

# I AM BEING PRIVATELY FOSTERED



**Kent  
County  
Council**  
[kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk)



## WHAT DOES BEING 'PRIVATELY FOSTERED' MEAN?

I am being looked after in someone else's home by someone who isn't my mum or dad, grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling for more than 28 days.

This could be for lots of different reasons and I am not the only child that sometimes lives with someone else.

It has to be for more than 28 days, so extended sleepovers don't count!

I will have someone called a 'social worker' come visit me. They will tell me their name and want to know I am safe.



## WHAT HAPPENS?

The social worker will visit me where I am staying, and they will look at my bedroom to make sure I have a lovely bed and some nice covers to sleep in. They will check that there is food for me to eat and that it is safe for me to be there.

The social worker will visit me regularly while I am not living with my mum or dad. They will talk to me on my own and ask me if I am happy where I am living. If there is something that makes me sad or worried, I can tell them. The social worker will work with my mum, dad, important adults in my life, and the person looking after me to sort it out.

If I am ever worried about something, I can speak to my social worker or other adults that I trust.

## WHO MAKES DECISIONS FOR ME?

My mum or dad will still make big decisions for me like what school I go to. Together, with the person looking after me, we will decide day to day things like what I will have for dinner and what clothes I can wear. My mum or dad will still need to be told how I am doing. They need to know if I get sick or need help with school.

My social worker will make sure my mum and dad are kept up to date and will keep in contact with all the important adults in my life too. Together, they form a 'team' whose job it is to make sure I am safe and have everything I need and that I am happy.

## HOW LONG WILL I HAVE TO LIVE WITH SOMEONE DIFFERENT FOR?

My social worker, my parents and the person who is looking after me, will let me know what is happening and ask my view when any important decisions are made.

**My Social Worker's name is:**

**Their number is:**

I can speak to my social worker when I want to, I don't need to wait until they visit me. I could also speak to any adult in my life that I trust, or I could ring:

**0800 1111 Childline**

**They will all listen to me because what I have to say is important.**

