

Caring for someone else's child?

Private Fostering What you need to know



A privately fostered child is defined as:

“ A child under 16 (or under 18 with a disability) living with a person who is not a parent, close relative (sibling, aunt, uncle, step-parent or grandparent) or legal guardian for 28 days or more without the involvement of City of Wolverhampton Council. ”

City of Wolverhampton Council has a legal requirement to ensure these children are supported and to check on the suitability of the adults caring for them. We can help to provide suitable support for the carer and the child. Private foster carers cannot consent to decisions affecting a child's health or education. The law says that the council must be informed of these arrangements and so **individuals are not breaching confidentiality by notifying us.**

This simple checklist will help to identify private fostering arrangements.

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- ✓ Cousin
 - ✓ Friend or neighbour
 - ✓ Host family
 - ✓ Great aunt/uncle
 - ✓ Great grandparent
 - ✓ A divorced step-parent
 - ✓ Independent boarding schools – if the child remains in school during the holidays
 - ✓ Cultural use of 'aunt' or 'uncle' who are no blood relation

Birth parents retain all their parental responsibility for privately fostered children, not the carers.

Please contact the Central Referral Hub on **01902 555392** if you think you know of a child who resides in a private fostering situation or if you have any concerns for a child's welfare.



To access the Private Fostering e-learning module which can be used to train your staff, email wscbtraining@wolverhampton.gov.uk

For more information, visit www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/privatefostering