

My social worker is:

[Empty rounded rectangular box for social worker name]

He/she can be contacted on:

[Empty rounded rectangular box for contact information]

Kent County Council Contact Centre
03000 41 11 11

If at any time you do not feel safe or
feel you are being abused, please ring:
Specialist Children's Services on
03000 41 11 11

Useful telephone numbers:

Childline - phone 0800 11 11 (freephone)

You can ring this number and talk to a counsellor about any problems. This is a free 24 hour helpline for children and young people. Or contact someone through the website - www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC - phone 0808 800 5000

You can ring this number if you are having difficulties at home or at school and want to talk to someone about what is worrying you.

Children's Rights Director - 0800 528 0731

You can ring this number to find out about your rights and a way for you to be heard or have a look at the website for children living away from home - www.rights4me.org

You can find out more about private fostering on the website **Somebody Else's Child** at: www.privatefostering.org.uk

If you would like this leaflet in another language or format please ask your social worker.

Private Fostering



Information and advice
for children and young
people living with a
host family

This leaflet is about living with a family while you are in England

Welcome! You have been given this because you will be living with your host family for 28 days or more while you are here to learn English.

Under English law this is known as a 'private fostering' arrangement because you are under 16*. This means that a social worker from the social services department, (called Specialist Children's Services in Kent), has to run checks on the family you are living with to make sure they are suitable to have a young person living with them.

What will it be like living with a host family?

The host family should look after you as if you were a member of their family. They should do all the day-to-day things that parents would do for their own children, such as making sure you are well cared for, knowing where you are, that you attend school and that you see a doctor if you are unwell. You should have regular meals.

Your host family should help you to stay in touch with your own family. They should make sure you have a chance to make friends and, as far as possible, experience the activities that you enjoy. They should also respect the things that are important to you, such as your religion and customs. Your parent(s) will be able to help your host family understand the things that are important to you by talking about this with them or with the language school/agent.

*It will also be considered a private fostering arrangement if you are disabled and under 18.

Your parents are still responsible for all the important decisions. If you need medical treatment, your own parents have to agree to this - unless it is an emergency and your parents cannot be contacted quickly enough. Then a doctor will decide what to do.

Why do social services need to know that I am being privately fostered?

The law says that the social services department must make sure that you are safe and well cared for. Kent social services will send a social worker to see you. A social worker is someone employed to make sure that children and young people are being cared for properly.

The social worker will come to see you to make sure that you are happy living with your host family. They will want to talk to you on your own to make sure you are okay.

The social worker will visit you every six weeks if you are staying for a year or less and every 12 weeks thereafter if you are staying longer. You can ask to see your social worker if you have something you want to talk to them about.

The social worker will talk to your host family to see if they need any help or support. They will also get in touch with your parent(s) to make sure they know you are being well looked after.



What if I'm not happy or do not feel safe where I am living?

It can feel strange living with someone else and it may take time to get to know people. Children and young people who live away from home often miss their parent(s) and friends.

If you have a problem, do not feel safe or are not happy where you are living, you can talk to your social worker or the language school about your worries. You can contact your social worker on the telephone number on the back of this leaflet.

Don't worry if you find it hard to talk to your social worker about the things that are worrying you. The most important thing is to make sure you have someone to talk to. You may find it easier to talk to someone you see every day, like your teacher.

If you don't want to talk to someone you know, there are websites and telephone numbers you can ring for people you can talk to about the things that are worrying you. We have put the numbers on the back of this leaflet.