

How can I find out more about private fostering?

If you have any questions or need to ask anything about being a privately fostered child please contact:

Hartlepool & Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub

Tel: 01429 284284 or 01642 130080

Email: childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk

Middlesbrough Multi-agency Hub

Tel: 01642 726400

Email: MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Redcar & Cleveland Multi-agency Hub

Tel: 01642 130700

Email: RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Out of hours and weekend contact

Emergencies Only

Tel: 01642 524552

Private Fostering Information for Young People



What is Private Fostering?

Private Fostering is when you are under 16 [or under 18 if you have a disability] and you live with an adult who looks after you instead of your Mum or Dad. The person who looks after you will not be related to you, like your uncle or grandma. Your Mum or Dad will have agreed that this person can look after you and may even be paying them some money to do so.

Why can't I live with my Mum or Dad?

Your Mum or Dad might not be able to look after you for many different reasons. They may feel that it is best to ask another adult to look after you for a while.

What happens to me?

If you are privately fostered it means that you will be living with a private foster carer in their home rather than at home with your family.

Your parents and your private foster carer must tell the Local Authority that you are living in someone else's house. Sometimes when your private foster carer or your family have not told us that you are not living at home, your teacher or your doctor might do so.

Can I still see my Mum or Dad?

Yes. Your Mum and Dad and the person looking after you will make arrangements for you to see your Mum and Dad. When they are making arrangements, they should think about what you want.

What will the Local Authority do?

The law says that the Local Authority must make sure that you are well looked after where you are living and they will ask a social worker to visit you to see if you are OK. A social worker is a person employed by the Local Authority who job is to make sure that children and young people are properly cared for.

They will come to see where you live to make sure that you are happy living with the private foster carer. They will talk to the person looking after you to see if they need any help.

They will even get in touch with your Mum and Dad to make sure they know you are well looked after.

What information will I be given before I move in with the Private Foster Carer?

These are some of the things that you should know before you move in with your carers:

- What the carers are going to be like. This should happen before you move in with them
- If your carers have children of their own
- Your new carers' name, address and telephone number [so you don't get lost]
- Your new carers' ages and some other basic information about them such as whether they work and what they like to do
- Your Social Worker's telephone number in case you want to contact them