



Cheshire East Local
Safeguarding Children Board

Private Fostering Pathway

This policy should be read in conjunction with the
One Minute Guide for [Private Fostering](#)

Definition:- A privately fostered child as defined by the **Children Act 1989** is:

“a child who is under the age of sixteen (18 if disabled) and who is cared for, and provided with accommodation by someone **other** than:

- The child's parent
- A person who is not the child's parent but has parental responsibility or
- A relative of the child”

All professionals who come into contact with children who become aware that a child is living in a private fostering arrangement have a responsibility to:-

- **Ascertain whether the adult caring for the child has informed the Local Authority**
- **Inform the adult caring for the child that they have a responsibility to inform the Local Authority of the arrangement**



Ideally the person informing Children's Social Care of a Private Fostering Arrangement should complete the Private Fostering Notification Arrangement Form ([Appendix 7 in the procedures](#)). If this notification form does not accompany the referral, the form should be completed by the Social Worker as part of the assessment.

Professionals must contact ChECS (Cheshire East Consultation Service) to inform them of the arrangements in order for an assessment to be undertaken by an allocated Social Worker

The Social Worker will complete both a Private Foster Child Assessment and Private Foster Carer Assessment concurrently and within 35 working days of the referral/notification. All professionals have a responsibility to share information, contribute towards the assessment and to gain an understanding of the child's wishes & feelings.

The child's circumstances must be reviewed on a regular basis

A child who is privately fostered is a child in need, and the child in need plan in respect of the child should be completed in time for the first private fostering review and should be reviewed in accordance with child in need review schedules and procedures (see child in need planning review). To acknowledge the particular status of privately fostered children the private fostering review should be chaired by an independent reviewing officer.

All professionals who become aware that either the circumstances of a private fostering arrangement have changed or it has ended they must inform the allocated social worker and complete the form Appendix 8 in the procedures

When notifying the social Worker of the arrangement ending the professional must also provide details of whom care of the child has been transferred and the person relationship to the child if known.

Contact ChECS on

0300 123 5012

**if you need to talk to someone
about a potential private
fostering arrangement**



[Hyperlink to private Fostering Procedures](#)