

What will Children's Services do?

Children's Services will put the child first and work with parents and carers to make sure the arrangement is right for the child.

They will make sure children are safe, happy and that your child is happy with the arrangement. We will make sure that carers are:

- Trustworthy - they will check police records on the carer and members of the household
- Have a home that is safe for your child
- Are supported to care for your child if necessary
- Able to look after your child's physical, emotional, educational and cultural needs
- Provided with enough money from you to care for your child

Not sure if your child is privately fostered or if you are Private Fostering? Or if you think a child you know is being privately fostered then ring the numbers below to discuss your situation.

How to let Children's Services know

Please telephone the number below for the area where you live to let us know of your situation. If you are unsure of your area please ring any of the numbers, they will be happy to help you.

North: Astley Bridge, Bradshaw, Brightmet, Bromley Cross, Tonge Moor, Crompton and Tonge with the Haulgh
01204 337400

South: Burnden, Daubhill, Farnworth, Harper Green, Kearsley, Little Lever, Great Lever, Darcy Lever, Harper Green and Rumworth
01204 337729

West: Deane Cum Heaton, Halliwell, Heaton and Lostock, Derby, Smithills, Hulton Park, Westhoughton and Chew Moor, Horwich and Blackrod
01942 634625

Emergency Duty Team

Out of hour's service **01204 337777**



Bolton
Safeguarding
Children

Is someone else looking after your child?

Are you looking after someone else's child?



Parents and carers guide to Private Fostering

Did you know that we can help carers access advice and support?

**Bolton
Vision**

Private Fostering, what is it?

If a parent decides that it is best for their child to be cared for by someone who is not their:

- **Parent or step-parent**
- **Grandparent**
- **Brother or sister**
- **Aunt or uncle (by blood or marriage)**

If this is for more than 28 days, it is called a Private Fostering Arrangement and the parent or carer must inform Bolton Children's Services. The 28 days doesn't have to be all in one go, it can be split over 12 months. For example where a child is cared for three days a week, over 12 months.

Does this happen often?

Yes, there are probably over 10,000 children in the UK who are currently being privately fostered.

Examples of children who might be privately fostered:

- Children staying with a friend of the family or the child's friend's parents as a result of separation, divorce or problems at home
- Children staying with extended family such as a cousin or great aunt
- Children staying with someone unknown who is willing to care for a child
- Children sent to this country for education or health care by birth parents living overseas
- Teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend
- Children whose parents' work or study involves unsociable hours, which makes it difficult for them to use ordinary day care or after school care
- Teenagers who have broken ties with their parents and are staying with friends or non-relatives
- Children living with host families whilst pursuing courses of study
- Children receiving respite care provided by someone other than a relative

Private fostering is not arranged or paid for by Bolton Children's Services.

My child is privately fostered, what should I do?

You need to let Children's Services know as soon as possible. It would be best if this was at least six weeks before your child goes to live with the private foster carer. If the arrangement is made in an emergency you need to

let them know within 48 hours. You must tell Children's Services straight away if a child is already living with you.

Children's Services will then make regular visits to make sure the child is happy, healthy, safe and well looked after.

You are committing a criminal offence if you do not notify Children's Services of the arrangement.

What else can I do?

Parents should also make sure that the carer:

- Has written and detailed information about your child
- Understands your child's routine, language, culture, diet, health needs and long term plans
- Has written permission, from you, to allow them to sign a medical consent form for your child
- Has enough money to cover the cost of looking after your child
- Is clear how long the arrangement will last, and most importantly, know how to contact you

If the Private Fostering Arrangement ends you must let Children's Services know within 48 hours. You should also confirm the name and address of the person who will be caring for the child and the details of that arrangement.

I am caring for someone else's child, what should I do?

You need to let children's services know as soon as possible. Ideally at least six weeks before the child comes to live with you. If the arrangement is made in an emergency you need to let Children's Services know within 48 hours. You must tell them straight away if a child is already living with you.

You must tell Children's Services at least 48 hours before a child leaves your care and confirm the name and address of the person who will be caring for the child and the details of that arrangement.

You are committing a criminal offence if you do not notify Children's Services of the arrangement.

What help can I receive?

You can receive advice and support from Children's Services if you are looking after someone else's child.