

For more information contact:

**Bradford Children's  
Initial Contact Point on**

**Tel: 01274 437500**

All calls charged at local rates



**This leaflet can be made available in LARGE PRINT,  
Braille, tape and other languages.  
Please contact Bradford Services to Children &  
Young People for further details on 01274 437500**

# Looking after a child who is not your own?



## If the answer is YES . . .



**Bradford District Council**

[www.bradford.gov.uk](http://www.bradford.gov.uk)

# ... you may be in a private fostering arrangement

## What is Private Fostering?

Private Fostering is when a child or young person under the age of 16 (18 if the young person has a disability) is looked after for 28 days or more by someone who is not a close relative, guardian or a person with parental responsibility. Close relatives also include step-parents, aunts and uncles.

Private Fostering is not an arrangement that has been made by Children's Care Services or an arrangement for the young person to be looked after by an approved foster carer or childminder.

## What should I do if I think I'm in a private fostering arrangement?

- You must inform Children's Care Services six weeks before the arrangement is due to start.
- You must tell us within 48 hours of the child coming to live with you, if the arrangement is made in an emergency.
- If the child already lives with you and you have not already told us, contact us immediately.
- You must tell us at least 48 hours before the child leaves your care. You also need to tell us where the child is going to live next.
- If you are a parent or the child or a person involved in, or aware of, a private fostering arrangement.
- You must tell us as soon as possible about the arrangement.

**Bradford Services to Children & Young People has a legal duty to ensure that all private fostering arrangements meet the needs of the child/young person**

## What will Bradford Services to Children & Young People do?

Bradford Services to Children & Young People will arrange to meet you to talk through the placement and to make sure the best possible arrangements are in place for the child.

### ***This will include:***

- Visiting the child and the parent where possible
- Helping to ensure the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic needs are met.
- Offering advice and information about private fostering including details of support services that are available in your area.

