



Private fostering

Information for young people

Do you live with another family?
Is someone else looking after you?





Informing children's services of a private fostering arrangement

If you are under 16 years of age (or if under 18 years, if you are disabled) and you are looked after by someone else who is not a close relative for more than 28 days, then you are being privately fostered.

A close relative is your brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, legal guardian or step-parent.

There may be many reasons why you are not living at home, it may be just your parent has had to go into hospital for a long stay, or your parents might be working or living in another country.

What the law says

If you are living with private foster carers then your parents and carers have to let children's services know at Rochdale Borough Council.

What will happen?

When children's services are informed about where you are living, they will come and see you to make sure that you are happy with where you are living and they will talk to your private foster carers.

The person that comes to see you will be a social worker, who works for children's services. They will help to make sure that you are being well cared for.

They will talk to you on your own and they will also talk to your private foster carers.

The social worker will want to know that:

- You are safe
- Your private foster carers are supporting you with your education
- Your private foster carers are helping you with any general needs you have
- You visit the doctor and dentist when you need a health check

What happens next?

As long as your needs are being met absolutely nothing will change, except that a social worker will come and see you every six weeks to make sure you're still okay.

You can contact your social worker at any time if you have any questions you want to ask or if you just want to talk. They will give you a telephone number where you can reach them.

The social worker will check you are enjoying school or college and they will also help you to keep in contact with your parents or legal guardians.

It may be that after a period of time you go back to live with your immediate family. When this happens your social worker will be there to help you.

If you think you are living with private foster carers and want to talk to someone for help and advice, please contact the our Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH) by calling **0300 303 0440 or emailing **EHASH@rochdale.gov.uk****

You can also write to:

Children's Social Care
Floor 4, Number One Riverside
Smith Street
Rochdale OL16 1XU