What will Children's Services do?

Children's services will put the child first and work with parents and carers to make sure the arrangement is right for the child.
They will make sure children are safe, happy and that your child is happy with the arrangement.

We will make sure that carers are:

- Trustworthy - they will check police records on the carer and members of the household
- Have a home that is safe for your child
- Are supported to care for your child if necessary
- Able to look after your child's physical, emotional, educational and cultural needs
- Provided with enough money from you to care for your child

Not sure if your child is privately fostered or if you are Private Fostering? Or if you think a child you know is being privately fostered then ring the numbers below to discuss your situation.

How to let Children's Services know

Please telephone the following number for Duty and Advice, 0161 770 7777.

My child is privately fostered, what should I do?

You need to let Children's Services know as soon as possible. It would be best if this was at least six weeks before your child goes to live with the private foster carer. If the arrangement are made in an emergency, you need to let them know within 48 hours.



Is someone else looking after your child?

Are you looking after someone else's child ?

Private Fostering, what is it?

If a parent decides that it is best for their child to be cared for by someone
who is not their:

- Parent or step-parent
- Grandparent
- Brother or sister
- Aunt or uncle (by blood or marriage)

If this is for more than 28 days, it is called a Private Fostering Arrangement, and the parent or carer must inform Bolton Children's Services. The 28 days doesn't have to be all in one go, it can be split over 12 months. For example,
where a child is cared for three days a week, over 12 months.

Examples of children who might be privately fostered:

- Children staying with a friend of the family or the child's friend's parents because of separation, divorce or problems at home
- Children staying with extended family such as a cousin or great aunt
- Children staying with someone unknown who is willing to care for a child
- Children sent to this country for education or health care by birth parents
living overseas
- Teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend

What else can I do?

Parents should also make sure that the carer:

- Has written and detailed information about your child
- Understands your child's routine, language, culture, diet, health needs and long-term plans
- Has enough money to cover the cost of looking after your child
- Is clear how long the arrangement will last, and most importantly, know how to contact you

If the Private Fostering Arrangement ends you must let Children's Services know within 48 hours. You should also confirm the name and address of the person who will be caring for the child and the details of that arrangement.

I am caring for someone else's child, what should I do?

You need to let children's services know as soon as possible. Ideally at least six weeks before the child comes to live with you. If the arrangement is made in an emergency, you need to let children's services know within 48, which would then initiate an assessment of suitable and support needs.

Oldham Safeguarding
Children Partnership