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Private Fostering



What is it?

Private Fostering is when a child/young person under 16 (18 if disabled) lives with someone who is not a close relative for more than 28 days.

It is a legal requirement for parents and private foster carers to notify the Local Authority about private fostering arrangements.

Once notified, the Private Fostering Team will regularly visit the arrangement, undertake safeguarding checks and complete an assessment to ensure that the child is safeguarded and that the private foster carers are able to provide a reasonable standard of care.

How can you help?

Private Fostering Arrangements are frequently under reported, so please let us know if you become aware of one. If you are concerned about anything affecting a Private Fostering Arrangement, please contact us.

Phone: **0345 603 7627** to make a referral or visit our website: **www.essex.gov.uk/privatefostering**

The Essex Private Fostering App Went live in October 2021. Please download the App on Android or IOS.

Essex County Council