

ARE YOU BEING CARED FOR BY SOMEONE ELSE

A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO PRIVATE FOSTERING



www.fosteringrotherham.com

ARE YOU BEING CARED FOR BY SOMEONE ELSE

A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO PRIVATE FOSTERING

You are in a private fostering arrangement if you are under the age of 16, or 18 if you are registered disabled, and you are cared for by someone other than your parents or close relative for a period of 28 days or more.

If you think you are living in a private fostering arrangement your carer must notify Rotherham Council Children's Services on 01709 822532 or email: fosteringduty@rotherham.gov.uk

What support will Rotherham Council provide me?

The law states that Rotherham Council needs to know who is looking after you and where you are living to make sure that you are safe, happy and are being properly cared for. It is an offence not to inform the Council of a private fostering arrangement.

When we hear about a private fostering agreement, we will arrange for a social worker to carry out an assessment of your carer and the environment in which you live.

You will then be allocated your own social worker who will come and see you every six weeks to ensure that you are happy in the home you are living in and you feel safe. They will also provide you with their contact number so you can ring them if you need to. If possible, your parents will also be contacted.

What should my private foster carer do for me?

Whilst you are living in a private fostering arrangement, your carer should provide you with your day-to-day needs, for example:

- ensure that your health needs are taken care of
- make sure that you go to school
- take you to the dentist
- help you stay in touch with your family
- help you follow any religions and customs that are important to you
- provide you with regular meals
- make sure that you have a chance to make friends and take part in activities that are important to you and that you enjoy

What should my private foster carer not do?

Your foster carer should not:

- change your name
- take you overseas without the agreement of your parents
- move you to another family without arranging this with your parents or informing us
- change your school without your parents' permission

Remember! Your parents are still responsible for you and they will make all important decisions about you and what happens to you.

What do I do if I have problems with my private foster care arrangements?

You can contact your allocated social worker and ask to speak with them to discuss any problems that you may have. If you are unable to contact your social worker, or have yet to be allocated one and you are concerned about your safety and welfare you can contact any of the following organisations who will be able to help you:

Rotherham Council's Children's Services

01709 822532

fosteringduty@rotherham.gov.uk

ChildLine

0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC

0800 800 5000

help@nspcc.org.uk

Contact us

Tel: 01709 822532 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm)

Out of hours service: 01709 336080

(Monday to Friday 5.30pm onwards / weekends 9am onwards)

Email: fosteringduty@rotherham.gov.uk

Fostering Service

Floor 1, Wing C

Riverside House

Main Street

Rotherham

S60 1AS

www.fosteringrotherham.com