

For further advice and information,  
please contact one of the following organisations:

**The Voice for the Child in Care (VCC) –**  
a national charity that speaks up for and supports  
young people. Call for free on **0808 800 5792**.

**ChildLine –**  
a free helpline for children and young people.  
Call **0800 1111** to talk about any problem.

**Hertfordshire County Council –**  
the local authority offers support and advice.  
Call **0300 123 4043**.

Your teacher, social worker or youth worker  
can also give you help and advice.



For more help and advice about the information in this leaflet,  
contact Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre on  
0300 123 4043.

If you would like help with translation or need this information  
in large print, braille or on audio tape, or if you need other help with  
this information please contact the Customer Service Centre.

**Bengali:** বাংলা, ভাষায় তথ্যাবলীর জন্য অথবা আপনার একজন দোভাষী অর্থাৎ ইন্টারপ্রিটারের দরকার হলে, অনুগ্রহ করে উপরে যে সব টেলিফোন নম্বর দেওয়া হয়েছে সেগুলোতে ফোন করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

**Chinese:** 如果需要漢語、版本，或需要口譯人員，請用上述號碼聯繫。

**Italian:** Per informazioni in italiano, o se desidera l'aiuto di un'interprete, contatti i numeri elencati in precedenza.

**Portuguese:** Para informações em português ou se precisar de uma interprete é favor telefonar para um dos números acima.

**Punjabi:** ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, ਦੇ ਹਿਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੇ ਲਈ ਜਾਂ ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰੈਟਰ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਨੰਬਰਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

**Turkish:** Sağlanan hizmetlerle ilgili bilgileri Türkçe, istiyorsanız ya da bu dillerden çevirmene gereksinim duyarsanız, lütfen yukarıdaki telefon numaralarını arayınız.

**Urdu:** اردو میں معلومات کے لئے، یا اگر آپ کو ایک انٹرپرائیڈ کی ضرورت ہے، تو براہ مہربانی اوپر دیئے ہوئے نمبروں پر رابطہ کریں۔

# Do you know someone under 16\* who is living away from their parents?

(\*or under 18 for a young person with a disability)

## Information on private fostering



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Hertfordshire County Council  
Children, Schools and Families  
County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DF

Children, Schools and Families  
0300 123 4043  
[www.hertsdirect.org/csf](http://www.hertsdirect.org/csf)





*“Dad’s not around and Mum’s been ill so her best friend is letting me stay at their house for a while”*  
– Jack, 7



*“My Mum has got a new job abroad but I want to finish school here so my best friend’s family is letting me stay with them”*  
– Ellie, 15



*“I was sent here for a better education and live with my Dad’s cousin”*  
– Sam, 13

Does this sound like a child or young person that you know? If the answer’s **Yes**, this is called private fostering and you should read on.

## What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when a child under 16 (under 18 if they’re disabled) lives with an adult who is not a close relative for 28 days or more.

There can be lots of reasons why a child doesn’t live at home and their parent has arranged for someone else to care for them. Maybe . . .

- . . . they’re living with a family friend because their parents are arguing or getting divorced*
- . . . they’ve moved in with the family of their boyfriend or girlfriend*
- . . . their parents work very late and cannot look after them*
- . . . they were sent to this country for education or health reasons and their parents live overseas*

If a child is not living with their parents or a close relative, like a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, then the law says Hertfordshire County Council must make sure that it is told about the arrangement by the person looking after the child and the child’s parent.

However, many parents and carers are not aware of this and therefore do not notify the council, even though this is against the law.

## What will the council do?

The law says that we need to be told if a child or young person isn’t living with their parents so that we can make sure that they are healthy, safe, happy and doing well.

We will arrange regular visits to check that the child or young person is being well looked after and we can also give help and advice to the carers, parents and the young person.

## What do you need to do?

If you are the parent of a child who is being looked after by someone else, or you are looking after someone else’s child you must let the council know.

The law says that we need to be told at least six weeks before the arrangement begins or, in an emergency, within 48 hours. We need to know information about the child and where they are living, who they are living with and we must also be told if the child moves and where they have moved to.

If you know of a child or young person who is not living with their parents, please contact the council’s customer service centre.

We can also give you help and advice if you are involved in a private fostering arrangement.

Please call **Hertfordshire County Council’s Customer Service Centre** on **0300 123 4043**.