

## Contact Us

To register a private fostering arrangement and to access the support available to you please contact:

MARAT  
(Multi-Agency Referral and Assessment Team)  
Trafford Town Hall  
Talbot Road  
Stretford  
Manchester M32 0TH

Email: [marat@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:marat@trafford.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 0161 912 5125



# WHAT IS PRIVATE FOSTERING?

A GUIDE FOR CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

## What is private fostering?

Sometimes a Mum or Dad will ask someone to look after their child for a while.

If they are under 16 or under 18 and disabled and stay with a person who is not a close relative (grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt or step-parent) for 28 days or more the law states that this is called **private fostering**. The person who looks after them is a **private foster carer**.

### What should a private foster carer do for a child?

While someone is living with private foster carers they should be looked after as if they were the carer's own child.

They must do all the everyday things for them that parents do for their own children:

- Give them regular meals
- Take them to the doctors when they are ill
- Help them stay in touch with their family
- Help them follow their religion and customs

### What shouldn't a private foster carer do for them?

- Change their name
- Change their school
- Take them to another country
- Move them to another family

### If the child is unhappy while being privately fostered

They can contact Trafford Children's Rights Service on 0161 912 5094. They will help them get it sorted out.

### What happens if someone is being privately fostered?

Trafford's social workers need to be told if someone is being privately fostered.

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## What happens next?

After the Local Authority have been told of the private fostering arrangement, the child will be given a social worker who will come out every so often and check that they are being well cared for.

This will also give them the opportunity to talk to somebody about anything that is worrying them.

### Does this mean they are in care?

No. When someone is privately fostered it means their parents or a very close relative, rather than social workers, choose the place where they live.

But even if their parents have chosen the place they will live, their private foster carer and their parents must still follow rules and laws to make sure they are safe and well cared for.

## Why might someone be privately fostered?

Their parent/guardian may be ill and unable to take care of them as they usually do.

They may have a new partner who the child doesn't get on with. They might stay with a friend or neighbour until the problem is sorted out.

They may come to this country with their parent/s who are unable to find somewhere for all the family to stay. They might then stay with a distant family member until this can be arranged.

They might be having other problems at home. They then might stay with another family member or family friend until the problems have been sorted.

### What isn't private fostering?

If the person is a close relative (i.e. aunt or uncle or grandparent) this is NOT private fostering. If the arrangements are made by the Local Authority then it is NOT private fostering.

### Who is responsible for them?

If they have a private foster carer their parents or parent are still responsible for them. This means that their private foster carer will look after them but they are still their parent's child and they are still responsible for them.

