



# Private Fostering

Are you looking after  
somebody else's child?



Norfolk County Council



Norfolk Safeguarding  
Children Partnership

**norfolk**  
**fostering**

**If you are looking after somebody else's child, or if your child is living with another family, or if you know about a child who isn't being cared for by a relative, Norfolk County Council needs to know.**

**Our Private Fostering team can offer advice, support and protection.**

By definition, Private Fostering is when a child under the age of 16, or under 18 if the child has a disability, lives with someone who isn't a close relative for 28 days or more.

**Examples of Private Fostering include:**

- A child living with a friend's family.
- A child from overseas staying with a host family while they attend a language school.
- A child living with a member of their extended family such as a cousin or great aunt.
- A child staying with another family because their parent works long or unsociable hours.
- A child who was adopted in another country, where the adoption is not legally recognised in the UK.
- A child who has parents that work away, or in the armed forces, for periods of time.

**When is it not Private Fostering:**

- When a child is living with a close relative such as their grandparents, aunt, uncle, brother, sister or step-parents by marriage.
- When a child is placed with a local authority or agency foster carer by a Social Worker.

# Always keep us in the picture



If you're involved in organising a Private Fostering arrangement in Norfolk, you must, by law, inform Norfolk County Council's Private Fostering Team. Ideally we'd like 12 weeks' notice before the arrangement begins, but we know these things can sometimes come about quite quickly, so please tell us as soon as you can.

If professionals such as teachers and doctors become aware that a child is being privately fostered, they should always make sure that Norfolk County Council knows about the arrangement.

## When we know where a child is, we can help.

The Children Act 1989, states that Norfolk County Council must ensure that all privately fostered children are safe and supported. We couldn't be happier to comply, and we pride ourselves on working closely with the parents, and private foster carers to make sure children are healthy, happy and free from harm. It's why we:

- Regularly visit the child and Private Foster Carer.
- Assess the suitability of the arrangement.
- Offer advice and guidance to the child, their parents, and the Private Foster Carer.

## Is there any financial support available?

Although no financial support is available from Norfolk County Council, arrangements may be made between the Private Foster Carer and the child's parents.

If eligible, the Private Foster Carer can also claim child benefit. The Private Foster Carer does not gain parental responsibility.

## How to get in touch

To let us know about any Private Fostering arrangement, or to find out whether Private Fostering applies to your particular arrangement, please call **0344 800 8020** or visit:

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/privatefostering)



If you need this document in large print, in audio, Braille, in an alternative format or in another language, please contact customer services on **0344 800 8020** or, for Text Relay, call **18001 0344 800 8020** (text phone) and we will do our best to help you.



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