

Private Fostering

Children Leaflet



Vulnerable Children and
Corporate Parenting

Walsall Safeguarding Children Board
“My Walsall, my future”



Walsall Council

PRIVATE FOSTERING - What is it?

Information for children and young people

Q. What is private fostering?

- A. Private fostering is when you are under 16 and you live with an adult who looks after you instead of your mum and dad.

The person who looks after you will not be related to you like an aunt or gran.

Your mum or dad will have agreed that the other person can look after you and may even be paying some money to help them.

Q. Why does it happen?

- A. Your mum and dad might not be able to look after you for different reasons and have to ask another adult to do that for them.

Q. What happens to me?

- A. It means you will be living in someone else's house. The law says that a social worker has to make sure that you are well looked after where you are living.

A social worker is a person who works for the local council – it is the social worker's job to check that children and young people are properly cared for.

Q. What will the social worker do?

- A. They will come and see you where you live to make sure you are happy living with the private foster carer.

They will also talk to the person looking after you to see if they need any help.

They will contact your mum or dad to make sure they know you are being looked after.

Q. Can I still see my Mum and Dad?

A. Yes. Your mum and dad and the person looking after you should sort this out and include you in making these arrangements.

Q. What if I am not happy?

A. If you are not happy where you are living you can always talk to a social worker about your worries.

The social worker will try to help make things better. They will talk to the person looking after you about your worries.

If things get really bad and you are not happy where you are, they will try to sort things out. Don't forget though, most things go very well with private fostering.

For more information

If you still have any questions about private fostering, speak to your social worker. They should give you a phone number you can contact them on, but if you are not sure you can call social services to ask for help or advice.

Initial Response Service

The Quest, 2nd floor, 139-143 Lichfield Street, Walsall WS1 1SE

Telephone: 01922 658170

If you have an emergency when our offices are closed (evenings and weekends) contact the emergency response team on 0845 111 2836.

