



What is Private Fostering?

- When a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'.
- A private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, lasting for 28 days or more.

Who could be a Private Foster Carer?

- Extended family such as a cousin or great aunt.
 - Friends of the family.
 - Parents of a friend of the child.
- Someone previously unknown to the child's family who is willing to privately foster a child.

If a Private Fostering arrangement is made, there is a **legal obligation** on carers/parents and professionals to notify the local authority.

How do I notify East Sussex Children's Services?

Members of the public can phone 01323 464222 or email 0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk

Professionals should make a referral via the **Children's Portal**.

Children's Services will need to be sure that the child is safe, healthy and happy and can offer support to Private Foster Carers and parents where needed.