

Private Fostering



Information and
advice for
young people



What is private fostering?

If you are under 16 (or 18 if you have a disability) and your parents have asked someone to look after you for 28 days or more this is called private fostering, and the person caring for you is a Private Foster Carer.

The law says that if you are being fostering privately your parents and the carer must tell Children's Services. This is so that they can make sure you are safe and being well cared for.





Why are young people privately fostered?

There are lots of reasons why a parent may not be able to look after their child. Your parent(s) may have decided that it was best to ask someone who is not a close relative (grandparent, stepparent, aunt or uncle for example) to care for you for a while.

These are some of the reasons young people go to stay with a Private Foster Carer:

- If a parent is going into hospital.
- If a parent is going abroad for a long period of time.
- If parents send their child to this country for education.
- A child wishes to remain in the same school when parents move.
- There is a breakdown in the relationship between parent and child.
- A teenager wishes to move to the home of a boy/girlfriend.
- Parents work anti-social hours so need help with the care of their children.



What will it be like living with Private Foster Carers?

Private Foster Carers should take good care of you and treat you as if you are one of their own children. They should make sure you are safe and well looked after. They should ensure that you go to school and that you are taken to the doctors, dentists etc if you need to.

They should help you stay in contact with your family and friends, and help you to take part in the hobbies and activities that you enjoy. They should respect the things that are important to you (such as your religion or diet)



You and your parents should tell the carers what is important to you.



Who is responsible for me?

Your parent(s) are still responsible for you when you are staying with Private Foster Carers. This means that they should still be involved in all the important decisions about your life.



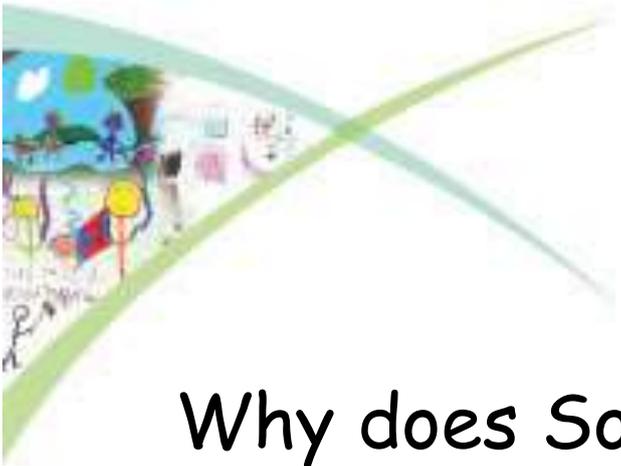
Can I still see my parents and family?

Of course. You, your parents and carer should make arrangements for you to see your family regularly.

You should also arrange to keep in touch by phone, text, email or letter.

It is also important that your parents keep in touch with your carers to make sure you are OK.





Why does Social Services need to know that I'm being privately fostered?

The law says that Children's Services must make sure that you are safe and well cared for.

A Social Worker will come to see you to make sure that you are happy living with your Private Foster Carers. They will talk to you on your own to check you are OK. They will visit regularly but you can always ask to see them if you want to talk to them about something.

The Social Worker will also talk to your Private Foster Carer to see if they need any help and advice, and will complete some checks to make sure you are staying with suitable people.

They will also get in touch with your parents to make sure they know you are being well looked after.



What happens if I'm not happy or have a problem?

If have a problem, or are not happy about where you are living, you can talk to your Social Worker.

The Social Worker will talk to your parents and your carers to see what can be done to sort out the problem.

Don't worry if you find it hard to talk to your Social Worker about the things that are worrying you. The most important thing is that you have someone to talk to, - maybe you might find it easier to talk to your teacher or youth worker.



My Social Worker is.....

Tel no.....



Other useful numbers

Powys Children's Rights Officer

Tel: 01597 826392



Powys County Council Fostering Team

North Powys - 01686 614040

South Powys - 01874 614030

Childline - 0800 1111

A free helpline for children to talk about any problem

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000

A free helpline for children to talk about any problem

CSSIW - 01597 829319

(Care and social Services Inspectorate for Wales)

They make sure we do our job properly

Powys Advocacy Service (Tros Gynnol)

- 01982 552450

Helping children to have a say in what is happening in their lives.