children and their families include:

- Careful observation and monitoring
- Accurate recording
- An understanding of the family's needs
- Being aware raising concerns in accordance with We Are Beams' policy and procedures

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- 3.7 We Are Beams and Dragon's Retreat recognise that children with a disability are vulnerable. Their needs and interests are given consideration in decision making. We are Beams uses every opportunity to promote the rights of children with disabilities and to influence improvement in their lives and social status.
- 3.8 At Dragon's Retreat children and young people have the right to be;
- Treated with respect
 - Treated fairly
 - Listened to when people are making plans about their future
 - Able to go to school
 - In good health
 - Able to complain if they are unhappy or worried about something
 - Able to have an advocate who can advise and help rectify matters when their stay is not going well
 - Looked after by staff who actively promote the above rights & keep them safe
- 3.9 The principle of the 'best interests' of the child is paramount to the values of Dragon's Retreat. The Dragon's Retreat is committed to promoting the rights of children with disabilities and ensuring they are able to make a contribution to and achieve their aspirations. Inclusion is achieved by accessing activities such as going to the local parks, zoos, beaches and meals out in restaurants.

4. EDUCATION

• Supporting children with special educational needs

- 4.1 Children/young people during their stay at Dragon's Retreat continue to attend school as part of their daily routine. Transport to and from school is provided either by Dragon's Retreat or the local authority school transport system. Where transport is provided by Dragon's Retreat, escorts will be the support workers who have a good knowledge and understanding of the young people's needs.
- 4.2 Some families of children and young people have a Dragon's Retreat/ school/home diary to help ensure a consistency of care between all carers and to enable information sharing.
- 4.4 If children and young people bring homework into the Dragon's Retreat to complete, support workers will assist where necessary and encourage the completion of tasks. There is a wide range of resources available in the Dragon's Retreat.

• Supporting education and educational achievements

- 4.5 The Registered Manager and Supervisor attend CHIN reviews.

5. ENJOYMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

• Activities within the Dragon's Retreat include: -

- 5.1 A wide variety of equipment which takes into account young people's individual preferences is available. There is a selection of play equipment suitable for all ages and abilities. Outings are included within the service.
- 5.2 A safe and secure garden providing specialist outdoor play equipment including;
 - A range of adapted swing sets including a wheelchair accessible swing
 - Water play, sand pit and mud kitchen areas
 - Trampoline
 - Fruits and Vegetable growing area
 - Sensory Garden
 - A soft play and sensory cabin
- 5.3 Access to adapted vehicles with drivers is available, which is used to provide a variety of outings including trips to the coast and to enable the children/young people to access local community facilities.
- 5.4 The Dragon's Retreat works to ensure continuity of care and consistency within the match making process to promote social interaction and friendships.

6. HEALTH

• Health care provided within the Dragon's Retreat

- 6.1 The Dragon's Retreat is able to support and provide services for and to assist children/young people who have a range of additional health conditions. These include but not exclusively; epilepsy, asthma, eczema and heart conditions. Supporting individual children's health is covered within the child/young person's support plan, and emergency procedures are in place where necessary.
- 6.2 For those children and young people with epilepsy who require emergency medication, support workers are trained by our registered nurse or external agencies in the safe administration of medication. Each individual will have a specific plan which identifies the procedures to follow in the event of a seizure. The health plans are located within the individual's support plan.
- 6.3 The Dragon's Retreat is able to provide a service for and assist children/young people who are prescribed medication, for which there is a BEAMS ADMINISTRATION AND STORAGE OF MEDICATION AND FIRST AID POLICY. Children and young people who have complex health needs are able to access the service with prior agreement. Staff are all aware of the need to promote healthy living, and actively assist children and young people in daily hygiene routines, dental care, physical activities, and food and menu choices.

7. POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

• Promoting contact between children, families and friends

- 7.1 Dragon's Retreat is a Short Break Unit, therefore the aim is to provide children with enjoyable stay whilst also giving their families a break – this assists with family relationships and resilience.
- 7.2 Parents are welcome to contact Dragon's Retreat at any time during their child's visit. No child or young person can be collected by a person not known to Dragon's Retreat staff without prior authorisation from the family and evidence of identity.
- 7.3 Dragon's Retreat operates an 'open door' visiting policy, and, subject to any legal orders, contact can be made with a child/young person at any time during their stay. As our activities may include outings away from the unit, parents and carers are advised to notify staff beforehand if they are intending to visit, in order to ensure the child/young person is in the unit.
- 7.4 Children and young people are able to make and receive calls to their families at any time and staff will support this if necessary.
- 7.5 We are Beams holds regular open days for parents, children and young people who use any of our services.

8. SAFEGUARDING

• Approach to monitoring and surveillance

- 8.1 Occasionally, Dragon's Retreat has children with health needs that require observation and are monitored during the night using either an audio monitor or an audio-visual device. Some children/young people require a safety gate across their bedroom door; this is typically requested by the parents. When this is identified as an assessed need agreement is sought from parents and a consent form is signed. The Child or Young Person is made aware when the monitor is switched on and off each time using words, Makaton or symbols appropriate for them.
- 8.2 The children and young people at Dragon's Retreat are provided with support and supervision based on their assessed individual needs. The unit is designed so that children and young people can have access to all shared areas of the Dragon's Retreat, enabling independence and privacy where safe to do so.
- 8.3 The unit has internal doors which are fitted with an electronic FOB system. Staff are issued with a FOB individually programmed for their access requirements. There is unrestricted access to a large garden/play area.

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8.4 These measures are designed to enhance the children/young person's safety, enabling free access within the Dragon's Retreat and its communal areas. These risks are reflected in the building's risk assessment.

8.5 Dragon's Retreat staff are aware of the procedures and protocols in place with regard to children who go missing and who may be at risk of child sexual exploitation.

• Behavioural support

8.6 Dragon's Retreat operates within the Beams behaviour and physical interventions policy. The children/young people's support plans are reviewed during each stay. They are reviewed and agreed at least annually and signed by parents/carers.

8.7 The Dragon's Retreat has a strong emphasis on preventative strategies and liaises closely with the families and schools. The unit aims to;

- Promote the least intrusive positive handling strategy with an emphasis and preference for the use of verbal, non-verbal de-escalation strategies being used and exhausted before positive handling strategies are utilised.
- Enable services to develop acceptable and authorised responses to disruptive, disturbing, angry and aggressive behaviours in a manner that maintains positive relationships and provides safety for all.
- Increase the awareness of staff concerning the importance of recording and reporting, monitoring and evaluating all incidents involving positive handling.
- Provide a process of repair and reflection for both staff and children.

8.8 Support workers at Dragon's Retreat will always try to divert the children/young people from behaviour that is unacceptable, using methods agreed in individual support plans and risk profiles. They focus on positive reinforcement, modelling appropriate behaviour and redirection/distraction strategies.

8.9 At all times workers are aware of the need to ensure that the behaviour of one child does not impact on another. A distressed young person may be supported by withdrawing them from the group to enable a time for calming down.

8.10 Should any child or young person need any type of physical intervention it is recorded in the physical interventions book. Parents/carers are notified as soon as practicable and appropriate. Support workers also record the young person's response/views on the incident where possible, and any impact.

8.11 The use of restraint at Dragon's Retreat is rare and detailed records are monitored by the Registered Manager and the monthly Regulation 44 visitor and by the Responsible Individual.

9. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- Names and work addresses of managers

9.1 Registered Provider

We Are Beams
Allsworth Court
38-40 St David's Road
Hextable
Kent
BR8 7RJ

9.2 Responsible Individual

Paul Kennedy
Deputy CEO

We Are Beams
Allsworth Court
38-40 St David's Road
Hextable
Kent
BR8 7RJ
Telephone 01322 668501
Email: Paul.kennedy@wearebeams.org.uk

9.3 Registered Manager

Robin Adams

We Are Beams
Allsworth Court
38-40 St David's Road
Hextable
Kent
BR8 7RJ
Telephone 01322 668501
Email: robin.adams@wearebeams.org.uk

- Staff experience and qualifications

9.4 **The Responsible Individual** - The quality and delivery of safe service is overseen by the Responsible Individual, who is the deputy Head of Charity of We Are Beams. With over 20 years' experience within local government and social care related activities Paul has led many multi-agency improvement initiatives and until recently was a local authority Commissioner for Disabled Children's Services.

9.5 **The Registered Manager** is responsible for the operational management of the unit.

The Registered Manager's Qualifications are:

- BSc Hons Sport and Exercise Science
- NVQ Level 5 In Residential Management
- NVQ 3 Children's and Young Peoples Workforce
- Designated Officer Safeguarding
- First aid in the workplace

Experience: Experience of working with disabled children and young people in education, short breaks and leisure settings for over 10 years.

9.6 **Qualifications held by our staff team**

- HL: NVQ Level 4 Children, Young People and Families Practitioner (in Progress)
- RP: NVQ Level 4 Children, Young People and Families Practitioner (in Progress)
- JD: NVQ Level 4 Children, Young People and Families Practitioner (in Progress)
- ED: NVQ Level 4 Children, Young People and Families Practitioner
- SK: NVQ Level 4 Children, Young People and Families Practitioner
- BT: NVQ Level 3 Health& Social Care Children & young people
- LC: Level 3 DCYPW certificate
- LM: NVQ Level 3 Health& Social Care Children & young people
- ST: Level 3 DCYPW certificate
- TN: Level 3 DCYPW certificate
- VD: H & S level 2 & 3 in Social Care
- BL: Level 3 DCYPW certificate and Level 2 childcare workforce
- SMD: Level 3 DCYPW certificate and H&S Diploma level 3 (Adults)
- SD: Level 3 DCYPW certificate
- RD: NVQ level 3 IN H& S Care Children & young people
- RC: Level 3 DCYPW certificate

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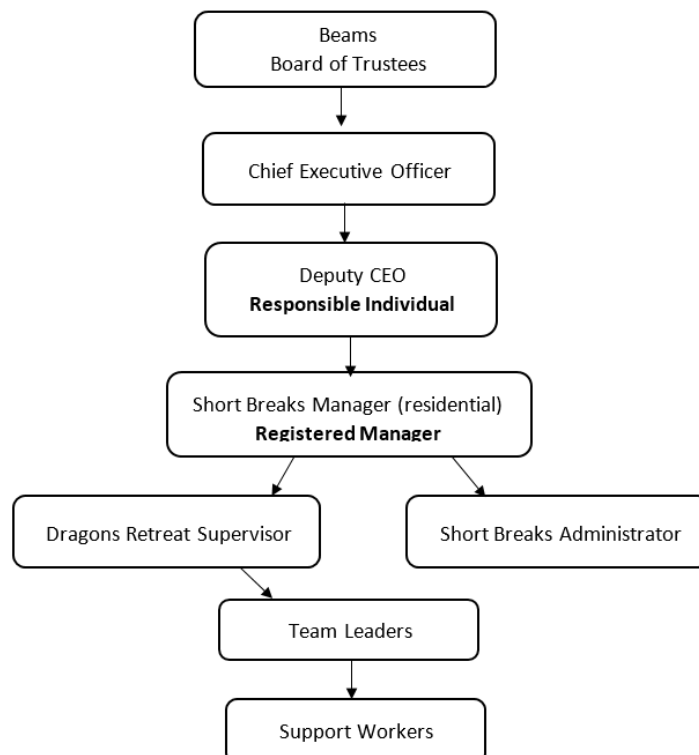
9.7 Regular Training among our staff team

- Medication and Infection Control
- Safeguarding
- Moving and Handling of people
- De-escalation and breakaway techniques
- Paediatric First Aid
- Health & Safety
- Food safety

9.8 The Dragon's Retreat team is experienced in working with children with disabilities and has a proven record of accomplishment evidenced through Ofsted Inspection of providing standards of care and outcomes for children that have been graded as Outstanding overall.

• Staffing structure

9.9 We Are Beams recognise that staff supervision is an essential component of good quality services. All staff receive supervision in accordance with the Children's Short Break Unit Regulations 2015 and We Are Beams appraisals and supervision policy. We use a variety of formats, including team observations, team meetings and where appropriate, learning events. Staff are provided with individual, direct 1:1 supervision which incorporates reflective practice from the Short Break Manager and Supervisor on a bi-monthly basis. There is an annual appraisal system in place to ensure personal and professional development.



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- Promoting appropriate role models within the Dragon's Retreat

- 9.10 Dragon's Retreat has a mixed gender staff group. Part of the role is to be good role models to the children to promote positive behaviour, social interaction and working within a team.
- 9.11 Beams employs a team of experienced and reliable sessional staff. The sessional staff are used to support the team with annual leave, sickness and gaps within the rota.

10. CARE PLANNING

- Admissions to the Dragon's Retreat

- 10.1 Dragon's Retreat is an independent unit within Kent and therefore a significant number of referrals are from Kent County Council. Other authorities also make referrals to the Dragon's Retreat. We currently deliver services to young people from Medway and Bexley.
- 10.2 All children eligible to attend Dragon's Retreat will have this identified as a need from a social work assessment (unless privately funded). Following assessment and in consultation with the child and their family the child/young person's needs and outcomes will be identified, and a proposed support package developed which may include short breaks.
- 10.3 All referrals are discussed with the Registered Manager, social worker and the family. Admission to Dragon's Retreat must be approved by the Registered Manager.
- 10.4 After a referral is accepted, the child/young person and his or her family are invited to visit the unit, and a support plan will be completed. The support plan, risk assessment and other relevant documents are finalised prior to a tea visits being arranged. Once the first overnight has taken place a review meeting is arranged before the next overnight stay.
- 10.5 The unit does not specifically hold an emergency bed. However, children and young people who already access Dragon's Retreat that may require care in an emergency would be considered through the appropriate social care team.

Robin Adams, Registered Manager – Short Breaks Service Manager

Paul Kennedy, Responsible Individual – Deputy Head of Charity

Tracy Newman, Dragons Retreat Supervisor

Appendices

Appendix 1 – We Are Beams Privacy Notice

Policy No.2.3.2

PRIVACY STATEMENT

This document was last updated December 2025.

Beams is committed to protecting your privacy. You can visit most pages on our site without giving us any information about yourself. But sometimes we do need information to provide services that you request, and this privacy statement explains data collection and use in those situations. This privacy statement only applies to <http://www.wearebeams.org.uk>; it does not apply to other online or offline Beams sites, products or services.

Collection of your Personal Information

We will ask you when we need information that personally identifies you (personal information) or allows us to contact you. Generally, this information is requested when you are registering, or when purchasing and/or registering Beams services. Personal information collected by <http://www.wearebeams.org.uk> often is limited to email address, language, country or location, but may include other information when needed to provide a service you requested.

When you request our service, we keep this registration information on file with any information you've already given us on previous visits to our Web site.

Beams also collects information about which pages our customers visit within <http://www.wearebeams.org.uk>. This site visitation data is identified only by a unique ID number, and it is never linked with personal information unless a user consents as described below.

We use your personal information for the following purposes:

To ensure our site is relevant to your needs. To deliver services that you request. To allow you access to limited-entry areas of our site as appropriate.

We occasionally hire other companies to provide limited services on our behalf, answering customer questions about our services, sending postal mail and processing event registration. We will only provide those companies the information they need to deliver the service, and they are prohibited from using that information for any other purpose.

Beams may disclose your personal information if required to do so by law or in the good-faith belief that such action is necessary to: (a) conform to the edicts of the law or comply with legal process served on Beams or the site; (b) protect and defend the rights or property of Beams and its family of Web sites, or (c) act in urgent circumstances to protect the personal safety of Beams employees, users of Beams services, or members of the public.

Your information may be stored and processed in the United Kingdom or any other country in which Beams or its affiliates, subsidiaries or agents maintain facilities, and by using this site, you consent to any such transfer of information outside of your country. Beams abides by the Data Protection Act 1998 regarding the collection, use, and retention of data.

Control of your Personal Information Policy No.2.3.2

We Are Beams

When you register, or otherwise give us personal information, Beams will not share that information with third parties without your permission, other than for the limited exceptions already listed. It will only be used for the purposes stated above.

Registering also allows you to tell us how or whether you want Beams to communicate with you.

Beams may send out periodic emails informing you of technical service or security issues related to a product or service you requested, or confirming you requested a service. You will not be able to choose to unsubscribe to these mailings, as they are considered an essential part of the service you have chosen.

Access to your Personal Information

We will provide you with the means to ensure that your personal information is correct and current.

Security of your Personal Information

Beams is committed to protecting the security of your personal information. We use a variety of security technologies and procedures to help protect your personal information from unauthorised access, use or disclosure. For example, we store the personal information you provide in computer servers with limited access that are located in controlled facilities. When we transmit sensitive information (such as a credit card number) over the internet, we protect it through the use of encryption, such as the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol.

Use of Cookies

When someone visits the site, a cookie is placed on the customer's machine (if the customer accepts cookies) or is read if the customer has visited the site previously. One use of cookies is to assist in the collection of the site visitation statistics described above.

If you choose to not have your browser accept cookies from the Beams Web site, you will be able to view the text on the screens, however you will not experience a personalized visit nor will you be able to subscribe to the service offerings on the site.

Enforcement of this Privacy Statement

If you have questions regarding this statement, you should first contact Beams by email at admin@wearebeams.org.uk.

Changes to this Statement

Beams will occasionally update this privacy statement. When we do, we will also revise the "last updated" date at the top of the privacy statement. For material changes to this statement, Beams will notify you by placing prominent notice on the Web site.

Contact Information

Beams welcomes your comments regarding this privacy statement, please contact us by email, or postal mail.