

Private Fostering

For information about Private Fostering on the Isle of Wight, visit the [Isle of Wight Council's website](#)



What is Private Fostering?

- When a child under the age of 16 (or under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'
- A private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, lasting 28 days or more

Who could be a Private Foster Carer?

- Extended family such as a cousin or great Aunt
- Friends of the family
- Parents of a friend of the child
- Someone previously unknown to the child's family who is willing to privately foster a child

How do I notify Isle of Wight Children's Social Care?

- Members of the public can phone: 0300 300 0117
- Professionals should complete the [Inter-Agency Referral Form \(IARF\)](#)

If a Private Fostering arrangement is made, there is a [legal obligation](#) on carers and parents to notify the local authority.

They need to be sure that the child is safe, happy and healthy and offer support to you as a private foster carer when needed.