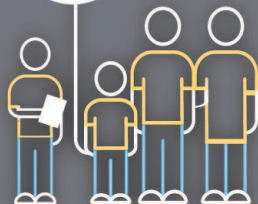


# PRIVATE FOSTERING

children  
AT THE heart OF  
all we do



## GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Since the Children Act 2004, it has been a legal responsibility for a Local Authority to know about children and young people who are Privately Fostered. A Private Fostering Arrangement is when a child or young person under the age of 16 (18 if the young person has a disability) goes to live with someone else for 28 days or more that is not a parent or close relative.

### Examples of a private fostering arrangement may include:

- A child or young person living with a family friend as a result of their parents breaking up or family fall out
- A child or young person living with their friend's family
- A young person living with their boyfriend or girlfriend
- A child or young person sent (for educational or medical purposes) from another country without their parents and living with someone who is not a close relative



## WHAT TO DO

### If you are a parent

- Ring Bradford Children's Services to let us know of any arrangements you are planning to make or as soon as possible if you had to sort things out in an emergency
- Remember you are still responsible for your child so you need to make sure any arrangements that are made are right and that the carer has all the information they need
- Support any arrangements financially

### If you are a Private Foster Carer

- Let Bradford Children's Services of your intention to foster a child or young person in at least 6 weeks in advance, or as soon as possible if you had to sort things out in an emergency.
- Provide a safe and caring home for the child or young person to live in
- Arrange all medical and dental appointments as required
- Ensure the child or young person attends their educational provision

You can make a referral or contact Bradford Children's Services by:

Phone: **01274 435600** Email: **[childrens.enquiries@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.enquiries@bradford.gov.uk)**



An advisor will initially handle the enquiry and if necessary, will pass you or the e-mail through to a qualified Social Worker who will take you through the process and give advice as required.

Further information can also be found on-line at

**<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/private-fostering/private-fostering/>**  
and **<https://www.saferbradford.co.uk/resources/childrens/private-fostering/>**

# Q AND A

## ON PRIVATE FOSTERING



**I AM NOT SURE IF I AM PRIVATELY FOSTERING A CHILD/YOUNG PERSON WHO IS LIVING WITH ME, HOW WOULD I KNOW?**

If the child/young person living with you is not a close relative, is under 16 (or 18 if has a disability) and has been with you for 28 days or more, it is highly likely this is a Private Fostering Arrangement and the Local Authority need to know to support you all.

**MY CHILD, AGED 15 WENT TO LIVE WITH A FRIEND BUT I HAVE HEARD THAT THEY HAVE MOVED IN WITH THEIR PARTNER, DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING?**

Yes, you need to tell us every time the child or young person moves in with someone who is not a close relative as soon as possible.

**MY CHILD IS UNDER A PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENT BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING AND HOW THEY ARE DOING?**

If you are unhappy with the amount of information you are receiving about your child's life, contact us. We will do everything we can to help, including facilitating better relationships with your child's carer, ensure your child is being well cared for and that they are safe and well.

**WHO COUNTS AS MY CLOSE RELATIVE?**

A close relative could be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or sibling. If the child or young person lives with any of these, this is not a private fostering arrangement, however, there could still be support available.

**THINGS ARE TENSE AT HOME AT THE MOMENT, ME AND MY 14-YEAR-OLD NEED A BREAK FROM EACH OTHER AND MY FRIEND HAS OFFERED TO CARE FOR THEM FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS, IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO DO?**

If the plan is for your child to stay with your friend for more than 28 days then yes, you need to let us know as this is classed as a private fostering arrangement. We will support you, your child and your friend during this time and help with a smooth transition to and from your friend's care



The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille. Please call 01274 435600.