

# What is private fostering?

Private fostering is where a child is cared for, for 28 days or more by someone who is not a close relative.



It is vital that Southwark Council is notified whenever a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if they have a disability), is being privately fostered so that we can ensure the child is being looked after properly and offer help and support to the family.

If you or your child is in a private fostering arrangement, or if you are aware of a child in a private fostering arrangement in Southwark, please notify us by emailing [MASH@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@southwark.gov.uk) or calling **020 7525 1921**.

## What is private fostering?

Private fostering can be confused with fostering but they are different as fostering is organised by a local authority.

Private fostering is arranged without the involvement of the local authority and a child is cared for, for 28 days or more by someone who is not a close relative.

Close relatives are birth parents, step-parents (by legal marriage), grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or by marriage).

Great grandparents, great aunts, great uncles and cousins are not regarded as close relatives.



**Southwark Council has a duty of care to ensure all privately fostered children are well cared for. We can also offer help and advice on any benefits the privately fostered child/ren may be entitled to.**

**Please notify us if you are privately fostering a child or are aware of any privately fostered children within Southwark.**

If you would like advice about whether you need to notify us, please call **07539 346808** or email **privatefosteringadvice@southwark.gov.uk**