

# Private fostering information

# Are you looking after someone else's child?

## »» What is private fostering?

If you are looking after someone else's child aged under 16 (under 18, if disabled) full-time for 28 days or more, and you are not the step-parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother or sister of that child, then you may be a private foster carer.

## »» What do I have to do if I am privately fostering or my child is privately fostered?

Call the relevant local authority preferably at least six weeks before the placement begins.

## »» Why are Children's Services involved?

To help us keep children safe and support families who are looking after privately fostered children.

All parents and Private foster carers must notify the Local Council of a private fostering arrangement.

**Please remember:** if you are involved in a private fostering arrangement and you don't notify us, you are committing an offence and could risk a fine.

## »» What if I already privately foster but did not know that I had to tell Children's Services?

Please contact Children's Services immediately, you will not get into trouble and this will not be viewed negatively. Staff will be pleased to take your details and explain the first stage of the assessment process.



## Contact details

Phone: 020 8753 6600  
Fax: 020 8753 4209

Email: [Familyservices@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:Familyservices@lbhf.gov.uk)  
In person: 145 King Street Hammersmith W6 9XY