

Private Fostering

A guide for children and teenagers



What is Private Fostering?

Sometimes you might go to stay with someone who is not your close relative.

If you are likely to stay in this person's home for **28 days or more**, this is called Private Fostering.

The person who looks after you is a private foster carer. The law says that they must tell us that they are looking after you as we have to make sure that all children in Bromley are cared for properly.

Why are children Privately Fostered?

There can be lots of different reasons for being privately fostered, for example:

- You are a teenager and there are lots of rows at home so you go to stay with your friend's family until the problem can be sorted out
- Your mum or dad is ill and cannot look after you so you go to stay with a neighbour or family friend
- You have been sent to this country to stay with a friend, distant relative or another adult because there is no-one to look after you in your home country
- Your parents have sent you to the UK to support your education or to have medical treatment

Who needs to know I'm Privately Fostered?

The law says that we **must** be told.

You should tell:

- Your school or college
- Your doctor (GP)
- Any other adults helping you

You might also want to tell your close friends, but that is up to you.

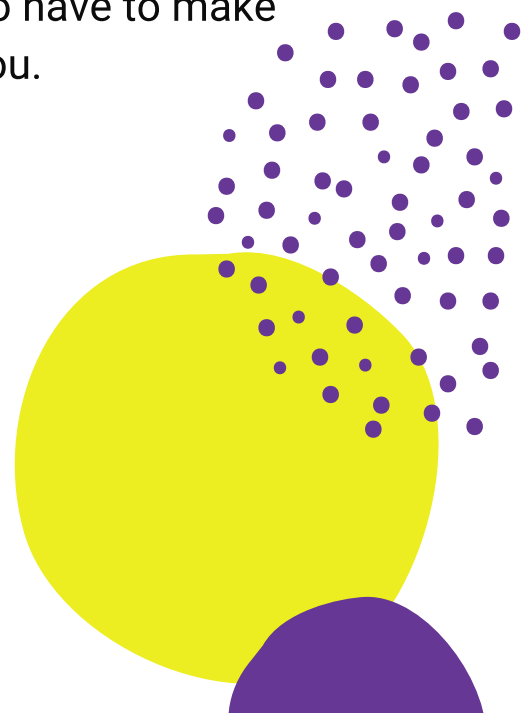


Is Private Fostering
the same as foster care?



No, they are different.

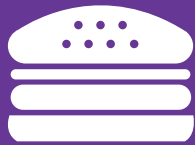
When you are privately fostered, social workers don't arrange where you live but they do have to make sure it's safe for you.



What will my private foster carers do for me?

The people you live with should look after you like their own child.

This includes:



Giving you regular meals



Making sure you have a bed of your own and clean clothes



Making sure you go to the doctor or hospital if you are ill



Making sure you go to school



Making sure you go to the dentist and optician for regular checks



Helping you to enjoy sports and hobbies



Helping you to stay in touch with your family



Helping you to follow any religion or customs that are important to you

What will my Social Worker do for me?

When we are told that you are in a Private Fostering arrangement, we will give you a social worker.

A social worker is someone whose job is to help children or young people and their families; this includes making sure that you are safe and being looked after properly.

You should be seen by your social worker within a week of us being told that you are privately fostered.

After that, your social worker should come and see you every six weeks. Your social worker will talk to your private foster carer and will also want to see you on your own. This is so that you can tell them about anything that is worrying you, so it's a good idea to get to know them.

A year after your very first visit, your social worker might not visit you as often (once every twelve weeks), but they will let you know how to get in touch with them if you want to talk to them.



Useful Contacts,
Telephone Numbers
and Addresses



Your social worker is:

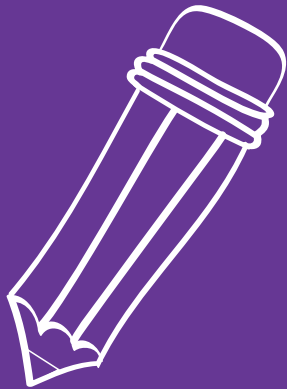
And they can be reached on:

Private Fostering Team

Call us on 0208 461 7442

or email fostering-duty@bromley.gov.uk

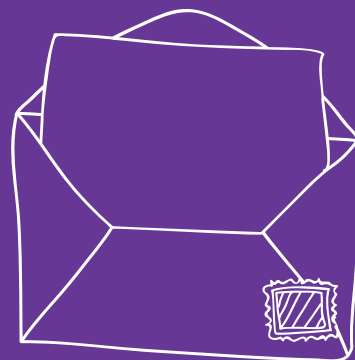




Complaints, comments or compliments

If you are unhappy or would like to share any complaints, comments or compliments about your experiences, you can do so verbally to any employee of Children's Social Care, in writing or by telephone to our Complaints Service:

Children's Social Care Complaints
Bromley Council
Civic Centre
Stockwell Close
Bromley BR1 3UH
T: 020 8461 7644
E: cypsocialecomplaints@bromley.gov.uk



If you feel you need to talk to someone else about your situation, there are people you can talk to who can give you advice.

You can call them on these numbers:

Childline

0800 1111

NSPCC

0800 800 5000





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