

# Practitioner Guide to Undertaking Private Fostering Visits



This guidance has been written to assist in practice when undertaking private fostering visits. It is informed by:

- [One minute guide: private fostering \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/one-minute-guide-private-fostering)
- [Children Act 1989: private fostering - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/children-act-1989-private-fostering)
- [National minimum standards for private fostering - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-minimum-standards-for-private-fostering)

The key aims of the guidance are:

- Have a clear purpose to promote the welfare and protection of the child, ensure their views are heard and acted upon and that the child is seen
- To observe the overall standard of care for the child/young person
- To review the purpose and likely duration of the arrangement
- To review whether the child/young person's religious persuasion, ethnicity, culture, identity, and linguistic background are being met
- To ensure that family time with the child/young person's birth family is meeting their needs
- To ensure that the child/young person remains registered with a GP and dentist and that health care is being provided when required
- To offer advice and support to the carer, child/young person and parents or requested to ensure that the child/young person's needs are met.
- Are recorded so as an uninvolved person to the situation can understand the purpose, what happened, and how the visits have supported the child/young person

## Best Practice

### Regulation 4 Visits

Where notification of a proposal to privately foster a child has been received in advance, there are specific requirements that need to be completed in accordance with Regulation 4(1) of The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005.

The following must be completed within seven working days of the date of notification:

- Visit the address where it is proposed that the child/young person will be cared for and accommodated
- Visit and speak to the proposed private foster carer and to all members of the household and gather their details including names and dates of birth
- Visit and speak to the child/young person who will be privately fostered, where appropriate to do so. An interpreter should always be used where the child's preferred language is not English
- Speak to and, if it is practicable to do so, visit the parents of, or other person with parental responsibility for, the child/young person

## Regulation 7 visit

Where Leeds City Council receives a Notification about a child who is already being privately fostered, there is a requirement under Regulation 7(1) which must be completed within seven (7) working days:

- Visit and speak to the private foster carer and to all members of the household and gather details including names and dates of birth
- Speak to the child, alone and get their wishes and feelings about the private fostering arrangement. An interpreter should always be used where the child's preferred language is not English
- Speak to and, where practicable, visit the parents, or other person with parental responsibility for the child
- Evidence of consent by parents for the child to be privately fostered and agreement by the private foster carer must be obtained

## Subsequent visits – Regulation 8 visits

- The privately fostered child must be seen every 30 working days (6 weeks) under Regulation 8 of the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005
- The first Reg 8 visit must be completed 30 working days after the Regulation 7 visit. During the first year/12 months of the private fostering arrangements, the child must be seen every 30 working days (6 weeks). From year two (2) onwards, the child will be seen every 60 working days (12 weeks)

**All visits must be recorded on Mosaic as a Private Fostering Visit.**

About the Document			
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