

What is Private Fostering?

If you are looking after or intend to look after someone else's child, then you may be a private foster carer and may have entered into a private fostering arrangement.

Private Fostering occurs when a parent arranges for their child to be cared for by someone other than a parent or close relative of the child for more than 28 days. A close relative by blood or marriage. A child is anyone under the age of 16 or a disabled young person under 18.

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 
Where Everyone Matters

Contact information

Family Placement Service

Floor 1, Wing C
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Tel: 01709 823976 (Mon - Fri 8.30am -
5.30pm)

Out of Hours Service: 01709 336080 (Mon -
Fri 5:30 onwards / weekends 9am onwards)

E-mail: private.fostering@rotherham.gov.uk

Are you caring for someone else's child?

*A guide to private fostering for
carers.*



Reasons why a child could be privately fostered

- A child who is living with a friend's family as a result of parental separation, divorce or arguments at home.
- Teenagers who are living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- A child whose parents study or work involves unsociable hours and they are unable to use ordinary day care.
- A child who has been sent to this country for education or health care by birth parents living overseas.

What should I do if I intend to privately foster a child?

To keep children and young people safe, the Government has made it the law for anyone who is looking after someone else's child to tell their local children's services.

If you live in Rotherham...

... and are planning to privately foster or you are already doing so, legally you must inform Rotherham Council. The law requires that you tell the council about any private fostering arrangement at least 6 weeks before the arrangement begins. If the child comes to live with you in an emergency, you must notify us within 48 hours.

The needs of the child

In order to give the child the best support, it is important to work with the child's parents and the council to make sure you all know about how that child has been brought up by their parent's.

It is important to find out about the child's health, favorite foods, how they are progressing at school, hobbies that they are interested in or groups that they attend. This information will help you to keep continuity in the child's life.

How we can help and support you

The Council has a duty to make sure the child is safe and ensure that you as carer(s) get the support and advice you need whilst looking after the child. Initially we will have to carry out statutory checks on you and make sure that you are capable of keeping the child safe.

We will arrange to make regular visits to see how the child has settled with you and provide you with support. We will also be able to help you with practical information and advice, as well as details about benefits that may be available to you.



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