

Private Fostering

What it is....

A private fostering arrangement is one where children under the age of 16 or 18 in the case of disabled children, are cared for and provided with accommodation in the carer's own home, by a carer who is not their parent or a close relative, does not have parental responsibility for a period of 28 days or more (Children Act, 1989)

This includes children and young people who stay away from their family for a period of 28 days or more for summer or language schools. It also includes

A private foster carer becomes responsible for day to day care which promotes the safety and welfare of the fostered child. However, overarching responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of a privately fostered child remains with the parent or person with parental responsibility.

What it isn't....

When a child is Looked After by the Local Authority
When a child lives with someone who isn't their parent, but the person they live with has been granted parental responsibility
When a child lives with a close relative (as defined by the Children Act, 1989). This includes a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of full or half blood or by affinity (marriage) or civil partnership), or step parent

What do I need to do if I become aware of a child living in a Private Fostering arrangement or a situation where it is planned for a child to move into a Private Fostering arrangement?

Follow Tri X Pan Manchester Safeguarding procedures which are accessed via Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Board website www.rbscb.org

There is a legal obligation to inform Children's Services of the arrangement. Children's Services are then required to satisfy themselves that these arrangements are safe and meet the needs of the child
Consent from involved parties is not required; however they should be advised that you will be making the notification.

Within Rochdale, this would be via contacting the MASS (Multi Agency Screening Service) Tel: **0800 303 0440**

Who classed as a Close Relative?

The Children Act, 1989 defines a close relative as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of full or half blood or by affinity (marriage) or civil partnership), or step parent .

What if I am unsure whether this is a Private Fostering arrangement?

Contact the MASS (Multi Agency Screening Service) Tel: **0800 303 0440** for further advice