

names of the people you are living with.

What will my social worker do for me?

A social worker is someone whose job is to help children or young people and their families and this includes making sure that you are safe and being looked after properly.

You should be seen by a social worker within a week of Bath & North East Somerset Council Children's Social Care being told that you are privately fostered. After that your social worker should come and see you every six weeks.

Your social worker will talk to your private foster carer and will also want to see you on your own. This is because you can tell them about anything that is worrying you, so it is a good idea to get to know them.

How to get in touch with us

Phone the duty team on 01225 396313

Email 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.

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Private Fostering Information for young people



Are you being privately fostered?

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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, Datmouthe Avenue, Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 1AS
DP 5664C 06/15 JM

A guide for children and young people

If you need to stay with someone who is not a close relative for 28 days or longer the law calls this Private Fostering. The person who is looking after you is a private foster carer and the law says that we must be told about the arrangement as it is our job to make sure that you are looked after properly.

Why might children be privately fostered?

There can be lots of different reasons for being privately fostered. It may be that:

- You are a teenager and there are lots of arguments at home so you stay with your friend's family until the problems can be sorted out
- Your mum or dad is ill and cannot look after you so you stay with a neighbour or family friend.
- You have been sent to this country by your mum or dad who is not living here.
- You need to be cared for because your mum or dad are away or work long/unsociable hours.

- You are studying at a language school and live with a host family or guardian.

Is private fostering different from foster care?

Yes, it is different. When you are privately fostered social workers do not arrange where you live, but they do have to make sure it is safe for you. Foster Care is arranged by social workers when children can't live at home and this is called being 'Looked After' (previously called 'being in care').

What should my private foster carers do for me?

The people you live with should look after you like their own child. This includes:

- Giving you regular meals;
- making sure you have a bed of your own and clean clothes;
- making sure you go to school;
- making sure you go to the doctor or hospital if you are ill;
- making sure you go to a dentist for regular checks;

- helping you to enjoy sports and hobbies;
- helping you to stay in touch with your family;
- helping you to follow any religion or customs that are important to you.

What will my family do for me?

Your family are still legally responsible for you and should stay in contact with you. They have to give permission for certain things to happen such as:

- Changing your name
- Taking you out of the country
- Moving you to another family
- Changing your school.

Who needs to know I am privately fostered?

The law says that Bath & North East Somerset Council Children's Social Care have to be told about every child or young person who is privately fostered and living in the area. Once you are registered you will have access to a social worker. Your school should be told your new address and the