



- **Is the child under 16 years of age? (or 18 with a disability)**
- **Has the child lived away from their family for more than 28 days?**
- **Is the child living with someone who isn't a close relative?**

If the above applies to your children, you are legally required to call Walsall Council on: **0300 555 2866**. You will be offered advice and support.

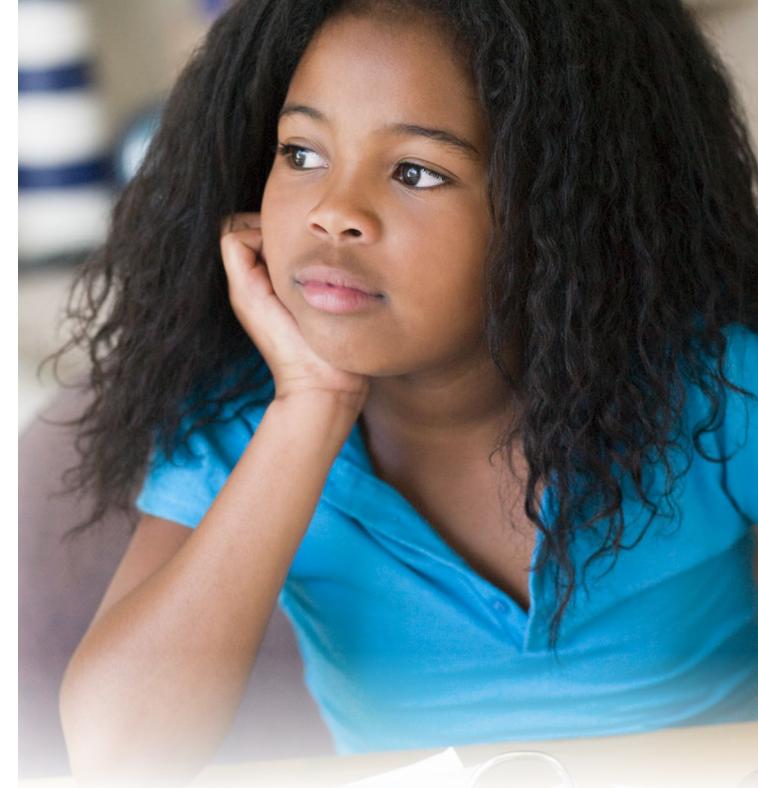
## What is Private Fostering?

- Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old (or under 18 if they have a disability) lives with someone who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility, for 28 days or more. Close relatives include parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

## Examples of Private Fostering include:

- A child whose parents are overseas
- A young person who is living with the family of their girlfriend/boyfriend
- A family friend who takes on a child due to parents experiencing life difficulties
- A child living with their friend's parents due to family arguments

**It is a legal requirement to inform Walsall Council of any private fostering arrangements.**



## Why must I inform Walsall Council?

Walsall Council must undertake an assessment of the people caring for your child to make sure it is the best placement for the child and the carers. The Council can help you fill in forms and answer questions you may have. As the parent, you are still financially responsible for your child and Walsall Council can assist in support and advice for matters such as this.