

Private Fostering

- is an arrangement to care for a child made between a parent and another adult.
- applies to children up to 16 years old (18 if disabled)

The law says:

Parents have to tell us in writing:

- Six weeks before it is due to start
- 48 hours after it has begun.

Any professional aware of a private fostering arrangement should Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.

It counts as private fostering if:

- The adult is not a close relative (cousins, great-aunts and great-uncles are not close relatives)
- The child has moved in with someone that the parent is happy for them to live with
- The child is under 16, seeking asylum and intends to live with someone in their extended family and friend network
- It is expected to last more than 28 days
- The child is from another country and staying with a host family for 28 days or more.

It is not private fostering if:

- The adult is a close relative – such as a grandparent or sibling
- It lasts less than 28 days.

We must:

- Carry out written assessments, visits and reviews – like those for looked-after children. See Framework I under 'new episode'
- Be aware of trafficking. Is there a genuine link between the child and the carers?
- Tell the parents if there are concerns about the arrangement, before or during.

