

Private Fostering Communication Plan 2018

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A private fostering arrangement is essentially an arrangement between families/households, without the involvement of the Local Authority, for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if the child has a disability) by someone other than a parent or close relative (close relatives are parents, step-parents, siblings, siblings of a parent and grandparents) for 28 days or more. This is an arrangement by mutual agreement between parents and the carers.

Once a local authority becomes aware of a private fostering arrangement it has a legal duty to assess the suitability of the arrangement and must make regular visits to the child and the private foster carer. Children's services should visit and see the child alone unless this is inappropriate; they must visit the parent of the child when reasonably requested to do so. The child should be given contact details of the social worker who will be visiting him/her while s/he is being privately fostered.

The local authority also has a duty to promote awareness in the local authority area of, the requirement for them to be notified; advertise services to private foster carers and ensure that relevant advice is given to privately fostered children and their carers. There are therefore three connected but different groups who are the target of this communications plan aimed at raising awareness and improving professional practice:

- The wider public and those who might be carers,
- Organisations, working with children and families who will need to understand the requirement to notify the local authority and
- Workers who are delivering the specific duties to assess and visit private fostering arrangements.

Appendix 1

Objective:	1. To ensure that parents, carers and the wider general public understand why it is important to make the local Authority aware of private fostering arrangements, and how to notify the city council				
Action/task and priority	Audience focus	Lead	Timescale	Measure of success	Achieved
Advertising campaign, developed, making use of social media as appropriate	Parents, carers and wider public. Partner agencies	LSCB	March 2018	Increase in notifications	
Message on Coventry City Council (CCC) Twitter feed and Facebook during relaunch of the leaflet and posters	Parents, carers and wider public. Partner agencies	CCC Communications team/Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)	March 2018	Increase notifications and understanding of roles and issues	
Poster developed for council and other public buildings	Parents, carers and wider public. Partner agencies	CCC Communications	March 2018	Increase notifications and understanding of roles and issues	
Update website with relevant information on Private Fostering	Parents, carers and wider public. Partner agencies	CCC Web Team	March 2018	Increase notifications and understanding of roles and issues	

	2. For all partners and city council employees to be able to identify and refer private fostering arrangements to children's social care.				
Action/task and priority	Audience focus	Lead	Timescale	Measure of success	Achieved

Appendix 1

1) Include article in LSCB partner staff publications	Professionals working with children and families	LSCB	January 2018	Increase notifications and understanding of roles and issues	
2) Develop PowerPoint presentation for Professional training and cascade information sessions	Schools Family Hubs Strengthening Families partners LSCB partners	CCC/LSCB	January - March 2018	Increase in notifications	
3) Leaflet production and distribution	Libraries GP surgeries Family Hubs Health Hubs Schools Private Schools and language schools	LSCB	January - February 2018	Increase in notifications	

Objective:	3. For social care practitioners to understand the law, their roles and responsibilities and improve the quality of interventions				
Action/task and priority	Audience focus	Lead	Timescale	Measure of success	Achieved
Develop and deliver training on revised expectations and responsibilities	Social workers undertaking assessments, visits and reviews	CCC	January – February 2018	Improved quality of assessments and understanding of legal framework	
Update current procedures and include on TriX and intranet	Social workers undertaking assessments, visits and reviews	CCC	completed		Private Fostering procedure Updated September 2017
Feedback form for young people and carers to be consistently used to inform working practice	Children who are privately fostered	CCC	Form to be devised	Improved quality of social work practice and to inform planning	

Appendix 1

Canvas current carers on the development of a Private fostering support group	Current carers	CCC	March 2018	Feedback from carers and young people inform improved practice	
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