

What is private fostering?

If a child is living with, and being cared for by someone who is not a relative, the arrangement is called private fostering.

This can be for a number of reasons and it can be temporary or long term.

Maybe the child's parents are unwell, or there has been some difficulty in the family. The arrangement can be for convenience when the parents live abroad.



Contacts

Contact us and we can tell you what to do next. We can arrange for information in other languages if required. If you live in:

Leicester
Call 0116 454 1004

Leicestershire
Call 0116 305 0005

Rutland
Call 01572 758407

**Safeguarding Children Board
Leicestershire and Rutland**
www.lrsb.org.uk

**Safeguarding Children Board
Leicester**
www.lcitylscb.org

ChildLine
Tel: 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk



Information for professionals

Talk to us about the situation

As a professional, if you think a child is being looked after by someone else, you should talk to Children's Services at your local authority.

Support can be put in place where it is needed.

Experienced social workers understand the different and possibly difficult situations which lead to private fostering. They also know the law (Children Act 1989) which is in place to make sure all children are safe and well looked after.



“Professionals play an important part in advising carers and parents.”



“You have a duty to notify Children's Services and encourage the carer to do so.”

What kind of support do we offer?

Children's Services have an experienced team who can offer advice, and a personal contact for both the carer and the child.

A social worker will visit the carer and child within a week from the time that a council is told about an arrangement. They will then visit every six weeks during the first year, and once every 12 weeks after that. The social worker can be contacted at any time by the child or the carer if they want to talk through anything.

The social worker can offer advice on:

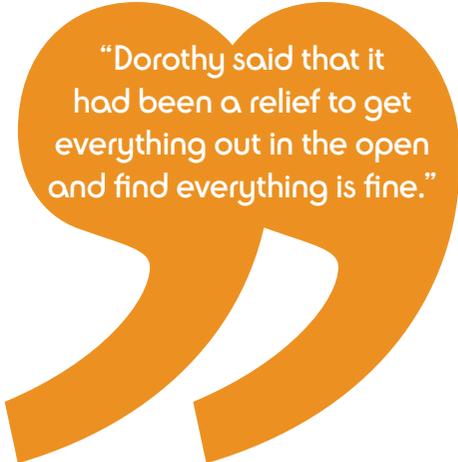
- emotional development
- education
- healthcare
- financial arrangements and help
- legal responsibilities.

What is a private fostering arrangement?

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 (or under 18 if the child has a disability) who is being cared for and is living with someone else.

That person is someone who is not - a parent, or other person who holds parental responsibility for the child - a close relative; for example, a grandparent, step-parent, brother or sister, uncle or aunt. The relative can be half blood, full blood or by marriage.

It is an arrangement where care is intended to last more than 27 days.



“Dorothy said that it had been a relief to get everything out in the open and find everything is fine.”