

What is Private Fostering?

If your child is being or is likely to be cared for by someone, then you may be entering into a private fostering arrangement that requires you to inform Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's children's services of your plans.

Private Fostering occurs when parent/s make arrangements for their child/ren to be cared for by someone other than themselves. This may be with extended family (not a blood relative or someone connected through marriage) or a family friend for more than 28 days. A child is considered 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

Is your child being cared for by someone else?

*A guide to private fostering for
parents.*



Reasons why a child could be privately fostered

If you have asked someone else to look after your child or you have arranged for them to be looked after by someone else then you may have entered into a private fostering arrangement. This may be as a result of:

- Parental separation, divorce or arguments within the home.
- Teenagers who are living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Parents who study or their work involves unsociable hours and they are unable to use ordinary day care.
- Parents have sent their child/ren to this country for educational or health care reasons by birth parents living overseas.

What should I do if it intend to let someone else care for my child/ren?

- You must inform Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's children's services 6 weeks before the arrangement is due to commence or 48 hours if the person caring for your child changes.

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- The law now requires that if you are planning for your child to be cared for by someone else you **must** let your local children's services know so that they can assist you in ensuring your child remains safe!
- This does **not** mean that you are giving up parental responsibilities. You should continue to remain responsible for making all important decisions about your child/s life.
- If you develop any concerns about your child/s health or well-being then you **should** contact Rotherham Metropolitan's children's services for advice, support and guidance and so that the appropriate safeguarding steps can be taken to support you and your child/ren.

The needs of the child

In order to give your child/ren the best support, it is important that you work closely with your child's carers and professionals involved so that children feel safe and well cared for.

Make sure you share as much information about your child with their carer/s so that they can better meet your child's educational, health or religious beliefs more fully.

How we can help and support you

Rotherham has a duty of care to make sure your child is safe and everyone involved are getting the right advice, guidance and support needed whilst you child/ren are Privately Fostered. Rotherham will complete statutory checks on carer/s to make sure they are safe and capable of keeping your child safe.

Rotherham will arrange regular visits to see how your child/ren has settled with carers and will provide you with support, advice and guidance about any other aspect of this arrangement.



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