



Private fostering

What it is...

A private fostering arrangement is one where children under the age of 16, or 18 in the case of disabled children, are cared for and provided with accommodation in the carer's own home for a period of 28 days or more by a carer who is not their parent or a close relative and does not have parental responsibility (Children Act, 1989).

This includes children and young people who stay away from their family for a period of 28 days or more for summer or language schools.

A private foster carer becomes responsible for day to day care which promotes the safety and welfare of the fostered child. However, overarching responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of a privately fostered child remains with the parent or person with parental responsibility.

What it isn't...

- When a child is looked after by the Local Authority
- When a child lives with someone who isn't their parent, but the person they live with has been granted parental responsibility
- When a child lives with a close relative (as defined by the Children Act, 1989). This includes a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of full or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership), or step parent

What do I need to do if I become aware of a child living in a private fostering arrangement or a situation where it is planned for a child to move into a private fostering arrangement?

Follow Tri X Pan Manchester Safeguarding procedures which are accessed via Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Partnership website rbscp.org

There is a legal obligation to inform children's services of the arrangement.

Children's services are then required to satisfy themselves that these arrangements are safe and meet the needs of the child.

Consent from involved parties is not required; however they should be advised that you will be making the notification.

Within Rochdale this would be via contacting the EHASH (Early Help and Safeguarding Hub)

 **0300 303 0440**

What if I am unsure whether this is a private fostering arrangement?

Contact the EHASH (Early Help and Safeguarding Hub)

 **0300 303 0440** for further advice

You should also contact EHASH if you are concerned about a child or believe a child is at risk of harm.