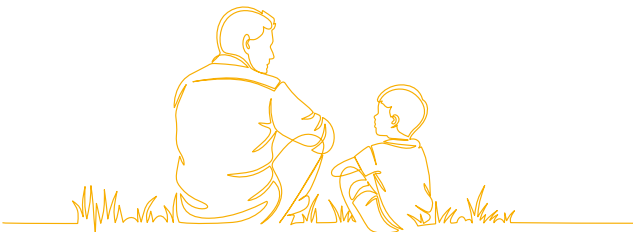




Support for birth parents

- Your child will be visited regularly by their social worker.
- You will have regular communication and updates from a social worker regarding your child's progress.
- Access to identified services during assessment to support birth parents or person with PR such as:
 - mental health;
 - education;
 - housing;
 - Telford & Wrekin Council's kinship local offer;
 - finances; and
 - benefits.



Useful contacts and links:

You can find out more information on Private Fostering at www.telford.gov.uk/fostering

Telford & Wrekin Council, Kinship Team

Email: kinshipenquiries@telford.gov.uk

Tel: 01952 380353

<https://kinship.telford.gov.uk>

Kinship

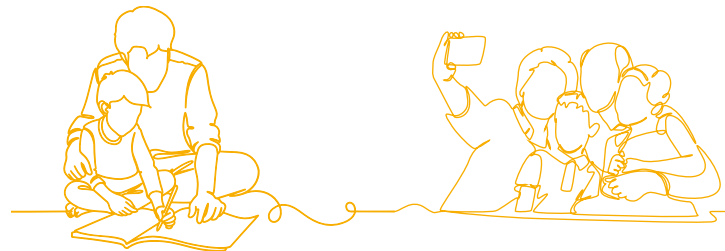
Tel: 0300 123 7015

www.kinship.org.uk

Family Connect

Tel: 01952 385385

Email: familyconnect@telford.gov.uk



kinship telford

Private Fostering

Information for birth parents



Private Fostering Information for birth parents



What is a private fostering

Private fostering is when your child is cared for by someone who isn't you or a close relative like a grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, or step-parent and the arrangement is planned to last for 28 days or more. These arrangements are made privately, without the local authority being involved at the start.

If your child is staying with someone like a cousin or great aunt/uncle, they may be considered a private foster carer under the law.

As your child's parent, you still have parental responsibility, but the person caring for them will look after their day-to-day needs, making sure they're safe, supported, and well cared for.

It's really important to let us know if your child is in a private fostering arrangement. We have a legal duty to make sure all children in these situations are living in safe and suitable environments and we're here to support you and your child every step of the way.

Assessment

If your child is being cared for by someone else under a private fostering arrangement, it's important to let Telford and Wrekin's Family Connect service know. This helps us make sure both you and your child are well supported.

Here's what happens once the arrangement is shared with us:

- A social worker will visit the private foster carers within seven days to check in and understand the arrangement.
- Over the next few weeks (up to six), the social worker will complete an assessment to make sure everything is safe and suitable. This includes routine checks with services like health, education, and the police.
- The social worker will also look at what support might be helpful and will create a plan to make sure everyone's needs are met.
- Your child will be visited regularly – at least every six weeks – so we can keep in touch and make sure they're happy and well cared for.

We understand this can be a big step, and we're here to support you throughout.

Your role in supporting your child

It is a legal requirement that Telford & Wrekin Council is informed that your child is being cared for by somebody else other than a close relative. It is a legal responsibility of everyone to report private fostering arrangements.

You should:

- notify the Council of the arrangement six weeks before the arrangement starts and within 48 hours of the arrangement starting;
- exercise parental responsibility by remaining actively involved in all the decision making regarding your child's life;
- provide the private foster carer with as much information as possible; including health records, dietary preferences, school records, hobbies, religion and ethnicity; and
- make appropriate financial arrangements with the private foster carer to cover your child's needs in the arrangement.