

## 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 your 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 your child to talk about your child's needs and the proposed arrangements. A social worker will gather information about all members of the private foster carer's household, including completing police checks via the Disclosure Barring Service of people over the age of 16; and inspecting the accommodation. We will make a full assessment and if we think the placement is not suitable for your child, we will let you know.

When private fostering has been assessed, we regularly visit the child and carer and we will visit and keep in touch with you to make sure the arrangement works successfully. You can ask for assistance and support at any time from your child's 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 ਬੋਲੀ 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 parents



Derby City Council

## If you are thinking about placing your child with someone who is not a "close relative" 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 have placed your child with a private foster carer). We will offer advice, support and help you to make the best arrangement for your child. A "close relative" to your child is a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt (whether by full or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step parent.

Great grandparents are not classed as a "relative" and a partner of a birth parent must have been married or be married to the parent to be classed as a Relative.

### What to do next

You are encouraged to have a written agreement with the carer for the day to day care, financial arrangements and medical consent; this helps safeguard your child's welfare, protects them and reduces risk of misunderstandings. We will give you advice on a written agreement which you can use.

## Why should we be made aware of private fostering arrangements?

### Safeguarding the child

Private Fostering a child is always a big

responsibility, and we have a duty to oversee the arrangements to promote the welfare of your child and to ensure they are well cared for and safe. It is important that the carer has a good understanding of your child's needs.

### Providing support

Taking on the care of someone else's child is not always straightforward. Misunderstandings and conflicts can easily arise, even between friends. Living away from their parents for any length of time can present challenges for children and their carers, and we can support you all.

### We advise you to:

- Give the private foster carer as much written information as possible about your child. This should include details about your family routine, language and culture. You also need to tell them about your child's eating preferences, school, hobbies and interests
- Make sure that your child has with them items that will be familiar e.g. toys, bedding, family photographs etc.
- Make sure that the carer and the people working with you know how to contact you.
- Give written consent to the carer enabling them to seek medical treatment for your child; we can provide advice on this.
- Reach agreement with the private foster carer about covering the cost of looking after your child - usually this involves child care benefits being paid to the private foster carer to contribute towards the care of your child

- Let us know of any change in circumstances, addresses etc. or if the child is leaving the private fostering arrangement, it is extremely important that you do this and wherever possible any changes to be planned.

### After you contact us

The law says we should be confident the carer/s can look after your child. We do this by assessing a carer's suitability, talking to you and your child about their needs and discussing the length of the arrangement.

As a parent you remain the person with parental responsibility and responsible for your child's safety and well-being although the private foster carer has the day to day care of your child.

You should continue to be involved in decisions concerning your child e.g. important decisions relating to medical treatment, changing schools or moving the child. You continue to be responsible for the financial support of your child, including any maintenance payments. It is very important that you remain in contact with your child and his/her carers. Please keep us informed about where you are living.