



- **The child I am caring for is under 16 years old (or 18 with a disability)**
- **The child has lived away from their family for more than 28 days**
- **I am not a close relative**

If the above applies to children you are caring for, 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 to make sure this placement is best for you and the child. By informing the Council, you will receive advice and support about certain matters e.g. financial arrangements and receiving child benefits. The Council may be able to signpost you to support networks and services.