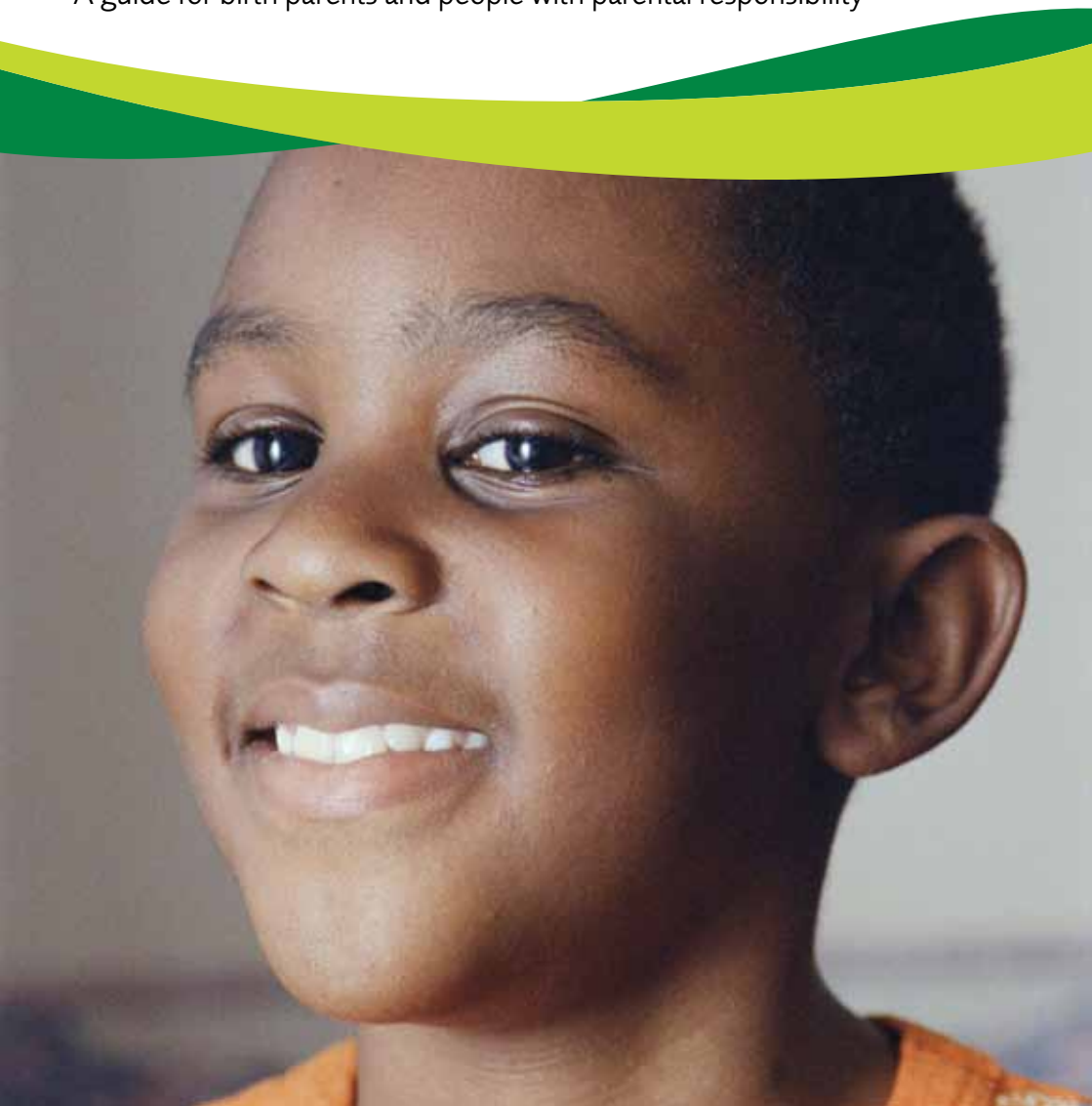


www.islington.gov.uk



Is someone else looking after your child in Islington?

A guide for birth parents and people with parental responsibility



What is private fostering?

Private fostering is an arrangement where a child or young person under the age of 16 (or under 18 if they are disabled) is looked after full time for more than 28 days by an adult who is not a close relative such as a

- friend
- cousin

The arrangement is made between the child's parents and the private foster carer whose responsibility is the day to day care of the child.



Some common examples of private fostering

Private fostering often occurs where;

- A teenager who isn't getting on with their parents goes to live with a friend's family.
- Parents pay someone to care for their children while they are away working or studying.
- Children are sent from abroad to live with other families in the UK.
- Children are sent to this country for education or health care by birth parents who live overseas.
- Children are placed with a family friend or relative as a result of parental separation, divorce, arguments at home, or a parent being hospitalised.

What should I do if I plan to place my child with a friend or extended family members? (private fostering)

Life is full of different pressures particularly when you are a parent. Sometimes these pressures lead to children being looked after away from the immediate family.

The Islington Children's Social Care Team needs to make sure that your child is safe and well when he or she is cared for by someone else. Please contact us so we can provide you help, support and advice to make the best possible arrangements for your child. Call us on **020 7527 7400**.

If your child is already living somewhere else what do I need to do?

Call us on **020 7527 7400**. We will arrange a meeting with you and the person who is looking after your child.



What support can we offer?

If you are thinking about asking someone else to look after your child then we can provide advice about the arrangement. We can also look at other options like providing you with more support like child care, school holiday activities, and family mediation to give you a break and reduce any tension in your home.

Some examples of the support we can provide are;

- A person you can talk to about the needs of your child and family
- Information on after-school, weekend and holiday activities for your child and play schemes
- Befriending and Mentoring
- Help to access legal advice, drug and alcohol services and a range of local family support services.
- We can also help you deal with difficult behaviour with your child and provide you with support when your child returns .



The next step....

Contact:

Islington Children's Social Care Referral and Advice Team
222 Upper Street
Islington
N1 1RX

Call 020 7527 7400

Open 9.00am until 5pm

A member of staff will arrange a meeting with you, your child and the person looking after them.

Legal information

As the child's parent you are legally responsible for your child and must involve yourself in the planning and decision making about the private fostering arrangement. Tell us about a private fostering arrangement 6 weeks before it is due to start. If you have already placed a child you must notify us of the arrangements immediately if the private foster carer has not already done so. You can do this by calling our Referral and Advice Team on **020 7527 7400**.

You can find out more about the legal position about private fostering on the Department of Health website at www.doh.gov.uk, the British

If you have come across a family who are considering privately fostering their child or a child who is already in a privately fostered arrangement then either telephone us on **020 7527 7400** or complete the form below and send it to;

The Referral and Advice Team 222 Upper Street Islington N1 1RX
or email cscreferrals@islington.gov.uk

Name of child/ren

Date of birth

Home (family) address

Postcode

Private fostering address

Postcode

Telephone number:

Home

Work

Mobile

Email

Signed

Date

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please contact 020 7527 2000.

Contact Islington

222 Upper Street

London N1 1XR

E contact@islington.gov.uk

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