

## 7 Further Information

Sefton LSCB website has information about [Private Fostering](#)

Leaflets are available for carers, parents, professionals and young people

To raise awareness of private fostering, Sefton Council have produced [power point slides](#) which can be downloaded from Sefton LSCB website and used for presentation purposes.

## 6 Notification

The parent/carer has a legal requirement to notify the Local Authority (Children's Social Care) at least 6 weeks before the arrangement begins. You must inform Sefton Children's Social Care Tel. 0345 140 0845 and provide information about the child and the proposed arrangement.

## 5 Examples of why children may become privately fostered

- Children sent to the UK for education or health care by parents who live overseas.
- Children attending a language school in the UK.
- If the parent/s and child are in conflict.
- Teenagers who have become estranged from their parents.
- Children staying with another family due to parents divorce/separation
- Children living with a friend's family because their parent/s may be hospitalised or in custody.

# What is Private Fostering?

## 1 What is Private Fostering?

Private Fostering is an informal arrangement where a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) goes to live with someone **who is not** a family member/close relative for a period of 28 consecutive days or more.

(A close relative is defined as a grandparent, uncle, aunt, step parent or older sibling.)

## 2 Background

Since the Children Act 2004 it has been a legal responsibility for Local Authorities to recognise, monitor and support any child in their area who is being 'privately fostered'.

## 3 Why it Matters

It is believed a lot of children are living in these circumstances unrecognised which could put children at risk of abuse.

Victoria Climbié was a child brought into the UK by a distant relative who went on to abuse Victoria and cause her death.

***This was an unreported private fostering arrangement.***

## 4 Legal Requirement

Private Fostering is only legitimate if the parent has made the arrangement with the carer and the Local Authority is notified and in agreement.

By law, parents/carers must notify the Local Authority of any private fostering arrangement. The Local Authority will check that the child/ren are kept safe, well cared for (in appropriate accommodation) and happy.