

# Power of Partnership Working. Private Fostering and Ukraine children.

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# Private Fostering

By law, anyone involved in organising a Private Fostering Arrangement must tell (NCC) Children's Services ideally twelve weeks before the arrangement begins.

If this is not possible, Children's Services need to be told by anyone who is aware of a plan for a child to move in with a Private Foster Carer. The same if a child is already living with a Private Foster Carer, and it is anticipated that they will remain there for 28 days or more. When professionals become aware that a child is being Privately Fostered they should ensure that Children's Services know about the arrangement.

# Common examples of Private Fostering arrangements are:

- A child from overseas or the UK staying with a Host family while attending sport's coaching.
- A child living with a member from their extended family such as a cousin or great aunt.
- A child staying with another family because their parent works long or unsociable hours.
- A child who was adopted in another country, where the adoption is not legally recognised in the UK.

- A child living with a friend's family due to family breakdown, arranged by the parents.

A child whose parents work away (or in armed forces) for periods of time (28 days or more).

A child from overseas staying with a host family while attending a language school.

# What is not Private Fostering

When a child is living with a close relative

i.e. their grandparents,

Aunt, Uncle, Brother, Sister

Step-parents (Whether of full blood, half blood or marriage / civil partnership).

# Key ingredients of Private Fostering

- The Children Act 1989 says that Norfolk County Council must make sure that all Privately Fostered children are safe and supported.
- To comply with this, a Social Worker will contact the Private Foster Carer to arrange a visit to see the child and assess how suitable the arrangements are for the child.
- If suitable they will be visited every 6 weeks for the duration of the arrangements and/or cease on the young person's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

When a child is living in a Private Fostering Arrangement and the Private Foster carer is assessed (by Children's Services) as 'suitable' - the parent (s) retain full parental responsibility while the Private Foster carer will not gain parental responsibility. However, the Private Foster carer is responsible for the child's health, education, social, physical and emotional needs along with facilitating, where possible, family time.

Unlike regular fostering there is no financial support available from Norfolk County Council. Financial arrangements may be made between the Private Foster Carer and the child's parents. The Private Foster Carer can also claim child benefit and child tax credits for the child when ceased to the parent.

# PF Case Studies. Is it private fostering? Yes or No?

A girl aged 16 years lives with her Dad and his partner (not married). Dad has left his partner and the home, leaving her with his ex-partner.

A girl aged 12 years has gone to stay with her Aunt while her mother is in Helleston Hospital. This is a regular occurrence.

A boy aged 13 years is living with his Dad's girlfriend whilst his Dad serves a year long, custodial sentence.

A girl aged 14 from Germany, is coming to the Steiner Language School for 2 terms and will stay with their Hosts.

A young boy of 14 years is placed with a Norwich Football Academy Host. His parents come to Norwich every weekend and he stays in a Norwich hotel with them.

A girl aged 15 goes to stay with her boyfriend's family and then refuses to return home. His family want her to leave the home as did not envisage this as a long-term arrangement. Mum wants her at home.

# Next Steps – Referral

If you are not sure if it is Private Fostering, speak to Teresa Sloan, Wendy Jones or Clea Newman.

As a professional, if the YP is already active to a Team in CS, you can refer by completing a PF Notification via LCS in Forms.

Otherwise, you need to notify Norfolk Children's Services of a PF Arrangement by calling Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) on 0344 800 8021.



# Homes for Ukraine

UK Government guidance states that all Eligible Minor applications and cases should be treated under the private fostering framework. Although in England the private fostering framework only applies to children up to 16 (or 18 for children with a disability), and where the child is not being accommodated by a parent or legal guardian (or other person with parental responsibility) or a relative (as defined in the Children Act 1989). However, given the additional vulnerability of this group of children and young people, Central Government have asked Local Authorities to carry out these assessments for all children entering the UK under this expanded scheme

# Homes for Ukraine

From Thursday 28/07/2022, the Homes For Ukraine scheme opened up for new applicants who are under 18 and not travelling with or joining their parent or legal guardian in the UK.

- The planned Sponsor must first undergo safeguarding checks by Central Government before an eligible child can begin their visa application.
- Norfolk Local Authorities will continue to undertake our pre- and post-arrival checks and ongoing monitoring of arrangements, to ensure children are being cared for appropriately and all statutory obligations are met or exceeded.
- Children classified as an Eligible Minor will be able to live in the UK for up to 3 years and access education, healthcare, benefits, employment (as appropriate under UK law) and other support.

# Thank you!

There is a task and finish group planned, which will look at whether these Practice Week sessions have improved outcomes for children and young people. If you are interested in joining this, please watch your inbox as an email will be sent to all participants asking if they would like to take part.”