



Private Fostering

Assessment process

Family Connect



- 1 Referral** – Initial contact is made via Family Connect as Telford and Wrekin Children's Services must be notified at least six weeks before a private fostering arrangement begins, or immediately if the arrangement is due to start within a six-week period. This can be made by a parent, carer or a professional.
- 2 Home visit** – A social worker will arrange a home visit to meet the child and carer. The home environment is assessed for safety, suitability, and emotional warmth. The visit helps the Local Authority determine whether your home environment is safe, stable, and appropriate for the child.
- 3 Identity checks** – You will be asked to provide identification documents such as a passport or driving license to confirm your identity. The Local Authority will carry out a range of checks, including a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check for any household members.
- 4 Assessment** – A full Private Fostering Assessment will be completed which includes:
 - understanding the reasons for the arrangement;
 - evaluating the carer's capacity to meet the child's needs; and
 - gathering views from the child, parents, and carer.
- 5 Training and support** – You will be offered guidance as well as access to relevant training. Support is provided around parenting, safeguarding, and understanding the child's emotional and developmental needs. Information about entitlements and local services will be shared.
- 6 Permanency planning** – Discussions are held with all parties about long-term plans for the child. The child's voice is central to permanency decisions.
- 7 Visits** – The social worker will regularly visit the child a minimum of every six weeks until the child returns home or a plan of permanency is achieved. If the arrangement has been in place for over a year, visits will be every 12 weeks.