

**Privacy Notice**  
**Durham County Council**  
**Children and Young Peoples Services**  
**Fostering and Adoption**

This Privacy Notice explains how we use and share information. We will review and update this privacy notice to reflect changes in our services and feedback from service users, as well as to comply with changes in the law.

### **Who we are and what we do**

The Durham County Council Fostering and Adoption Team are responsible for managing the applications of potential foster carers and adopters. They also provide support to foster carers and adopters once their applications have been approved.

For more information see the [Durham County Council website](#).

For the purposes of Data Protection, Durham County Council is the Data Controller

### **What type of personal information do we collect and how do we collect it?**

The Council may collect and hold the following information:

- Name, address and contact details
- Date of Birth
- Family composition and relationships
- Family support network
- Personal Referees
- Other Agencies Involved
- Education Information
- Financial Information including bank details
- Police involvement/Convictions
- Housing Information
- Employment information
- NHS Number
- NI Number

We also collect the following special category data:

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Health Information such as medical assessments, medical history

We collect information about you in the following ways:

- Face to face
- By secure email
- By post
- By telephone
- From other professionals, family and referees

## **What is our lawful basis to obtain and use your personal information?**

To enable us to provide services to you it is necessary for us to use your personal information to help assess your needs and identify the most appropriate services available. To do so we will use the following legal basis for sharing your information:

- Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller

For special category data which is more sensitive information, we rely on the following:

- Health and Social Care - we use it for the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems and services

## **What is your personal information used for?**

Information will be used for the following purposes:

- Processing and assessing foster carer and adopter applications which includes carrying out background checks.
- Making recommendations to the Fostering and Adoption Panel
- Processing Foster carer and Adopter payments
- Provision of supervision and training
- Carrying out annual foster carer reviews
- Information will be used by Revenue and Benefits for Council Tax exemption

Your information may also be used to provide assurance to the Council about the quality of services provided.

## **Use of your NHS Number**

We will use this Number when communicating with health colleagues including GP's, hospitals, community matrons, district nurses and social care practitioners.

If you wish to opt-out from the use of your NHS Number for social care purposes please talk to the Fostering and Adoption Team or email [dataprotection@durham.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@durham.gov.uk)

## **Will your personal information be shared?**

We will only share relevant information about you with other services where there is a legal basis for doing so. There are a range of professionals who may be involved in providing services to you and where appropriate will be provided with relevant information about you. Agencies we may need to share information with include the following:

- Health Agencies
- Police
- Other Local Authorities
- Education Providers
- The Fostering Network
- Inland Revenue
- Ofsted

There are other times where we may need to share your information lawfully. These include:

- Where there is a serious risk of harm to you or to others
- Where there are concerns for the welfare of a child
- For the Prevention or detection of crime
- Where a court order requires us to share information

## How do we keep your information secure?

The security of your personal information is important to us. The records we keep about you are secure and are confidential within the Council. The Council have a range of procedures, policies and systems to ensure that access to your records are controlled appropriately.

Anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to only use the information for the purposes agreed and keep the information secure and confidential.

## How long will we keep your personal information?

After we deliver a service to you, we have to keep your information as a business record of what was delivered. The type of service you receive will determine how long we have to keep your information.

Currently Foster Carer and Adopter records cannot be destroyed due to independent enquiries in England and Scotland into child abuse and information will not be destroyed until 6 years after the end of the enquiries or in accordance with our normal retention schedule (whichever is later).

Our [corporate retention guidelines](#) show how long we keep information for different services. Your records will be retained in accordance with Durham County Councils records retention schedule as follows:

Adoptive Parent Records	Date of Adoption Order + 25 years
Foster Carer Records	Date Approval Terminated + 10 years; or Date of non-approval + 3 years; or Date foster carer ceased to act and authority did not terminate approval + 10 years

## Is your personal information processed outside of the European Economic Community (EEC)?

We do not process your personal data outside of the EEC

## Marketing

At no time will your information be used or passed to others for marketing or sales purposes, or for any commercial use without your express consent.

## What are your information rights?

Your Information Rights are set out in the law. Subject to some legal exceptions, you have the right to:

- have any inaccuracies corrected;
- have your personal data erased;
- place a restriction on our processing of your data;
- object to processing; and
- to request your data to be ported (data portability).

**If you wish to exercise your information rights, please contact our Data Protection Officer** at [DPO@durham.gov.uk](mailto:DPO@durham.gov.uk) or alternatively write to:

DPO,  
Floor 4 Room 143-148,  
Durham County Council  
County Hall,  
Durham  
DH1 5UF

You also have the right to request a copy of the personal information council holds about you. To do this, you can apply on line or download an application form from the [DCC website](#) or you can contact the data protection team at [dataprotection@durham.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@durham.gov.uk)

To learn more about these rights please see the [ICO website](#).

## Further Information

Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) provides help and guidance to make sure we apply the best standards to protecting your personal information. If something goes wrong with your personal information, or you have questions about how we process your data, please contact our Data Protection Officer at [DPO@durham.gov.uk](mailto:DPO@durham.gov.uk) or by calling 03000 268050

If we have not been able to deal with your complaint, you can also contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#):

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
**Telephone:** 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745  
**Fax:** 01625 524 510