

Are you living with someone else, other than your parents?

If you think you, or someone you know, is involved in a private fostering arrangement, or you need advice, please get in touch with **Croydon Children's Services Single Point of Contact** on **0208 726 6400**

For queries only - please email:
privatefostering@croydon.gov.uk

For more information visit:
croydonlcsb.org.uk/parents-carers/private-fostering

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Childline - phone 0800 11 11 (freephone)

You can ring this number and talk to a counsellor who is there to listen to you and talk through your worries. This is a free 24 hour helpline for children and young people. Or contact someone through the website - **www.childline.org.uk**

NSPCC - phone 0808 800 5000

Call this number if you are having problems at home or at school and want to talk to someone about it.

Children's Rights Director - 0800 528 0731

Find out about your rights and how to make yourself heard, or have a look at the website for children living away from home. **www.rights4me.org**

Somebody Else's Child website

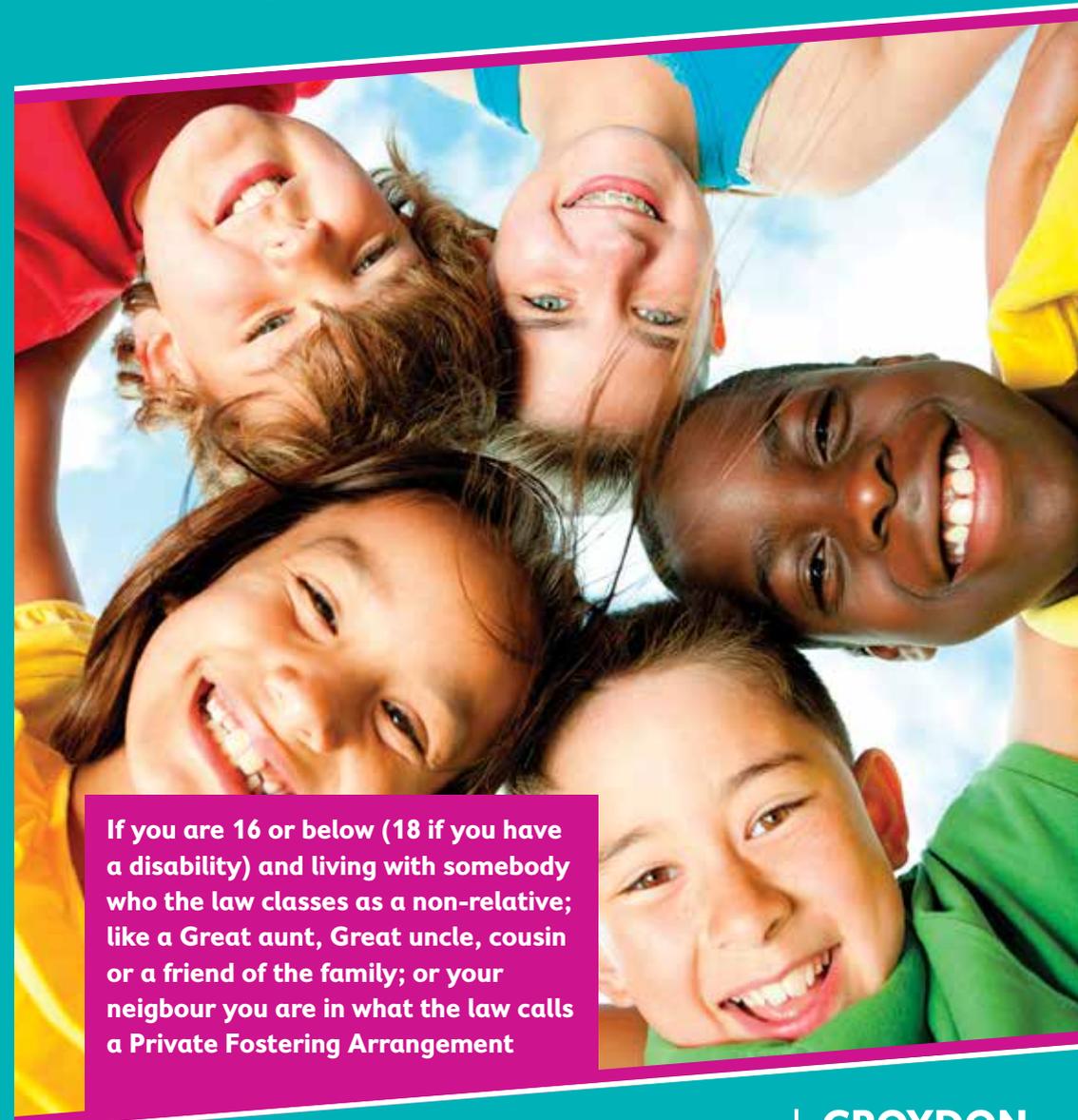
www.privatefostering.org.uk

Croydon Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Bernard Weatherill House | 8 Mint Walk | Croydon CR0 1EA



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If you are 16 or below (18 if you have a disability) and living with somebody who the law classes as a non-relative; like a Great aunt, Great uncle, cousin or a friend of the family; or your neighbour you are in what the law calls a Private Fostering Arrangement

Delivering for Croydon

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www.croydon.gov.uk

Are you living with someone who is not related to you, like a family friend, or a neighbour because.....

- ✔ You are 16 or under (18 if you have a disability) and you are not getting on with your parents. There have been lots of arguments, so you are staying with a friend and their family for a while.
- ✔ You have been brought to this country by your mum or dad to stay with an aunt or uncle that are not your mum or dad's brothers or sisters?
- ✔ Your mum or dad are in hospital or too unwell to look after you
- ✔ Your mum or dad are away for over 4 weeks or they work long/unsociable hours.
- ✔ You are an international student studying at a language school or mainstream school

If you answer yes to any of these, you are in a Private Fostering Arrangement



What is private fostering?

If you need to stay with someone who is not a close relative, like an aunt or uncle that is not your mum or dad's brother or sister for 28 days or longer the law calls this Private Fostering. The person who is looking after you is a private foster carer and the law says that Croydon Children's Social Care must be told about this arrangement, because it is our duty to keep you safe!

The law says that Croydon's Children's Social Care have to be told about every child or young person who is privately fostered and living in the borough.

When we are notified you will have a Social worker that will support you to be happy, healthy and safe!

What should I expect from my Private Foster Carer?

- To give you regular meals and clean clothes
- Make sure you have your own bed.
- Make sure that you are able to go to school
- Register you with a GP and take you to the hospital if you are really unwell
- Make sure you go to the dentist and opticians
- Help you to enjoy sports and hobbies;
- Help and encourage you to stay in touch with your family;
- Help you to follow any religion or customs that are important to you.



Will my Mum and Dad still be involved in my life? Will they be responsible for me?

Your family are still legally responsible for you and should stay in contact with you.

Your mum or dad still have to give permission for certain things to happen such as:

- Changing school
- Going on holiday
- Having serious medical treatment;

If the Private Fostering Arrangement is assessed to be safe and you and your Social Worker are happy with the care that is being provided to you; your Social Worker will continue to visit you every 6 weeks. This is to make sure that you are ok and that you are still happy with the arrangement. After the first year, your Social Worker will visit, every 12 weeks.

