

Private Fostering

Parents have often made arrangements for their children to be cared for by other people for temporary periods of time. For example, young people and their parents may need a breathing space apart; children may come from abroad for their education or children may have been sent to the UK out of fear for their safety in their country of origin.

These arrangements may be called Private Fostering. The children are not in the care of the local authority but live with families by a private arrangement between their parents and their carers.

Regulations for Private Fostering

What most people don't realise is that the local authority has a duty to ensure that children who are privately fostered are being properly cared for. This is done by social workers assessing and monitoring the homes where the children are living, until the children reach the age of 16 or move back to live with their parents.

What should you do if you suspect a child is privately fostered?

If you know of, or suspect a child living in Hounslow is being privately fostered, please call Early Help Hounslow (EHH) on: **020 8583 6600** or Fostering Duty on **020 8583 3426**. By doing so you are ensuring that the privately fostered child will be visited by a social worker to ensure that they are safe and well cared for. The private foster carer will also be offered practical and financial advice and support.