

# Private fostering

## Is your child living with another family or are you looking after someone else's child?

By law, Children and Young People's Services must be told about all private fostering situations.

Private fostering is when a child, or young person under 16 years old (or 18 if they have a disability) is looked after for 28 days or more by someone who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility. Close relatives include parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

It is not private fostering if the arrangement was made by Children and Young People's Services or if the person looking after the child is an approved foster carer.

The child's parent(s), private foster carer and anyone else involved in the arrangement

are legally required to tell us in writing, immediately, if the arrangement has already started or is due to begin within six weeks. We will work in partnership with the child, parents and private foster carer to make sure that the best possible arrangements are in place. This includes advice on cultural, religious and linguistic needs as well as support for the child, parents and private foster carer.

**Privately fostered children are one of the largest groups of vulnerable children in the UK. Don't let them be forgotten.**

Contact the Private Fostering Team on **0845 155 1013**, email [mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk) or visit [www.devon.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.devon.gov.uk/fostering)