**PRACTICE TIPS – PRIVATE FOSTERING – MARCH 2019**

This document has been put together to provide an overview and summary of the Private Fostering Processes in South Glos. Full procedures and processes are located at –

[**https://www.proceduresonline. /southglos/cs/user\_controlled\_lcms\_area/uploaded\_files/South%20Glos%20Private%20Fostering%20Procedure.docx**](https://www.proceduresonline.com/southglos/cs/user_controlled_lcms_area/uploaded_files/South%20Glos%20Private%20Fostering%20Procedure.docx) **com**

**What is Private Fostering?**

Private fostering is where a parent arranges for a child aged under 16 (or 18 where the child has disabilities) to be cared for by someone other than a close relative for 28 days or more.

Private foster carers can be from a child’s extended family such as a cousin or great aunt. They may also be a friend of the family, the parent of a friend of the child, or someone previously unknown to the child’s family who is willing to privately foster the child.

Residential Summer School Placements also fall under the Definition of Private Fostering.

The parents may reside in another country, be in hospital, prison or in need of support. This is their private arrangement for their child and not an arrangement made by the Local Authority.

**DUTIES**  
Following the Death of Victoria Climbie in 2000, where she died whilst in the care of her Great Aunt, the legislation has strengthened the responsibilities and duties of Local Authorities with these type of arrangements.

It is the duty of every local authority to satisfy itself that the welfare of the child who is privately fostered within their area is being satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted as per the Children Private Arrangements for Fostering Regulations 2005.

The LA is supposed to be notified 6 weeks prior to an arrangement commencing, enabling an assessment and checks to be completed. Very often notification takes place when an Arrangement has already commenced. In these circumstances a SW must visit the child and placement within 7 days of notification. A referral will be made to the Family Placement Team who will undertake the assessment of the carer.

The child must be visited every 6 weeks for the first year of the arrangement and then 12 weekly thereafter. Schedule 8 recording of any visit to the child is a statutory requirement.

The private foster carer becomes responsible for the day to day care of the child. Overall responsibility including consent and financial arrangements remains with the parent. Where a parent is living outside of the Country every effort to trace them must be made in order to confirm consent for the arrangement and ensure there is no element of the child being trafficked.

Where a parent cannot be traced legal advice should be sought.

The Private Foster Carer assessment is completed by the Authority where they reside.

**Process Flow Chart Attached.**

**Relevant Links attached**

**Process Flow Chart for Private Fostering.**

**Relevant Links –**

**Mosaic Doc’s – Assessment, Private Fostering Visit, Locality Checks, Personal Reference Letter**

**South Glos Policy -** [**https://www.proceduresonline. /southglos/cs/user\_controlled\_lcms\_area/uploaded\_files/South%20Glos%20Private%20Fostering%20Procedure.docx**](https://www.proceduresonline.com/southglos/cs/user_controlled_lcms_area/uploaded_files/South%20Glos%20Private%20Fostering%20Procedure.docx) **com**

**PF Leaflet https://www.proceduresonline.com/southglos/cs/user\_controlled\_lcms\_area/uploaded\_files/New-Private-Fostering-leaflet-13116.pdf**

**Voice of the Child** - located in Direct Work – All Children