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.**

What should my private foster carer do?

While you are living with your private foster carer they are responsible for your day-to-day care such as:

- Making sure you are well cared for i.e. regular meals, warm clean clothes, own bed;
- Make sure you go to school so you can learn;
- Take you to the doctor or the hospital if you are sick or injured, or if you need vaccinations;
- Take you to the dentist so your teeth are looked after properly;
- Make sure you have the chance to make friends and to enjoy sports and hobbies that you like;
- Help you stay in touch with your family
- Help you follow your religion; and customs that are important to you and your family.

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 রে 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 you being looked after by someone else?

Register with us and see what support we can offer

If you are being cared for by someone else other than your parent you may be being privately fostered.

What is private fostering?

If you are under the age of 16 (18 if you're disabled) and your parent(s) have asked someone who is not your relative to look after you for 28 days or more, you may be privately fostered.

The person who looks after you is called a private foster carer. In this situation a relative is a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt. They can also be related to you by marriage so this includes step parents. Someone living with your mother or father, or a great aunt, great uncle or cousin doesn't qualify as a relative in this case.

What should happen?

Your parents or private foster carer should tell Cumbria Children's Services who is looking after you and where you will be living.

Once we know that you are privately fostered a social worker will come to see you. The social worker will make sure that you are happy living with your private foster carers and will want to talk to you to make sure that you are okay. They will also want to see that where you are living is suitable and you are getting the support you need.

Why are children privately fostered?

Children will usually live with private foster carers 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.

What else will the social worker do?

The social worker will visit you at least every six weeks, in the first year that you live with private foster carers. After the first year, the social worker will visit every 3 months, but you can ask to see the social worker if you have something you want to talk to them about.

The social worker will talk to private foster carers to see if they need any help or support. They will also get in touch with your parent(s) to make sure they know you are being well looked after in the private foster home.

Is there anything a private foster carer must not do?

You are still the child of your own parents.

Your private foster carer must not:

- Change your name
- Change your school
- Move you to another family
- Take you to another part of this country
- Take you overseas to another country without telling your parents and asking their permission

If you need serious medical treatment, your own parents have to agree to this – unless it is an emergency and your parents cannot be contacted quickly enough. Then a doctor will decide what to do.

What if there's a problem?

If you are worried, unhappy or have been hurt tell an adult that you can trust, your parents, your teacher or your social worker. There is a space on the back of this leaflet for your social worker's name and telephone number.