



# 7 minute briefing



## Private Foster carers cannot:

- Change the child's/children's name
- Change the child's/children's school
- Move the child/children to another family
- Take the child/children to another part of the country or another country without your parents' permission
- Make decisions regarding any urgent medical treatment. The child's/children's parent/s must agree to this. If parents cannot be contacted, the doctor will decide on the best thing to do.

## What are the Responsibilities of Enfield Children's Social care?

- Assess the suitability of the arrangement by acting on any information provided by parents, carers and professionals.
- Check the suitability of the carer and their accommodation.
- Visit the carer and child every 6 weeks (the first visit will take place within 1 week), and after one year of the child living with their carer, the visits will be every 12 weeks.
- Speak to the child alone.
- Offer advice and support to the carer, child and parents.
- Ensure DBS' are completed on all adults living in the PF home, and two references are completed on the PF carers

## What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when a child aged under 16 years old (or 18 years old if they have a disability) is looked after full time for more than 28 days.

Private fostering is arranged and agreed by the child's parents (or person with parental responsibility) and the person or family who will be caring for the child.

**Private fostering contact information:**  
**Referrals 020 8379 5555**  
**Advice 020 8379 2814**  
**Privatefostering@enfield.gov.uk**  
**www.enfield.gov.uk/fostering**

**The Children Act 1989** defines private fostering as occurring when a child under 16 (or under 18 if disabled) is cared for, and provided with accommodation, for 28 days or more by someone other than a close relative, guardian or someone with parental responsibility. Parents and carers have a legal duty to notify the local authority when entering into a private fostering arrangement; local authorities are then required to carry out an assessment, and to monitor the arrangement.

## Examples of Private Fostering:

- Children sent from abroad to live with other families, or extended family members in the UK.
- Children whose parents have paid someone to care for them whilst the parents are away working or studying.
- Unaccompanied minors who are living with friends or someone who was previously unknown to the family who is willing to PF the child.
- Teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Children who are attending schools in the UK and who live with a local family.
- Children brought to the UK for adoption.
- Children and young people who live away from their own family as a result of parental separation, divorce or arguments at home.

## Who cannot be a Private Fostering carer:

- Parent (or legal step-parent, or someone else with parental responsibility)
- Grandparent
- Siblings (including half siblings)
- Aunt or uncle

