

PRIVATE FOSTERING in Darlington

Do you know a child living with someone who isn't their parent or close relative?

Have you been looking after someone else's child for 28 days or more?

Do you know a child that is being looked after outside of their close family?

If a child under 16 (or under 18 if disabled) is living with someone for more than 28 days, this is called Private Fostering.

This is **NOT** the same as formal foster care arranged by the local council.

Why does private fostering happen?

- Parents live or work overseas
- Child comes to the UK to attend school
- Parents are ill or unable to care for them
- Child lives with another family due to problems at home
- Child is estranged from their family
- Child attends an independent school and doesn't return home during holidays

Why We Need to Know

The law says that we must be informed about all privately fostered children in Darlington. This is so we can make sure that children are well looked after and give support to their carers. We have a duty to:

- ✓ Ensure the child or young person is safe
- ✓ Support the private foster carer
- ✓ Provide practical and emotional help

Who Should Contact Us?

To report a private fostering arrangements please call our Children's Services Front Door in confidence on **01325 406222** if you are:

- ★ A parent or carer of a privately fostered child
- ★ A person privately fostering someone else's child
- ★ A professional working with the child or family
- ★ A member of the public who suspects private fostering



DARLINGTON
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