

## PRIVATE FOSTERING

### Definition

- The child is not considered 'looked after' (i.e. is not a child in care).
- This is an arrangement to care for a child made between a parent/person with parental responsibility, with another adult.
- Currently the regulations only apply to young people up to 16 years old (18 if disabled).
- There are statutory requirements for Local Authorities (Children Acts 1989, 2004; Private Fostering Arrangements 2005).

### Notifications

A parent should notify the LA in writing;

- 6 weeks before the arrangement is due to start.
- 48 hours after the arrangement has commenced.

Any professional who becomes aware of a private fostering arrangement should inform Derby City Council Initial Referral Team.

### It constitutes private fostering if:

- The adult is not a close relative (close relative is defined as sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent and stepparent).
- The child has left home and has moved in with someone that the parent(s) with parental responsibility is happy for them to live with.
- The child is unaccompanied, under 16, seeking asylum and intends to live with someone within their extended family and friend network.
- The arrangement is expected to last continuously for over 28 days.
- The child is from another country and staying with a host family for 28 days or more.

### It does not constitute private fostering if:

- The adult is a close relative.
- The arrangement lasts less than 28 days.

### The role of the Local Authority:

- The statutory requirements are clearly set out in the private fostering regulations.
- Once notified of a private fostering arrangement, begin the process. Duties include; a written assessment; Initial Visit within 7 working days and regular visits thereafter, and reviewed in line with those children who are subject to Child in Need' plans.
- To ensure the child/ young person is seen alone.
- To offer advice and support to parents and carers.
- To be satisfied that the arrangement is safe and the child/ young person's needs are being suitably met.
- To inform the parents if there are concerns about the arrangement proceeding or commencing.