

- Make regular reports to the Council and Government about service quality and delivery of positive outcomes for children and families
- Undertake random spot checks and audits to see whether we are doing what we claim to be

### Access to records

Under the Data protection Act 1998 you have the right to make a written request to view all or part of records held on you by Bath & North East Somerset Council. Your social worker or local office will be able to assist you in making this request.

### What to do if you are unhappy with service?

It is your right to make a complaint and by telling us about it, this will help us make things better for you and help us to improve our services.

If you wish to make a complaint speak to your social worker or the manager or ask for a copy of the Comments, Compliments and Complaints leaflet for children and young people. You can also phone 01225 396313.

### How to get in touch with us

Phone the duty team on 01225 396313

Email [childcare\\_duty@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:childcare_duty@bathnes.gov.uk)

### Write to us at:

Children, Young People and  
Family Services Duty Team,  
Bath & North East Somerset Council,  
Lewis House, Manvers Street,  
Bath BA1 1JG.

Contact us by dropping into Council Connect at Keynsham Civic Centre, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS31 1FS and ask for the Duty Children's Social Workers.

**Remember, we are here to help. We do not want to disrupt the arrangements that you have made. We need to know about the arrangement so we can check that child/children are safe and being properly cared for. We also want to make sure that you are getting the support you need.**

**This information can be made available in other languages or formats (including large print, Braille, on CD) on request.**

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Prepared by Bath & North East Somerset Council's People and Communities and published by Bath & North East Somerset Council's Print Services, Dartmouth Avenue, Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 1AS  
DP 5664C 08/15 JM

**Bath & North East Somerset Council**

# Private Fostering Information for carers



**Are you looking after someone else's child?**

Bath & North East Somerset Council would like people who are fostering children privately to register with us and get support. Notifying the council is also a legal requirement if you are looking after someone else's child as a private foster carer.

Some parents arrange for their children to live with another family. Sometimes this is just a few days; sometimes it's for a longer time. If it is for a period of 28 continuous days or longer, it is known as private fostering and the people with whom the child lives are known as private foster carers.

Under private fostering arrangements, the law defines a child as someone who is under 16 or, if they are disabled, under 18.

The law says you must notify the Council if you are going to arrange for someone else's child to live with you or if you have already started looking after someone else's child.

If you are a private foster carer in Bath & North East Somerset, you can get support from us.

Private fostering is when a parent arranges for their child to live with and be cared for by someone who is not:

- A parent
- A close relative
- Someone who has parental responsibility

Under these arrangements, the law defines a close relative as a child's brother or sister, grandparent, step-parent, aunt and uncle. An aunt or uncle must be the sister or brother of one of the child's parents.

These arrangements have to last for a total of 28 days or more. It does not matter if the carer is paid or provides care for free – it is still regarded as private fostering. Private fostering is different from public fostering, which is arranged and paid for by the Council.

### **Registration: what happens next?**

Please ring the child care duty team on 01225 396313 or write to the address at the end of this leaflet. A social worker will be able to give you advice and will arrange for someone to come and visit you at home.

The Council has a legal duty to make sure that children who are privately fostered are protected. Once notified of an arrangement, we:

- Visit the home where the child lives and carry out some checks
- Make regular visits to make sure that the child is safe and well cared for
- Make sure that advice is available to carers
- Say whether or not we find the arrangement acceptable
- To register if we find it acceptable and then make regular visits to continue to give you advice and ensure that the child remains safe and well cared for

To ensure that we work to a high standard, we regularly review our performance to make sure we are providing the best service we can, to achieve this we:

- Consult service users and using the information to improve and plan our services