



Private Fostering

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, for 28 days or more.



Private Foster Carer

- ✓ Friend of the family
- ✓ Parent of a friend of the child
- ✓ Someone previously unknown to the child's family who is willing to privately foster a child.

Close Relative

- ✗ Grandparent
- ✗ Aunt
- ✗ Uncle
- ✗ Brother
- ✗ Sister
- ✗ Step-parent

The Children Act 1989

brings together the law relating to children's welfare within a single coherent legislative framework.

Striking the balance..

Duty of parents
to exercise their
responsibilities
towards their
children



Duty of the state
to ensure
children's welfare
is safeguarded

Remember!

- A child that is privately fostered is NOT the same as a Looked After Child.
- Private fostering can have a positive impact on children and families however children still remain vulnerable.
- Private foster carers are responsible for the day-to-day care of the child; parents or the person with parental responsibility for the child still has overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promotion of welfare.

What to do

If you are concerned that a child is no longer living at the family home (for longer than 28 days) and is privately fostered..

1. Pass on your concern to the DSL Team, noting the date that you were made aware of the concern.
2. Refer to Children's Services – Customer First
3. The disclosure will then be passed to MASH.