



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Tara Geere
Assistant Director
Children's Services

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Town Hall
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Date: 25 April 2023

Dear Designated Safeguarding Lead Colleague

Re: Private Fostering and Young Carers

In line with the Children Act 1989, The Children and Families Act 2014, the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 and the Care Act 2014, we are writing to request your support in offering care and protection to children and young people who are privately fostered and living within Havering and those children who are young carers living in Havering.

Colleagues in Early Years, Schools, Colleges, Health, Housing and Social Care are usually among the first to who identify when a child may live in a private fostering arrangement. Many do not realise that this arrangement must be reported to the Local Authority's Children Services Department by law.

Private Fostering is an arrangement usually made between a parent and another adult, who is **NOT** a close relative, for a child to live with that adult for 28 consecutive days or more. This is very different from the fostering arrangements that Local Authorities arrange for children in the Local Authority's care.

Children in private fostering households need supervision and support, with their carers often needing additional advice and guidance. It is a regulatory requirement of the Local Authority to monitor these arrangements.

Please support our promotion of essential awareness raising of private fostering by distributing our '[Private Fostering: Information and Advice for professionals - 7 minute Guide](#)' to all professionals within your setting. I have included a digital link along with a PDF copy. Could you maybe put one up in your offices or have a slot at your next team meeting to raise the issue and help ensure that all potential Private Fostering arrangements are notified to Havering's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as required. Failure to notify is a criminal offence.

You are also more likely to notice when a child is supporting a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition or drug or alcohol dependency. Children may well be

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supporting a parent or caring for their siblings. Young carers are extremely vulnerable to their caring roles impacting their emotional and physical wellbeing and their prospects in education and life.

To assist us in monitoring private fostering arrangements and young carers in Havering, we request that you fill in and return the attached questionnaire to assist us to identify, safeguard and support children in Havering. We will send the questionnaires out three times a year and look forward to getting your returns in regards to private fostering and young carers in Havering.

Please return your questionnaires to tmash@havering.gov.uk. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Havering MASH at 01708 433222 or visit our webpage on [Private Fostering](#).

Yours sincerely,



Tara Geere
Assistant Director
Children's Services



Trevor Cook
Assistant Director
Education Services



Luke Burton
Director Havering Place Based Partnership
NEL ICS



Dr. N.S.Kullar
Clinical Lead
Havering Place Based
Partnership

Name of Setting	
Position of person undertaking return	

Number of private fostering arrangements previously referred to Havering Children's Services	
Number of current Private fostering arrangements known	
Have these private fostering arrangements been referred to Havering MASH? If so on what date?	
Number of Young Carers known	
Have these young carers been referred to Havering MASH for an assessment? If so on what date?	
Has the '2 minute guide to private fostering' been shared with colleagues	
Have private fostering and young carer's legislation been discussed at staff meetings? If so on what date?	

Name of person returning Questionnaire	
Date of return	

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