

Private Fostering



What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is an arrangement made between a child's parent and the private foster carer.

The Children Act 1989 states that if a child is under the age of 16 (18 if they have a disability) goes to live with someone who is not a close relative for 28

You can contact us in the following ways:

By telephone:
01905 822666

Online:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/privatefostering





Examples of Private Fostering:

- Teenager living with a friend's family because of difficulties with his or her own family;
- Children living with a parent's unmarried partner when the parent leaves the home (for example is imprisoned);
- Children who are sent to this country for education or health care while their parents remain abroad;
- Children at boarding schools who stay with a guardian during the summer holidays;
- Children staying with a distant relative when their parents go abroad for an extended visit.

The Regulations relating to private fostering were strengthened by the Children Act 2004 following the death of Victoria Climbié. The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 clearly states that education, health and other professionals have a duty to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement that comes to their attention if they are not satisfied that the parent or carer has notified the local authority.

Working Together 2018 states 'All professionals working with children have an important role in relation to safeguarding privately fostered children'.

If you believe that a child is being privately fostered you should notify Children's Services:

By phone: **01905 822666** or make a referral through the Family Front Door Professional Portal at: **www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrenreferral**