

Support for private foster carers

As a private foster carer you play a vital role and there is help available to support you every step of the way such as:

- advice on claiming benefits and exploring funding options for essential items;
- assistance with finding school places and registering the child with a GP or medical practice;
- guidance and advice to help you navigate parenting challenges;
- access to Family Hubs;
- help with accessing kinship support and the Kinship Local Offer;
- support with communication and mediation between birth parents and private foster carers if needed;
- regular visits to ensure the child's wellbeing and offer ongoing support;
- we're here for you and your family too, offering guidance and resources to help everyone adjust and thrive; and
- access to training from the fostering training manual.



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

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

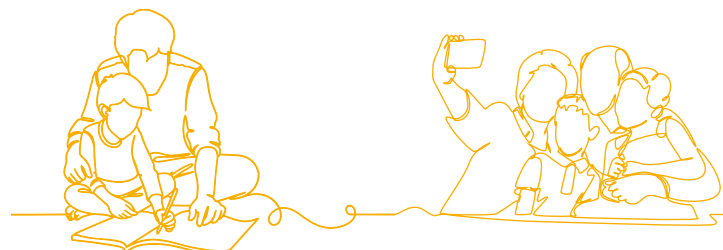
Fostering Network

www.fosteringnetwork.org.uk



kinship telford

Private Fostering



What is a private fostering?

Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 (or under 18 if they have a disability) is cared for by someone who isn't their parent or a close relative, and the arrangement is intended to last for 28 days or more.

This is a private family arrangement between a person with parental responsibility and a distant relative or friend connected to the child.

You're not considered a private foster carer if you're a grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, or step-parent. But if you're part of the child's extended family like a cousin or great aunt/uncle, you may be a private foster carer. These are considered distant relatives.

While the child's parent still has parental responsibility, you'll be responsible for their day-to-day care, making sure they're safe, supported, and well looked after.

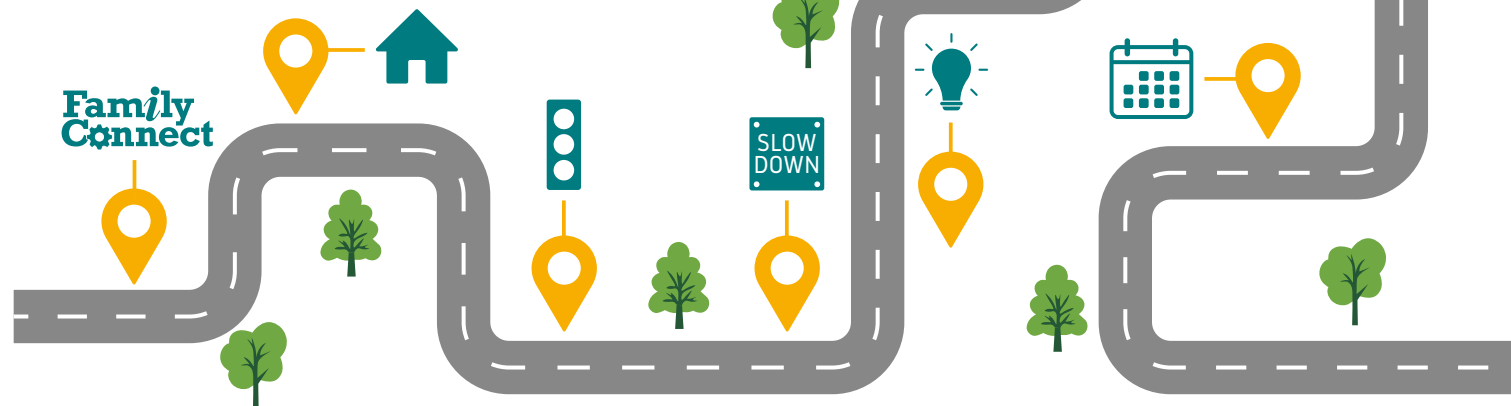
If you are privately fostering, it's really important to let us know. We have a legal duty to make sure all children in private fostering arrangements are living in safe and suitable environments and we're here to support you in doing that.

Assessment

Once a private fostering arrangement begins, it's important to let Telford and Wrekin's Family Connect service know. This helps us make sure you and the child are getting the right support. A social worker will visit the private foster carers within seven days of receiving this referral.

The social worker will complete a private fostering assessment on the private foster carers' family to make sure the arrangement is suitable. The assessment can take up to six weeks to complete and will involve safeguarding checks with agencies such as police, health and education. The social worker will identify the needs of private foster carers and the child/children and will formulate a plan of support during their involvement.

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 12 weekly.



The role of the local authority

The local authority has a duty to safeguard the well-being of privately fostered children and to ensure they are:

- safe and well looked after;
- healthy;
- receiving a proper education;
- being encouraged to reach their full potential;
- keeping in touch with people who are important to them;
- living with someone who helps them value their culture and sense of identity; and
- properly supported when they become independent.