

PRIVATE FOSTERING

Information
and Support for
Children and
Young People



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



What is Private Fostering?

If you are under 16 years of age (or under 18 years, if you are disabled) and you are looked after by someone else who is not a close relative, for more than 28 days, then you are being privately fostered. A close relative is your brother, sister, aunt, uncles, grandparent, legal guardian or step-parent.

Why are children privately fostered?

There may be many reasons why you are not living at home.

The most common reasons are:

- Children or young people who are sent to the UK to live with another family for education or health care by their parents overseas.



- Young people living with another family because they do not get on with their own family.
- Children staying with another family because their parents have divorced or separated, are in hospital or prison.

What will happen?

When Children's Services are informed about where you are living. They will come and see you and make sure that you are happy with where you are living and they will talk to your parents and private foster carers.

A Social Worker will come and see you, who works with Children's Services. They will help to make sure that you are being well cared for.

They will talk to you on your own and they will also talk to your private foster carers.



What will my Social Worker do for me?

You should be seen by a Social Worker within 7 working days of Children's Services being told that you are being privately fostered.

The Social Worker will complete an assessment to see whether the private fostering arrangement is suitable and all of your needs are being met.

If the assessment is positive your Social Worker will come and see you every six weeks.

You can contact your Social Worker at any time during the six week period if you have any questions you want to ask or if you just want to talk.

They will give you a telephone number where you can reach them.



What will the Social Worker want to know?

- Are you safe?
- Are you being supported with your education?
- Are you having regular meals?
- Are you visiting the doctors and dentists when you need to and for health checks?

What will happen next?

A Social Worker will assess whether the private fostering arrangement is suitable and meeting all of your needs. If everything is okay then you will be able to stay living with your private foster carers. Your Social Worker will come and visit you every six weeks and will complete an annual review.



Here are some helpful numbers:

Childline:



0800 11 11

(Free 24/7 helpline for children and young people)



www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC



0808 800 5000

(Talk about worries at home or school)

Children's Rights Director



0800 528 0731



www.rights4me.org

Private Fostering Info



www.privatefostering.org.uk

If you need this leaflet in a different language or format, please ask your Social Worker.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council