

What will South Gloucestershire Council do?

All councils are legally required to make sure that children being privately fostered are well cared for, safe and that their needs are being met. When you tell us of a private fostering arrangement we will:

- regularly visit the private foster carer and child in their home to speak to them
- speak to the parents
- provide help and advice. For example, making sure that the carer receives all the welfare benefits that they are entitled to, and help to reunite the child with their parents if it is appropriate to do so.

However, if we think that an arrangement is unsuitable and the child cannot be returned to his or her parents, we will have to act to protect the child. This might mean providing support to the carer or, in some circumstances, taking the child into care.

Unsure, call us

If you are looking after someone else's child, or your child is living away from home, or you know of a child who is not living with their family, you must tell your local authority straight away.

However if you would like to talk it through with someone first, please call:

Our Private Fostering lead on **01454 868 222**

Do you know of a child who is privately fostered?

If you know of a child who is not living with their family please don't ignore it. It is likely that everything is fine, but it is a legal requirement that you inform the local authority. If appropriate speak to the parent or carer.

Alternatively you can contact South Gloucestershire Council directly on [01454 866 000](tel:01454866000)

If you would like this information in a different format or language, please contact [01454 868 222](tel:01454868222)

Make a difference and foster with
South Gloucestershire.



Private
Fostering



**Is your child living
with someone else?
Are you looking after
someone else's child?**

Information about private fostering



What is private fostering?

Private fostering is 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. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, expected to last 28 days or more. Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or marriage/affinity).

What you must do if you are a parent of a child who is **privately fostered** or a **private foster carer**?

PARENT:

If your child is being looked after by someone who is not a close relative, and this is likely to continue for more than 28 days, the law requires you to notify your local authority.

CARER:

If you are likely to be looking after someone else's child for 28 days or more, the law requires you to notify your local authority.

To notify South Gloucestershire Council please call **01454 866000**

