

# Private Fostering

## We'll support you

A wide range of support is available to private foster carers and the child/ren in their care.

A member of staff from Children's Services will meet with the carers to see if they can provide any help or support.

They will visit the child and family on an agreed basis and also keep in touch with the child's parents.



You can notify Orkney Islands Council's Children's Services of a private fostering arrangement by telephoning **01856 873535 ext. 2672** or emailing **social.services@orkney.gov.uk**

You can also download the Notification Form at the bottom of the private fostering webpage at **www.orkney.gov.uk/fostering** and post it to:

Children's Services, Community Social Services,  
Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall, KW15 1NY.



## What is

## Private Fostering?



[www.orkney.gov.uk](http://www.orkney.gov.uk)

# What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when a parent arranges for their child (under 16 years or under 18 if they have additional needs) to be looked after by a friend or relative for 28 days or more.



The arrangement is classed as private fostering when the adult is not a 'close' relative of the child, such as their sibling, step-parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle.



## What you must do...



- Do you have a teenager staying with you because they don't get on with their parents?
- Are you helping a family in crisis by looking after their children?
- Are you looking after a child while their parents work away from home?

Every local authority has an obligation to secure the welfare of privately fostered children under the Foster Children (Scotland) Act 1984.

Orkney Islands Council must be notified of a private fostering arrangement in Orkney at least two weeks before it starts or within seven days if it is due to a family emergency.

A worker will then make sure that the accommodation is safe and suitable and that the child will be safe with the carers.



If you are currently looking after a child, arranging for a friend to care for your child or know of a child who is being looked after by a friend or relative, please contact OIC's Children Services.