

What else can the social worker do for me?

The social worker is there to make sure that the placement works well, by supporting you to give the best possible care. They will be able to tell you about the information you should keep about the child and their family, where to keep it, and what you can share with parents and other professionals.

The social worker can offer you advice and support to meet the individual needs of the child, particularly if they have a different ethnicity, language, culture, or religion from your own.

They can also give you advice about: Play, playgroups, community resources Housing, Education and Health Services Diet, physical care, managing behaviour, contact with parents.

There are two training courses which may support you. One is on Safeguarding Children and Young People from Harm. It covers the reason for legislation on private fostering, definitions, symptoms and signs of abuse, how to handle disclosures, safe use of social networking sites and smart phones.

The other course is on Attachment which covers the major stages of child development, how bonds of attachment are formed, why attachment is important and how a child's early experiences affect his/her ability to form relationships, their behaviour and development.

If you feel either or both course would be helpful, inform the social worker who can provide further information and arrange the course.

When private fostering is agreed we regularly visit you and the child, including speaking to the child alone. We will visit or keep in touch with you to make sure the arrangement works successfully. You can ask for assistance and support at any time from a social worker.

Contact us

If you need to discuss this information further and/or to make a referral, please contact First Contact Team on **01332 641172**.

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on: 01332 642358, 01332 642357 or Minicom: 01332 640666

Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku. Prosimy o kontakt: 01332 642358, Tel. tekstowy: 01332 640666 01332 642357

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਥੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ 01332 642358, ਮਿਨੀਕਮ 01332 640666 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ। 01332 642357

Slovakian

Túto informáciu vám môžeme poskytnúť iným spôsobom, štýlom alebo v inom jazyku, ktorý vám pomôže k jej sprístupneniu. Skontaktujte nás prosím na tel.č.: 01332 642358, Minicom 01332 640666. 01332 642357

Urdu

یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم 01332 642358، 01332 642357 پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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Private Fostering... What you need to know



A guide for foster carers



Derby City Council

If you are thinking about caring for someone else's child (who is under 16 years of age or under 18 if they have a disability) for 28 days or longer you need to tell Social Care because this is a Private Fostering Arrangement.

You should do this six weeks before the arrangement starts, or immediately if it has already started. (It is an offence not to notify the Local Authority that you are caring for someone else's child). Social Care will offer advice, support and help you and the child you are caring for.

What to do next

You are encouraged to have a written agreement with the child's parents around consent to look after them, medical consent and financial arrangements. This helps safeguard the child's welfare, protects them and reduces risk of misunderstandings. Social Care can give advice on written agreements.

Why should we be made aware of private

fostering arrangements?

Private fostering of a child is always a big responsibility, and Social Care have a duty to oversee the arrangements to promote the welfare of the child and to ensure they are safe and the child is supported.

Providing support

Taking on the care of someone else's child is not often straightforward. Misunderstandings and conflicts can easily arise, even between friends. Children who live away from their parents for any length of time can present challenges to their carers, and Social Care can provide support.

We advise you to:

- It is important that you have as much written information as possible about the child from his/her parent. This should include details about the child's family routine, language and culture, child's eating preferences, school, hobbies and interests
- Make sure that the child has with them items which are familiar to them e.g. toys, bedding, family photographs etc.
- Make sure that you have the contact details of the child's parents and social worker and that you keeping regular contact with both parties
- Make sure you have consent for medical treatment form signed by parents. We will help you and the parent with a written agreement and a copy will be provided for you. You will need to keep a record of the child's health appointments and be aware of their medical history.
- Reach agreement with the child's parents about covering the cost for looking after the child-usually this involves child care benefits being paid to you and the social worker will help you with this.
- We will ask you to be clear about how long the arrangement will last - it is rarely in the child's best interest to be away from their family for more than a short period.
- Let us know of any change in circumstances, addresses etc. or if the child is leaving your care. You will need to give us details, in writing, of the name and address of whose care the child is now in. It is extremely important that you do this and, wherever possible, any changes that are planned.

After you contact us

The law says we have to find out if private fostering will keep the child safe and meet their needs. This includes:

- Assessing your suitability and the suitability of anyone 16 years and over living in your home.
- Discussing the length of the arrangement.

The child's parents remain responsible for their child's safety and well-being although as the private foster carer you will take on the day-to-day care of the child. Parents should continue to be involved in decisions concerning their child e.g. important decisions relating to medical treatment, changing schools or moving the child. Parents continue to be responsible for the financial support of their child, including any maintenance payments. Please keep us informed about where you are living and any changes, particularly if the child is considering leaving your care.

What Children and Young People's Services

must do

It is our duty to make sure the child is safe and well looked after. We work with and help birth parents and private foster carers to make sure arrangements are legal, safe and will meet the child's needs. We have to make sure an arrangement is in the child's best interests. A social worker will arrange to visit you and the child, to talk about the child's needs and the proposed arrangements. A social worker will gather information about all members of your household, including getting police checks, and inspecting your accommodation.