Spotlight On: Caring for somebody else's child known as Private Fostering

Cheshire East Council

May 2021

Safeguarding Children in Education Settings

Are you caring for somebody else's child?

Do you know what Private Fostering is?

If you are caring for someone else's child for **28 days** or more this is called Private Fostering. Private fostering is when a child is **under 16 years of age (or under 18 if they have a disability)** and is living and being looked after for more than 28 days by someone who is not:

- A parent
- A close relative i.e. grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt or step-parent (by marriage)
- A person with parental responsibility for the child
- this does not include a child looked after by the Local Authority

There are lots of reasons why children are privately fostered including:

- Children who live with a friend's family because their parents have separated or divorced or because of arguments at home
- Teenagers who live with their girlfriend's or boyfriend's family
- Children or teenagers on holiday exchanges for more than 28 days
- Children at independent boarding schools who do not return home for holidays and live with host families
- Children sent to this country for education or for medical needs by their parents who live overseas

Many people do not know they are private foster carers as they have made informal arrangements with friends. Parents and carers are required by law to inform us if they have a private fostering arrangement in place.

To find out more check more check out the:

cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/care-and-support-for-children/private-fostering/private-fostering

Please also contact Mrs Norton or Mrs Hutchings, on 01270 660880, in school, to make them aware of any change in arrangements.