

It is an offence not to tell the Private Fostering Social Work Team of a private fostering arrangement within the timescales specified, as we are required by law to satisfy ourselves that the home provided for the child/young person is safe and that you are able to provide a reasonable standard of care.

Will I get any support?

We will be able to provide you with help and advice at any time before and during the arrangement, for example, if there are concerns for the child/young person's health or schooling. We will also be able to provide advice on a range of parenting issues and benefit

If you are privately fostering or plan to privately foster a child/young person, then you must contact the Private Fostering Social Work Team on **020 7364 5006** or visit **www.towerhamlets.gov.uk**. This team can give you further information and answer any questions that you may have.

entitlements. This can be discussed with the social worker when he/she visits you or by contacting us.

What happens if the child is leaving my care?

If the child/young person leaves your care to go back to their parents or those with parental responsibility or to go to another carer, you **must** inform us within 48 hours. You must also provide us with full contact details of the child/young person's new carer.

Are you caring for someone else's child?



Information on Private Fostering for **Carers**

As from 1 July 2005, the Government introduced new legislation and guidance on private fostering. The aim of this leaflet is to provide information to private foster carers who have or are considering looking after someone else's child. This leaflet will give you information about your rights and duties as a private foster carer.

Private fostering is when a child or young person aged under 16 (or under 18 if they are disabled), is cared for and provided with accommodation for 28 days or more by an adult who is not a close relative. A close relative is an aunt, uncle, step-parent, grandparent or sibling, but **not** a cousin, grand aunt/uncle or a family friend.

A private fostering arrangement is normally organised between a parent or third party and a private foster carer.

There are many private fostering situations. These can include:

- Children or young people who are sent to this country for education or health care by their birth parents from overseas.
- Children or young people whose parents work or study long and/or antisocial hours.
- Children or young people who are living with a friend's family as a result of parental separation, divorce or arguments at home.
- Children or young people living with their partner's family.

Where will I get information about the child or young person?

Private fostering arrangements are organised and planned with the parent and private foster carer. You should ensure that you have an agreement that outlines the expectations and duration of care that you are going to provide. This agreement should have as much information about the child or young person as possible. It should include their eating habits, hobbies, information about their school and medical records. It is important that the parent tells you about the child's religious and cultural background in order to ensure that you can meet the needs of the child and that he/she is well looked after.

You should ensure that you have regular communication with the parent/s or those with parental responsibility for the child or young person and involve them in all decision making that will affect the child or young person. You should also ensure that you inform them of any

changes in your circumstances such as moving home or going on holiday.

Why do I need to tell Tower Hamlets about this arrangement?

If you intend to privately foster a child or young person, the Law requires that you inform the Private Fostering Social Work Team 6 weeks prior to the arrangement starting. If the child is already in your care or the arrangement is due to start within 6 weeks then you must inform the Private Fostering Social Work Team immediately.

The Private Fostering Social Work Team has a duty of care to the child/young person, the parents and to you, the private foster carer. Once you have told us of the arrangement, a social worker will arrange a visit with you and will carry out formal checks. We will visit you during the duration of the arrangement to make sure that the child/young person is well cared for.