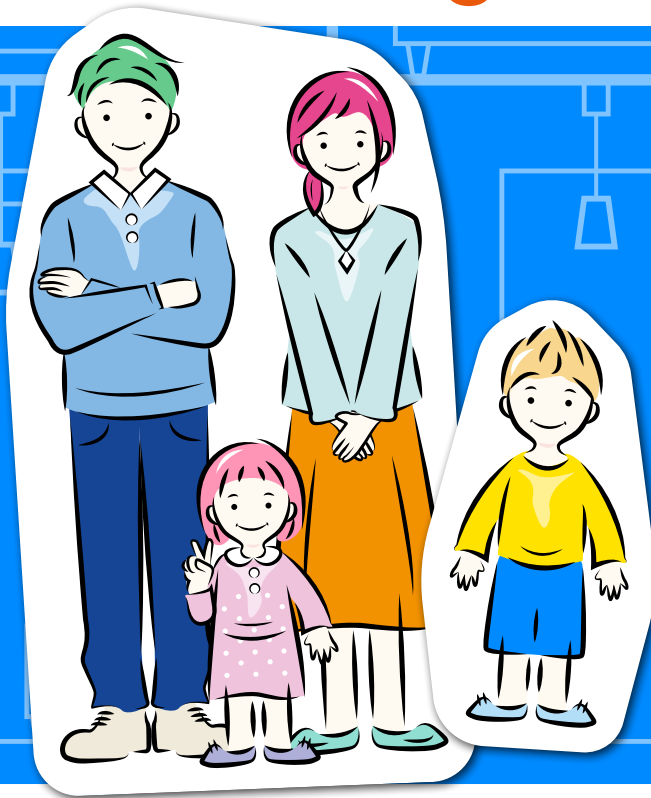


Private fostering on the Isle of Wight



Does your child live with someone who is not part of your family?

Or are you looking after someone else's child?

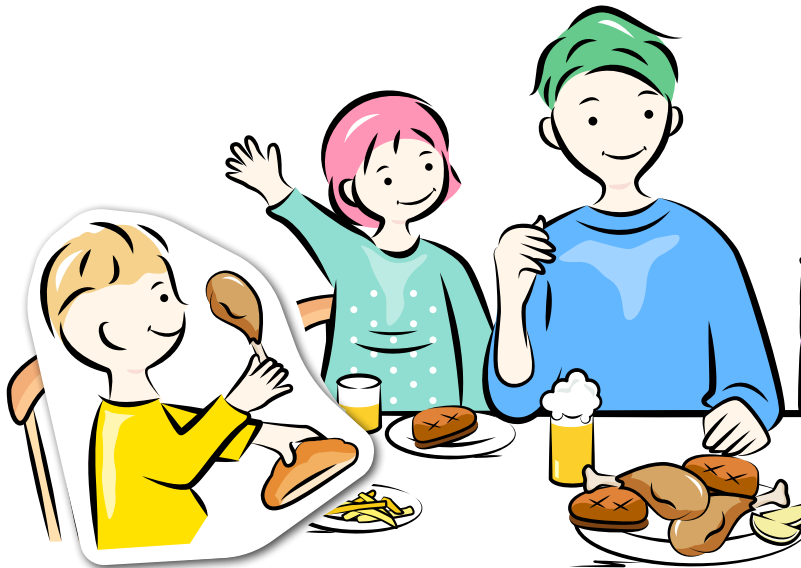
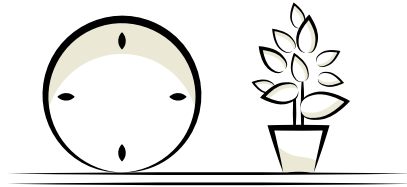
What is private fostering?

Private fostering refers to an arrangement where a child or young person under 16 years old (or under 18 if they have a disability) is looked after by someone who is not their parent or a close relative, for a period of 28 days or longer. Close relatives are defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or step-parents.

What is not considered private fostering?

The arrangement does not count as private fostering if:

- the carer is the child's legal parent;
- the carer holds parental responsibility;
- the carer is a registered foster carer and the placement was arranged by social services;
- the care lasts for fewer than 28 days.



Examples of private fostering situations

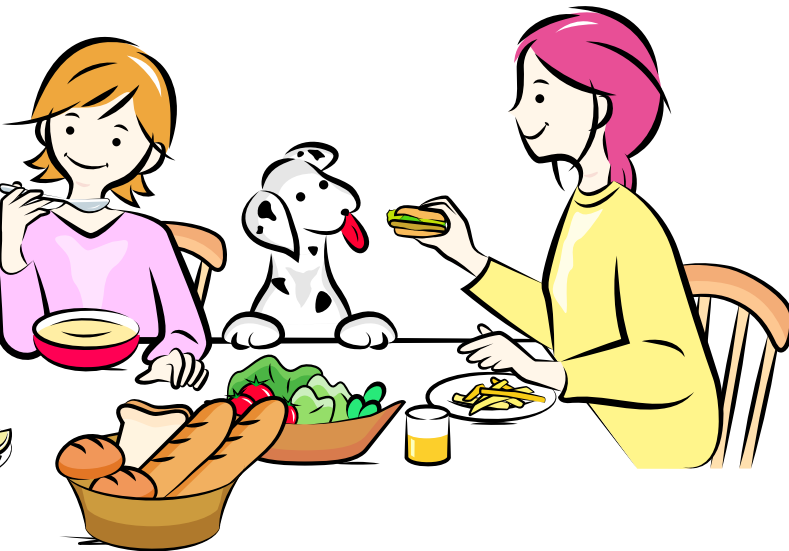
Private fostering can include a wide range of scenarios, such as:

- teenager staying with friends or living with a boyfriend or girlfriend's family;
- a younger child placed long-term with family friends due to parental illness or breakdown;
- an overseas student living with a host family for more than 28 days;
- a child from a boarding school staying with another family during school holidays;
- a child being cared for while their parents are working away from home.

The law says that the local authority must be told about all private fostering situations

The child's parents, private foster carers, or anyone else involved in the arrangement are legally required to inform children's services within the following timescales:

- At least six weeks before the child moves in with private foster carers; or
- immediately if the child is moving in less than six weeks or is already living with private foster carers.



Who else can notify the local authority about private fostering arrangements?

Anyone who comes into contact with the child and is aware that they are privately fostered has a duty to inform the local authority.

This may include:

- another family member;
- a teacher, doctor, health visitor, church leader;
- a friend or neighbour.

It is vital that arrangements for privately fostered children are assessed to ensure their suitability and that the welfare of privately fostered children is actively monitored and promoted.

By notifying children's services you will be helping to safeguard a child or young person.

If you think you know a child who is being privately fostered please contact the Isle of Wight Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on one of the following numbers:

Professionals should call 01983 823436

The public should call 01983 823435