

2-minute briefing

Private fostering

Are you looking after someone else's child?

Is someone else looking after your child?

If that person is not a close family member* this could be a **'Private Fostering Arrangement'**

STOP... Am I looking after someone else's child?
THINK... Is the arrangement likely to last more than 28 days?
ACT... Inform North Lincolnshire Council

For advice call **01724 297024**
www.northlincs.gov.uk/fostering

*Close relatives are defined by the Children Act, as parents, step-parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles.

North Lincolnshire Adoption & Fostering Service

The law requires you to notify North Lincolnshire Council six weeks prior to:

- Your child going to stay with someone who is not a close relative for 28 days or more; or
- You looking after someone else's child for 28 days or more

You are also required to notify the council if you know of someone in a personal or professional capacity that is privately fostering a child or young person.

For further advice and support please contact North Lincolnshire Fostering Service on 01724 297024

Who may be privately fostered?

- A child from another country sent to live in the UK with extended family,
- A child whose parents are unable to care for them due to chronic illness,
- A child living with a friend's family because they don't get on with their own family,
- A child staying with a 'host family', as part of a foreign exchange or sports tour,
- Teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend,
- Child staying with another family because their parents have separated or divorced

Signs to watch out for

- Be vigilant. Has someone else started to collect a child from school on a regular basis or has the child mentioned they are staying with someone other than a family member.
- Try and ascertain as much information as possible from either the child or adult to enable you to determine whether it is a Private Fostering arrangement (eg how long has the child been living with the adult or family, what is the relationship to the child)
- Inform your DSL as soon as possible via the normal reporting and recording procedures

Further information

[CMARS | Children, young people and families \(northlincscmars.co.uk\)](http://northlincscmars.co.uk)

www.nspcc.org.uk

Karen Hackett (School improvement officer - Safeguarding) January 2022