



## What does this mean for me?

If you are being privately fostered, a social worker will visit you to make sure you are safe and well living away from your family. The social worker will make sure your parents know about the arrangement and that your private foster carers know how they should be looking after you. A social worker will visit every 6 weeks during the first year and every 3 months after this. You can ask the social worker any questions and let them know of any concerns.

## What is Private Fostering?

- If you are under 16 years old (18 with a disability) and you are or will be staying away from your family and close relatives for 28 days or more, you may be in a private fostering arrangement. Your parent(s) and the carers looking after you must notify Walsall Children's Social Care. This is to make sure you are safe and well.

## Examples of Private Fostering include:

- Your parents are overseas
- You are living with your boyfriend/ girlfriend's family
- You are living with a family friend
- You are living with one of your friends and their family

**Close relatives** include parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents and are not seen as private fostering arrangements.



## Things your private foster carer should and shouldn't do:

Your private foster carer should care for you as if you were their own child. This means they should:

- Give you regular meals
- Make sure you have warm, clean clothes
- Make sure you go to school/college
- Take you to the doctor or hospital if you are unwell and the dentist for check-ups
- Allow you to make friends and have hobbies
- Help you keep in touch with your family
- Help you follow your religion and customs that are important to you.

A private foster carer **should not** change your name, school, move you to another carer or take you out of the country without permission from your parents.