## What do I need to do?

**You should notify Cumbria Children's Services that your child(ren) have gone to live with someone else, and who that person is.**

Then a social worker should visit your child in the first seven days, and check that the arrangements are suitable. This involves making enquiries about the carers and their suitability to meet a child's needs.

They can also help with other support including:

- Advice on claiming benefits and possible funding for some essential items;
- Parenting support and advice;
- Help in bringing families in crisis back together.

### For more information or to tell us of a private fostering arrangement...

**Call 0333 240 1727**
**or visit www.cumbria.gov.uk/privatefostering**

**My social worker:** _____

**Tel number:** _____

If you require this document in another format (eg CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 0333 240 1727.

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 0333 240 1727 এ টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，
请致电 0333 240 1727

**Jeigu norėtumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba, skambinkite telefonu** 0333 240 1727

**W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę zatelefonować pod numer** 0333 240 1727

**Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua, telefone para o** 0333 240 1727

**Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen** 0333 240 1727 **maralı telefonu arayınız**

Job 21132

Cumbria County Council

# Are your looking after someone else's child?

**Register with us and see what support we can offer**

## What is private fostering?

If you are looking after someone else's child for 28 days or more, and this has not been arranged formally by Cumbria Children's Services, then this could be a 'Private Fostering Arrangement'.

A 'Private Foster Carer' is someone who is looking after your child and who is not a close relative (such as your parents, or your adult sister or brother) and who is not paid, unless by you. Step parents are treated as close relatives if they are married to the parent. Brothers and sisters-in-law can be classed as close relatives too.

## Why are children privately fostered?

Children will usually live with a private foster carer because their parents or the person who they usually live with cannot look after them for a while. Often, children in private foster care are able to live with a relative or a friend who they already know. A private fostering arrangement might happen for a number of reasons.

## Make a compliment, comment or complaint

You can make a compliment, comment or complaint about the service you receive on **0800 121 8800**. If you require support we have an independent advocacy service contactable on **0300 330 3131.**

## Who else needs to know?

Not everyone needs to know that a child is being privately fostered – but Cumbria Children's Services, your child's school, and your doctor do need to know, and anyone else you want to tell.

## What else does the social worker need to do?

Your social worker should advise you if they believe that the new arrangements are not suitable for the child, so that you can make better plans for the child. They can help you to come to a written agreement with their parents to cover essential matters to do with the child's care. The social worker will visit the child every six weeks after the first visit, for the first year, and more frequently if the child wants them to.

## Are there any time limits?

If the child is staying away from home with someone other than close relatives for less than 27 days then these rules don't apply to you. If the child is over 16 then they don't apply either, unless he or she has a disability.

**It is an offence not to notify the local council of a private fostering arrangement.**

## What about my rights?

The parents of the child will continue to have parental rights, and responsibility for the child(ren). This means that you must provide as much information as possible, and work out an agreement with them.

## What if there's a problem?

If there's a problem, you should tell the child's social worker. There is a space on the back of this leaflet for their name and telephone number.

## If there are any changes?

If you change your address, or if the child(ren) move back home or somewhere else, you should let the social worker know as soon as possible - ideally six weeks before it happens.