



# Private fostering

## A guide for parents/carers

**Private Fostering is a private arrangement between a parent and a carer. When a child under 16 (or 18 if disabled) is cared for and provided with accommodation by an adult who is not a close relative, for 28 days or more, it is called private fostering.**

### Private Fostering - what does this mean to you?

- Are you looking after someone else's child?
- Do you know someone who is?
- Is someone looking after your child or children?

If yes, and it is for 28 days or more, this child may be in a private fostering arrangement, and you need to share this information with the Local Authority Council.

### You are not privately fostering if:

- The person caring for your child is a close relative (i.e grandparents, older sister or brother, aunt or uncle)

Private foster carers / parents are legally required to notify the local authority. Many people are not aware of this requirement; if you know a child or young person is being privately fostered and you think the local authority is unaware, please notify us or support the parent / carer to do so.



If you believe you are privately fostering or you know a child in a private fostering arrangement, please contact

**First Contact Service on: 03000 26 79 79**

**Email: [firstcontact@durham.gov.uk](mailto:firstcontact@durham.gov.uk)**

For more information about private fostering, you can visit your local authority's website.

