



Private Fostering



What is Private Fostering?

A child, under the age of 16 (under 18 if SEND) who is cared for, or proposed to be cared for, and provided with accommodation by someone other than:

- Their parent;
- A person who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for them;
- A close relative of the child (an aunt, uncle, step-parent, grandparent, sibling)

And the child has been cared for and accommodated by that person for 28 days or more.

The Children Act 1989



A child is **not privately fostered** if:

- The person caring for the child has done so for a period of less than 28 days and does not intend to do so for any longer than 28 days.
- The arrangement has been made by the Local Authority. In these circumstances the child may be Looked After.



Notifications

- The Local Authority should be notified 6 weeks prior to the private fostering arrangement commencing.
- If schools are aware that a private fostering arrangement is in place or of proposed arrangements, they have a duty to:
 - advise prospective private foster carers of their duty to notify
 - contact the LA immediately

NB: The responsible LA is that where the child is, or is proposed to be, placed, *not* the Local Authority where the child has been previously been living.



i Children's Hub

You can contact the Children's Hub by letter, telephone, text or email. If English is not your first language we can provide a translation service.

*Child and Adult Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY*

Telephone: 01429 284284

Email: childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk



What happens next? – The Local Authorities Role

- The LA have a duty to assess the suitability of the child's placement within 45 working days
- The referral will be passed to the duty SW team and allocated to a qualified SW within 7 days
- Additional to a full in-depth assessment of the child's circumstances, appropriateness of carers and suitability of the accommodation, The LA will complete police checks of any family members over 16 who reside in the property and any frequent visitors to the house.
- At least one reference will be sought and LA checks will be completed as part of the assessment process.



For more information visit the HSCB website at:

<http://www.lscbhartlepool.org/parents/page/18>

or

<http://www.privatefostering.org.uk>



Who to notify if you are involved in, or are aware of a private fostering arrangement:

The Children's Hub
Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees
Child & Adult Services Department
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Telephone: 01429 284284

Emergency Duty Team Out of Hours
Telephone: 08702 402994

Or

Email: childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk



PRIVATE FOSTERING

What is private fostering?

An information guide & essential facts for professionals about private fostering

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 (or under 18 if the child has a disability) cared for and accommodated by someone other than:

- a parent,
- a person who is not the parent but who has parental responsibility, or
- a close relative (Grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, step parent)

And the length of stay is intended to last more than 28 days.

Private fostering is based on parental consent - if a parent has not agreed for someone else to look after their child, then the arrangement is not private fostering.

Private fostering arrangements are quite separate from arrangements made by Local Authority for 'children looked after' and living with foster carers.

Private fostering covers many situations, including children who are temporarily away from their families, refugees or displaced children, children who have had a disagreement with their parents and have gone to live with neighbour or a school friend's family, or their boyfriends / girlfriends family.

