

Private fostering video transcript

[Text: Mark Basley, Durham County Council Social Worker.]

[A still image of Mark is shown. At the top left of this image is a Durham County Council logo followed by the text 'What is private fostering?'. Both are visible throughout the video.]

[Mark speaks throughout the video. In the head and shoulders shot he is wearing a black shirt and is looking to the left. He is slightly tanned, has very short dark hair and is wearing dark rimmed glasses with a wide side bar. In the background the wall covered with Durham County logos.]

[Mark Basley]

Private fostering is an arrangement where a child who is under eighteen if disabled, or under sixteen is cared for and the placement intends to go on for longer than twenty-eight days.

It's also when a child is cared for by somebody who doesn't have parental responsibility.

[Text] What is not private fostering?

An aunty and uncle, grandparents, brothers and sisters, if those people were to care for the child it would not be a private fostering arrangement.

[Text] Why do I need to tell the council?

There's a legal duty for you to notify the local authority that there is a private fostering arrangement. It also enables the local authority to safeguard children.

[Text] What support is available?

The support we offer for a private fostering arrangement is quite comprehensive. There's an allocated social worker who will complete regular visits. They'll offer support to the private foster carer. They'll offer support to the child. Getting the child's views and wishes about the circumstances is important. It's also about keeping the child safe. It's about completing an assessment of the household where they are living. It's doing police checks of all relevant people living in the house where the child is.

It's to support with the agreement around education, around health, around contact with the family. It's important that they do still see their family

There's also a trainer that the private foster carer can access. I think sometimes in all its for the private foster carer to have someone to talk to, because nine times out of ten they haven't chosen this situation and they genuinely don't know what to do, so they just need that extra bit of help.

[Text] How can you identify private fostering arrangements.

If somebody else is bringing the child to school for example. Or, if somebody else is attending a parents evening. These are all questions that we need to ask.

[Text] What should I do if I think someone is being privately fostered?

If at any point you think you've identified a private foster arrangement, whether it be yourself or somebody else, always ask for advice. Phone the first contact service, phone the general Durham number and asked to be put through to the contact service. Or, visit a local One Point. Just ask the question.

[TEXT] Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/privatefostering

[End of video]