

IF YOU WORK WITH CHILDREN, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY:

Flintshire's invisible children: Do you know a child who is living away from home?

If a child is living away from home, they could be **at risk**.

If you know a pupil or child who is:

- Under 16 (or under 18 if they have a disability)
- Living with someone who is **not a close relative***
- Staying there for longer than 28 days

This is private fostering.

Privately fostered children are particularly vulnerable because of their invisibility to authorities. Social Services for Children are receiving a very low number of referrals for private fostering.

As a professional working with children it is your duty to inform Social Services for Children. Do not risk a child's safety.

It is the law to inform the Council, if anyone is aware of a private fostering arrangement.

If you would like to discuss a child or pupil's circumstances in confidence:

Please call Children's first contact on **01352 701000**
or email EarlyHelpHub.Enquiries@flintshire.gov.uk

We will make sure the child is safe, arrange for carers to receive medical consent for emergencies, support the child to keep in touch with their family, ensure they are attending school, give consideration to financial support for essential equipment eg. beds.

Private Fostering could be:

A child or young person from overseas staying with a UK host family for educational reasons.

A child or young person unable to live with their family due to parent's ill health or work commitments.

A teenager who has run away from home and staying with her friend's family.

* A close relative is a biological or legal member of the child's family such as grandparent, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, grandparents or step-parents with parental responsibility.