

How can you help us improve services?

We will need your help to continually improve our services. We will ask for your views in various ways. This may be through questionnaires and completing reviews.

How to make a complaint, suggestion or compliment?

If you would like to make a complaint, suggestion or compliment about our services please contact:

Complaints Manager

Tel: 0161 342 3535

Email: socialcarecomplaints@tameside.gov.uk

Website: www.tameside.gov.uk/complaints

Want to know more?

If you want to know more about private fostering or you think you may be acting or intend to act as a private foster carer, please contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub on: 0161 342 4101

 Tameside
Safeguarding
Children Partnership



Somebody Else's Child

Is your child living with another family?
Are you looking after someone else's child?

If the answer is
yes, this could be a
Private Fostering
arrangement.

This leaflet contains
important information
about your **Legal Rights**
and **Responsibilities**.



 **Tameside**
Metropolitan Borough



What is Private Fostering?

Most children spend some time staying in with friends and relatives. However, in some situations the arrangements can become more permanent.

Private Fostering is when a child aged under 16 years, or under 18 if they have a disability, goes to live with people who are not related to them, for 28 days or more.

A child who is Looked After or placed in any residential home, hospital or residential school (where they are receiving fulltime education) is excluded from the definition. In a private fostering arrangement, the parent retains Parental Responsibility.

However, Children under 16 who spend more than 2 weeks in a residential school during holiday time in a school, become privately fostered children for the purposes of the legislation during that holiday period.

Special rules apply so if you are looking after a child and think you could be a private foster carer, or you are the parent of a child in this situation, you must inform Services for Children and Young People.

Why involve Services for Children and Young People?

The 1989 and 2004 Children Act gives Local Authorities a legal duty to make sure that any child under 16 years, or under 18 if they have a disability, who is living for long periods with unrelated adults is:

- well looked after;
- healthy;
- receiving an education
- living with someone who can keep alive their own identity and background;
- kept in contact with people important to them;
- given encouragement to develop and grow to their full potential'
- properly supported when they move into independence

What will Services for Children and Young People do?

A Social Worker will arrange to visit the child's parents, the private foster carers and the child themselves.

They will keep in touch at regular intervals with the private foster carers, the child's parents, and the child, to make sure everything is going well.

They will offer support and guidance to carers, parents and the children, particularly in making plans for the child's future and helping the child to keep in touch with their culture and background.

The Social Worker will also offer advice on the welfare benefits the private foster carer may be entitled to.

Parent rights and responsibilities

When a child goes to live with someone else, the child's parents keep all legal rights and responsibilities. This means the parent should be:

- involved in the planning of the child's future;
- kept in touch with the child;
- involved in any decision made affecting their child;
- able to have their child home with them at any time if they wish;
- expected to financially support their child

