Bolton Safeguarding Children

Bolton Vision

Explaining private fostering

A guide for children and young people

What is private fostering?

Sometimes families – mums, dads or very close relatives - ask someone else to look after their children. If this is for more that 28 days it is called Private Fostering. The person who looks after them is called a Private Foster Carer. The Private Foster carer could be a:

- cousin
- neighbour
- family friend
- child's friend's parents

What does it mean?

A private foster carer is responsible for the child they are looking after. They will look after the child the same way their mum and dad would – making sure they go to school, take part in fun activities and go the doctors when they need to.

Why are children privately fostered?

There are many reasons why children go to live with a private foster carer, this could be:

- If their mum and dad are ill, need to go away to work or study and cannot look after their child they may ask a neighbour or friend to look after their child for a while

- If their mum and dad have sent their live in England so they can go to school here or need to go to hospital and they are living with a new family

If a child has fallen out with their mum and dad and decides to live with a friends family or a neighbour

What should I do if I think I am living with a private foster carer or if I think someone I know is living with a private foster carer?

There are lots of children in Bolton being Privately Fostered , but many do not know that they are. It is important that other people know about it (your parent, teacher, council) as we want to make sure that you or your friend are being looked after properly by the private foster carer.

You should tell your parent, teacher or any other adult you trust if you think you are being privately fostered or you think you know someone who might be privately fostered.

They should then let Bolton Council know If you want to you can also contact the council yourself by phoning **01204 337479** or **emailing boltonsafeguardingchildren@bolton.gov.uk**