

Do you care for someone else's child?

A carers guide to private fostering



For further information please contact the
First Response team on **0800 1313126**



www.staffordshire.gov.uk
www.staffsscb.org.uk

What is private fostering?

If someone else is caring for your child or if you are caring for a child for someone else for 28 days or more, you could be privately fostering.

Private fostering is when a parent asks another adult (who is not a close relative) to care for their child for longer than 28 days. It is not a formal foster placement arranged by a social worker employed by Staffordshire County Council.

Private foster carers may be from extended family such as a cousin or great aunt. They may be a friend of the family, or the parents of the child's girlfriend or boyfriend - or someone unknown who is willing to privately foster a child.

Which children are privately fostered?

Groups of privately fostered children include children sent from abroad to stay with another family usually to improve their educational opportunities; asylum seeking and refugee children; teenagers who, having broken ties with their parents, are staying in short term arrangements with friends or other non-relatives; those living with host families; and local children living apart from their families.



I think I might be privately fostering - what should I do?

If this is the case, legally you need to let Staffordshire County Council know. It is our responsibility to help and support you. If you do not let us know, you could be missing out.

Someone is privately fostering my child - what should I do?

By letting Staffordshire County Council know that your child is being privately fostered, we can help keep your child safe.

Why do we have to do this?

A change in the law means that parents and private foster carers in this area have to tell the county council when a child is privately fostered.

Who do I call?

If you think you may be privately fostering, know someone who is, or simply want more information, call First Response free on 0800 1313126.

Keeping children safe - we are all responsible

