

**PRIVATE
FOSTERING**



**ARE YOU BEING LOOKED
AFTER BY SOMEBODY THAT
IS NOT YOUR PARENT OR
CLOSE RELATIVE?**



**west
sussex
county
council**

Children
first

**A GUIDE
TO WHAT
YOU NEED
TO KNOW**

Are you being looked after by somebody who is not your parent or a close relative? If yes, it is called 'private fostering' and this booklet will help you to understand more about what this means for you and who is there to help you.



WHAT IS PRIVATE FOSTERING?

It is private fostering when your parent or carer arranges for you to stay with someone else for more than 4 weeks.

WHO CAN BE A PRIVATE FOSTER CARER?

This is anyone you live with who is **not** your:

- mother or father
- aunt or uncle
- grandparent
- sister or brother
- step-parent

WHO CAN ARRANGE PRIVATE FOSTERING FOR me?

Your parent or carer can arrange for you to be in private fostering. It is also private fostering if you go to live with someone who is not your parent or carer.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES?

These could include:

- your mum or dad not being able to look after you for different reasons, for example, if they are ill, they need to travel away from home or you attend school or college that is a long way from your home.
- the person you stay with may be part of your extended family, such as a cousin, great aunt, great uncle or a family friend.



WHAT MUST PARENTS/LEGAL CARERS AND PRIVATE FOSTER CARERS DO?

- Your parents or carer must tell social workers that they have arranged for someone else to look after you.
- Your private foster carer needs to tell social workers that they are looking after you.

WHAT MUST CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE WORKERS DO?

- Visit the address where you are staying to see you and your private foster carer.
- Come to visit you to speak with you every 6 weeks or maybe more if we think that this will be helpful or you would like to see your Social Worker.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU ARE PRIVATELY FOSTERED?

Please tell your teacher, school nurse, or adult that you trust to contact social workers at:

- Email: **WSchildrenservices@westsussex.gov.uk**
- Phone: **01403 229900**

You can also call Childline on **0800 1111** or visit their website at **www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline**

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