

Who do I notify?

For more information and advice about what do next contact Children's Social Care on **0161 217 6028** or email cyp@stockport.gov.uk

For emergency help outside of normal office hours only contact the Social Care Emergency number on **0161 718 2118**.

Why not try the private fostering quiz at:
www.privatefostering.org

如果你需要他人為你解釋這小冊子/單張的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej broszurki/ulotki, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

যদি এই পুস্তিকা/প্রচার পত্রটি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন সাহায্য দরকার হয় তবে বিনা খরচে আপনার জন্য দোভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হতে পারে। মেহেরবানী করে স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন 0161 477 9000.

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچے/ایفٹ کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی انٹرپرائزنگ یونٹ کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔

شما میتوانید از خدمات ترجمہ رایگان استفادہ کنید و در صورت احتیاج بہ ترجمہ ی این نشریہ بہ طور حظوری با شماره تلفن 0161 4779000 اداره ترجمہ تماس بگیرید

تنوفر خدمت ترجمہ شفویة اذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا الكتيب/النشرة. نرجو الاتصال اربن رینیول علی رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000

If English is not your first language, an interpreter who is someone who can speak your first language, can be arranged to help you talk to us.

Is your child living with someone else, or is someone else's child living with you?

This leaflet provides information for parents and carers involved in a private fostering arrangement

“It is estimated that about 10,000 children in England are privately fostered.”



Private fostering?...

...parents and carers legal rights and responsibilities

Is your child living with another family?

If the answer is **YES**, this could be a private fostering arrangement.

Are you looking after someone else's child?

If the answer is **YES**, then you are involved in a private fostering arrangement.

What is private fostering?

Private fostering is a private arrangement between a parent and another adult who cares for a child under 16 years old (18 if disabled), for more than 28 days.

The other adult must not be a close relative of the child like uncles, aunts, grandparents, sisters, brothers or step-parents. They are most likely to be a family friend, neighbour or distant relative and have no parental responsibility.

I think I am involved in a private fostering arrangement, what do I need to do?

You need to let us know because special rules apply for the parents and carers of the child involved in a private fostering arrangement. It is likely that the private fostering arrangement is fine but it is a legal requirement that parents and carers inform Stockport Council's Children's Social Care.

Why do you need to know?

The law says that Children's Social Care must be told of the arrangement you have made for the child because they have a legal duty to protect your child and help keep your child safe and happy. Ideally, you should let us know at least six weeks before the arrangement begins.

It is in the interest of parents, carers and Children's Social Care to work together with other child care professionals to ensure the child is receiving the best care possible.

What help and support is available to me?

People involved in private fostering arrangements are entitled to essential welfare checks for the child, plus a wide range of support services for the parents and carers to meet the needs of the privately fostered child. We can help and support you with all this.

Children's Social Care are responsible for making sure that this arrangement is suitable for the family and the child. If this arrangement is unsuitable then we can work with the parents and carers to help decide what action is needed to make sure the child's welfare is safeguarded.

What happens when I notify you?

Once you have notified us of your private fostering arrangement, you will be assigned a private fostering social worker. The social worker will visit regularly to assess the needs of the child and explain what support and advice you may need and what support you will be given.

You can visit and find out more at:

www.stockport.gov.uk/privatefostering

During the visits, the social worker will speak to the child on their own (if old enough) to find out if they are happy where they are living. The social worker will also speak to the carers to ensure that all arrangements are being made for the child's health and education. They will also offer advice on claiming benefits and help the carers get the support they need to care for the child. They will speak with the child's parents on a regular basis to make sure that the child's welfare and future is safe and help the child to keep in touch with their culture and background.

What information do you need from me?

When you contact us we will ask you for the following details: name, address, telephone number, details about the child (ie name, age, ethnic background), information about when the private fostering arrangement is due to start and the reasons why the child is living with you.

At this stage, we will also ask if you have any information on any criminal offences against you or members of your family and whether any of your family had been previously involved in fostering.

What are my rights and responsibilities as a parent?

When a child goes to live with someone else, the child's parents keep all legal rights and responsibilities which are:

- Being involved in the planning of the child's future.
- Keeping in touch with the child.
- Involved in any decisions made affecting their child.
- Able to have their child home with them at any time if they wish.
- Expected to financially support their child.

What are my rights and responsibilities as a private foster carer?

You will be expected to look after the child and make sure the child goes to school, is kept healthy and safe whilst in your care and to make sure the child keeps in touch with their own family and a social worker.

Don't forget to consider if any religious or cultural needs of the child are being met.

What if my circumstances change?

If the child moves you must inform Children's Social Care of this situation within 48 hours and give the name and address of the person who the child has gone to live with.

Will I get paid?

Any financial support the child requires will need to be talked about and agreed between the parents and the child's carers as part of the private fostering arrangement. It is essential that the Benefit Agency are aware of where the child is living.

If you need any further advice or have any worries about money and benefits you can call our Welfare Rights Service on **0161 474 3093**