



Are you caring for  
someone else's child?

This could be Private Fostering

Private foster carers are entitled to advice  
and support. If you have not yet notified  
the local authority, please do.

Phone: (020) 8871 6622 or visit: [www.wscb.org.uk](http://www.wscb.org.uk)

# What is Private Fostering?

Private Fostering is when a child aged under 16 years (or under 18 if disabled) is cared for on a full time basis, by an adult who is not their parent or an immediate relative, for a period of 28 days or more. This is a private arrangement made between the parent and the carer.

## Examples of private fostering include:

- Children and young people living apart from their families.
- Children living with family friends whilst a parent is in hospital.
- Children with parents overseas.
- Children living with host families due to family breakdown.
- Children on study exchange arrangements.

## Children are privately fostered if:

they are living with extended family, great aunts or uncles, cousin, former cohabitee of a parent or a non relative.

## Children are NOT privately fostered if:

they are living with a relative as defined by The Children Act: parent, grandparent, step parent, sibling, uncle, aunt, by full or half relation or by marriage.

## If you are a parent or carer

You must tell Children's Services at least six weeks before the arrangement begins, that you intend to privately foster a child. If however the arrangement is made in an emergency, then you must tell Children's Services within 48 hours, **this is now law**.

## Contacting Children's Services

For further advice or information about private fostering, please contact Children's Services between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday

**phone:** (020) 8871 6622

**visit:** [www.wscb.org.uk](http://www.wscb.org.uk)

**email:** [IPOC@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:IPOC@wandsworth.gov.uk)

**Initial Point of Contact, Children's Services, 2nd Floor, Town Hall Extension,  
Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU**