

# Somebody Else's Child

## What is Private Fostering?

Are you looking after someone else's child?

Is your child living with someone else?

Private Fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is **NOT** their parent or close relative, for 28 days or more. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer. Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts.

## The role of Children's Social Care

A social worker will be allocated to both the carer and the child / young person, to ensure that the arrangement is meeting the needs of the child / young person.

Caring for someone else's child can be challenging. The Private Fostering Team will be able to provide advice as required throughout the arrangement.

It is a criminal offence to fail to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement.

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