

Private Fostering



A guide for children and young people



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

What is private fostering?

Sometimes children or young people go to stay with someone else who is not a close relative. If you are likely to stay in this person's home for 28 days or longer and you are under 16 years (or 18 if disabled) the law calls this Private Fostering. The person who looks after you is a private foster carer and the law says that the council must be told because it is their job to make sure that children are looked after properly.

Why are children privately fostered?

There can be lots of different reasons for being privately fostered, for example:

- You are a teenager and there are lots of rows at home so you go to stay with your friend's family
- Your mum or dad is ill and cannot look after you so you go to stay with a neighbour or family friend
- You have been sent to this country to stay with a friend, distant relative or another adult because there is no-one to look after you in your home country
- Your parents have sent you here to support your education or to have medical treatment.



Is Private Fostering the same as foster care?

No, they are different. When you are privately fostered, social workers don't arrange where you live but they do have to make sure it's safe for you.

What will my private foster carers do for me?

The people you live with should look after you like their own child. This includes:

- having regular meals
- making sure you have a bed of your own and clean clothes
- making sure you go to school
- making sure you go to the doctor or hospital if needed
- making sure you go to the dentist and optician as necessary
- helping you to stay in touch with your family
- helping you to follow any religion or customs that are important to you

What will my family do for me?

Your family are still legally responsible for you and should stay in contact with you.

Who needs to know I'm privately fostered?

The law says that the council have to be told about every child or young person who is privately fostered and that every privately fostered child or young person should have their own social worker.



What will my social worker do for me?

A social worker is someone whose job is to help children or young people and their families; this includes making sure that you are safe and being looked after properly.

Contact

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