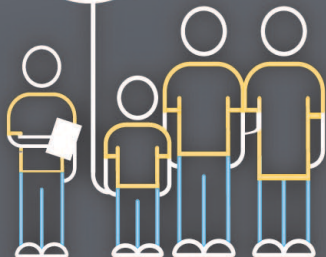


PRIVATE FOSTERING



children
AT
THE heart OF
all we do



GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

If you are being cared for by someone else other than your parent, you may be living with a private foster carer. It is important that during this time we make sure you are safe, doing well and accessing support and money.

WHAT IS PRIVATE FOSTERING?

If you are under the age of 16 (18 if you're disabled) and your parent(s) have asked someone who is not your relative to look after you for 28 days or more, you may be privately fostered. The person who looks after you is called a private foster carer

WHO IS A CLOSE RELATIVE?

For private fostering, a relative can be a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt or someone related to you through marriage such as a step parent.

WHY ARE CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE PRIVATELY FOSTERED?

We know that sometimes children and young people cannot live at home for lots of different reasons. Often, children in private foster care are able to live with a relative or a friend who they already know. A private fostering arrangement might happen for a number of reasons such as –

- 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 SHOULD HAPPEN?

Your parents or private foster carer should tell Bradford Children's Services who is looking after you and where you will be living. Once we know that you are privately fostered a social worker will come to see you. The social worker will make sure that you are happy living with your private foster carers and will want to talk to you to make sure that you are okay. They will also want to see that where you are living is suitable and you are getting the support you need

WHAT SHOULD MY PRIVATE FOSTER CARER DO?

While you are living with your private foster carer they are responsible for your day-to-day care such as:

- Making sure you are well cared for such as having regular meals, warm clean clothes, own bed
- Make sure you go to school so you can learn
- Take you to the doctor or the hospital if you are sick or injured, or if you need vaccinations
- Take you to the dentist so your teeth are looked after properly
- Make sure you have the chance to make friends and to enjoy sports and hobbies that you like
- Help you stay in touch with your family



WHAT IF THERE IS A PROBLEM?

If you are worried, unhappy or have been hurt tell an adult that you can trust, your parents, your teacher or your social worker

MY MUM HAS THROWN ME OUT AND I AM STAYING WITH MY FRIEND, I'M ONLY 15, IS THIS OK?

YES, you can stay with your friend as long as you feel safe. If you stay there or plan to stay there for more than 28 days, we need to know as this would then be a Private Fostering Arrangement. We will support you, your friend and their family and your mum during this time. And if you wish to go back home to your mum, we can also help you with this also

THINGS ARE REALLY TENSE AT HOME; I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. MY MUM'S FRIEND SAYS I CAN STAY WITH THEM FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS. I AM ONLY 14, CAN I DO THIS?

Yes, as long as it is safe. If it is more than 28 days, we need to know so we can help with any support you, your family and your mum's friend may need

I AM HAPPY AND SETTLED LIVING WITH MY FRIEND AND HER MUM. WE ARE DOING FINE. WHY WOULD I WANT A SOCIAL WORKER?

You could be entitled to financial support and other benefits and a Social Worker could give you advice and access to this. Also, we want to make sure you are part of the planning for your future, having a Social Worker will make this possible

WHO COUNTS AS MY CLOSE RELATIVE?

A close relative could be any of the below

- Grandparent
- Aunt or uncle
- Brother or sister



If you would like to speak someone please ring us on **01274 435600** or email on **childrens.enquiries@bradford.gov.uk**

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/>**



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