

# CONTACT US

If you know a child is being  
Privately Fostered:

You can contact Family Connect on **01952 385385**  
[www.familyconnecttelford.co.uk](http://www.familyconnecttelford.co.uk)

You can find out more information on Private Fostering at:  
[www.telford.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.telford.gov.uk/privatefostering)  
[www.istaysafe.co.uk](http://www.istaysafe.co.uk)  
[www.privatefostering.org.uk](http://www.privatefostering.org.uk)

Privately Fostered children are one of the largest groups of vulnerable children in the UK. Don't let them be forgotten.



[www.telfordsafeguardingboard.org.uk](http://www.telfordsafeguardingboard.org.uk)



# What is Private Fostering?

**Private Fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old (or 18 if they have a disability) is looked after by someone who is NOT a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.**

Close relatives include:

- Parents and residing Step-parents
- Aunts and Uncles
- Grandparents

Some of the most common reasons why Private Fostering takes place:

- a child's parents are overseas
- a child lives with their best friend's parents because they have had an argument with their own parents
- a young person is living with the family of their boyfriend/girlfriend
- when children are on a holiday exchange which lasts for more than 27 days
- a child who is being used for the purpose of exploitation
- children who have been trafficked
- a family friend takes on a child as the parents are experiencing a difficult period in their life.

A trafficked child is one who has been moved across national and international borders with some element of coercion and/or deception for the purposes of exploitation. For example: forced marriage, sexual exploitation, benefit fraud, domestic servitude and illegal adoption.

The law says that the Local Authority must be informed of all Private Fostering arrangements. If you know of a child who you think is being Privately Fostered, you should tell the carer of their responsibility to inform the Local Authority.

You should also notify the Help Desk so they can check if the situation is Private Fostering.

When the Local Authority know about a Privately Fostered child they will:

- visit the household and the child regularly
- carry out formal checks on household members - CRB, Housing and NSPCC etc
- keep details of the arrangement

This is to make sure that the child is:

- safe and well looked after
- receiving an education
- encouraged to reach their full potential
- keeping in touch with people who are important to them
- properly supported

