

**Are you looking after someone else's child?
Have you arranged for someone else to look after your child?
Are you aware of a child who is looked after by someone other than a close relative?**

IF THE ANSWER IS YES, PLEASE TAKE THIS CARD

If a child lives with someone who is not a close relative for 28 days or more (not necessarily at one time) this is called a private fostering arrangement.

The person looking after the child is called a private foster carer.



About private fostering

The government introduced private fostering regulations in July 2005, making it a duty for private foster carers and parents to notify the local council if:

they intend to privately foster or
they already privately foster.

The council is the one in which the private foster carers live. The regulations are intended to make sure that all children who do not live at home are safely cared for and their carers are supported.

Checklist for private fostering arrangements

- > Have you been looking after a child who is not your own, for a total of 28 days or more?
- > Are you about to look after a child, who is not your own, for a total of 28 days or more?
- > Does someone else look after your child in this way or are they intending to do so?
- > Is the child under 16 years old or is the child disabled and under 18 years?
- > Is the person who looks after your child a friend, cousin, great aunt/uncle, neighbour, a parent of a child's friend, a distant relative or someone else who is not related to the child?

If you answer **YES** to any of these questions, please see the detailed leaflet about 'private fostering' which you can pick up in your local Customer Service Centre or library.

Benefits of telling the local council

Private foster carers will receive support and advice and will have the opportunity to go on relevant training and meet with other private foster carers.

Children and young people will have access to support and information which will help them to understand what the private fostering arrangement means.

Parents will receive valuable advice and information about setting up and maintaining the private fostering arrangement.

For further information or to notify us of a private fostering arrangement, please contact us.

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