

What is Private Fostering?

Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer for 28 days or more. Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or marriage).

To help us keep children safe and support families, all parents and private foster carers must notify their Local Council. If not, they miss out on essential welfare checks for the children, plus other support services.

These include:

- Advice on claiming benefits and possible funding for some essential items
- Parenting support and advice
- Help in bringing families in crisis back together

If you know of a child being privately fostered please don't ignore it. Speak to the child's carer or contact:

If living in Dorset contact the Children's Advice & Duty Service on 01305 228558