

### What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is a private arrangement by a child's parent (or someone with parental responsibility) for the child to live with someone who is **not** a close relative. (A close relative is defined as: grandparent, sibling, uncle / aunt, or step-parent by marriage).

Private fostering only applies to a child under 16 years, or under 18 years if the child is disabled. If the arrangement is expected to last more than 28 days, it becomes a private fostering arrangement. Privately fostered children are not in the care of the Local Authority.

### Examples of private fostering (not limited to):

- Child / young person living with a friend's family as a result of parental separation, divorce or difficulties at home
- Child / young person sent to the UK by birth parents from overseas

### Parents and private foster carers should notify the Local Authority

The parent/s (or someone with parental responsibility) and the carer have a duty to notify the Local Authority of the details of the private foster carer, six weeks before the start of the arrangement

If the arrangement is already in place then notification should be made immediately they become aware they have made a private fostering arrangement. Where the arrangement is made in an emergency and is intended to last more than 28 days, this information should be provided to the Local Authority within 48 hours of the child being placed.

### Partner agencies should notify the Local Authority

When meeting with children, young people and their families, we should ask questions about who lives in the household and who has parental responsibility – this can help in identifying a private fostering arrangement. Professionals from all agencies should notify the Local Authority if they become aware, or believe that a child is living in a private fostering arrangement; having first had a conversation with the family.

### The role of the Local Authority and arrangements in Hull

Where the Local Authority is informed of a proposed or existing private fostering arrangement: A social worker will make an initial visit, within 7 working days of the notification date and will then assess the suitability of the arrangements and the need for any additional help and support.

**Who do I contact to notify of a private fostering arrangement?**

**Early Help and Safeguarding Hub: 01482 448879**