**PRIVATE FOSTERING**

# Definition

* The child is not considered ‘looked after’ (i.e. is not a child in care).
* This is an arrangement to care for a child made between a parent/person with parental responsibility, with another adult.
* Currently the regulations only apply to young people up to 16 years old (18 if disabled).
* There are statutory requirements for Local Authorities (Children Acts 1989, 2004; Private Fostering Arrangements 2005).

# Notifications

A parent should notify the LA in writing;

* 6 weeks before the arrangement is due to start,
* 48 hours after the arrangement has commenced,



***Any professional who becomes aware of a private fostering arrangement should inform Call Derbyshire***

**It constitutes private fostering if:**

* The adult is not a close relative (close relative is defined as sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent and step-parent).
* The child has left home and has moved in with someone that the PR holder is happy for them to live with.
* The child is unaccompanied, under 16, seeking asylum and intends to live with someone within their extended family and friend network.
* The arrangement is expected to last continuously for over 28 days.
* The child is from another country and staying with a host family for 28 days or more.

**It does not constitute private fostering if:**

* The adult is a close relative (sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent or step-parent)
* The arrangement lasts less than 28 days.
* The child is over 16 and does not have a disability

**The role of the Local Authority:**

* The statutory requirements are clearly set out in the private fostering regulations and the Derbyshire Children’s Procedures. Once notified of a private fostering arrangement, begin the process. Duties include; a written assessment with Manager’s authorisation and a visiting and review pattern in line with those of ‘looked after’ children. Guidance and process is on MOSAIC including the recording of visits.
* To ensure that the Private Fostering Arrangement is suitable for the child’s needs
* To explore the possibility that the child is being trafficked. Establish that there is a genuine link between the child and the carers.
* To inform the parents if there are concerns about the arrangement proceeding or commencing.