



Who to contact if this information is difficult to understand or you would like to speak to someone:

The Children's Hub
Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees
Child & Adult Services Department
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Telephone: 01429 284284

Emergency Duty Team Out of Hours
Telephone: 08702 402994

Or

Email: childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk



PRIVATE FOSTERING

Who is looking after you?

An information guide & essential facts for young people about private fostering

- Are you living with someone who isn't your mum or dad or close relative?
- Are you under 16?
- Are you going to be living there for 28 days or more?

A close relative is your grandma or grandad, brother, sister, aunt or uncle or step parent.

If you answered **yes** to the above questions it could mean you are living with a private foster carer.



What is Private Fostering?

Mums, dads or guardians can often ask a person they trust to look after their children, this can be for many reasons:

The reasons include:

- they are going into hospital for a long time,
- children living with a friend's family as a result of arguments at home,
- teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend.

If this situation lasts for 28 days or more, your carer will become a private foster carer.

Your mum, dad or guardian will not usually do this without a great deal of thought. They will have discussed with this person why they want someone to look after you and what arrangements should be made for you in case you get ill, have any problems at school, or need any special help.

Children's Services are here to help you, your parents and this person (private foster carer) so that you get any advice, support, guidance and information that you need, and most of all we will make sure you are safe and well looked after.

What do you need to do?

Your mum, dad or the people you are living with (your carers) should have told Children's Services that you are going to be looked after by someone else, no matter what the reason is.

Why don't you ask your mum, dad or your carers if they have told us. And if they haven't, tell them to contact us. (Contact details are on the back of this leaflet.)



What will Children's Services do?

Children's Services will make sure you are being cared for properly.

We will also:

- discuss the arrangements with you,
- make sure you are happy and any problems you have are sorted out,
- help to make sure the best possible arrangements are in place for your health needs,
- help to make sure the best possible arrangements are in place for your educational needs.

What you should do if you are unhappy

If you have worries of any kind, perhaps about your health or about school, you should talk to your mum, dad, carer or social worker and together they will make sure the problem is solved.

What you should do if things change

You should make sure your parents or carer tells us if:

- you move house and change your address
- someone moves into your house or moves out
- anyone living in your house gets into trouble with the police or commits an offence
- your carers' financial situation changes—if they lost their job or get a new job



What will happen when you go back to live at home

Everyone will work together to make sure you have help and support when you move back to live with your parents.