



# PRIVATE FOSTERING

## A guide for young people



city & hackney  
safeguarding  
children board



CITY  
OF  
LONDON

# What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when you are under the age of 16 (or 18 if you have a disability) and you live with an adult (private foster carer) who is not your parent or a close relative such as a grandparent, aunt or uncle. Your mum or dad will have agreed that this person can look after you if they are unable to take care of you themselves.

If you are living with a private foster carer, your parents and the private foster carer must tell the City of London's Children's Services that you are living with someone who is not your parent or close relative.

## The local authority's responsibility to you

The City of London has a legal duty to ensure that every child living in the City is well cared for and safeguarded from harm. We need to know which children are being privately fostered so that we can check on their safety and wellbeing.

Once we know that you are privately fostered we will send a social worker to see you in the private carer's home to make sure that you are safe, well, and happy living with your foster carers. The social worker will talk to private foster carers and offer any help or support they may need. The social worker will also get in touch with your parents to make sure they know you are being well looked after.

The social worker will visit you at least every six weeks during your first year in private foster care. Afterwards they will visit every three months but you can ask to see the social worker at any time if you have something you want to talk about. If you or your social worker are not happy with the arrangement, and there are concerns that you are not safe or being properly looked after, we have the power to end the arrangement.

**Remember:** Your parents or close relatives are still legally responsible for you while you are living with private foster carers. This means that they should still be involved in all the important decisions about your life.

## What will living with private foster carers be like?

Private foster carers should look after you as if you were their own child. They must do all the everyday things for you that parents do for their own children such as:

- Making sure you are well cared for, including regular meals, warm clean clothes and your own bed.
- Making sure you go to school
- Taking you to the doctor or the hospital if you are sick or injured.
- Taking you to the dentist so your teeth are looked after properly.
- Making sure you have the chance to make friends and to enjoy sports and hobbies that you like.
- Helping you follow your religion and the customs important to you and your family.

Your parents will be able to help your private foster carers understand the things that are important to you by talking with them.

## What if I'm not happy or if I have a problem?

Sometimes you might feel sad or unhappy about being privately fostered. Children and young people who live away from home often miss their parents and friends. However, if you have a problem, or are not happy where you are living, talk to your social worker about your concerns. They will be able to answer most of your questions straight away or can find out the answers for you.

Don't worry if you find it hard to talk to your social worker about the things that are worrying you. The most important thing is that you have someone you trust that you can talk to. You may find it easier to talk to someone you see every day, like a teacher.

There are also a number of national organisations that can give you support and advice. You can find these on the City of London's FYI Directory: [www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk)



## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TEAM

020 7323 3621

Out of hours: 020 8356 2710

[dccsdutyf&ypteam@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:dccsdutyf&ypteam@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

Department of Community and Children's  
Services

City of London Corporation

PO Box 270, Guildhall

London EC2P 2EJ