

## Are you looking after someone else's child?

### Is your child staying with someone who isn't a close relative?

If you are doing either of these things for **28 days** in total or more, this is a **private fostering arrangement**.

### What is Private Fostering?

If a child is under 16 years of age, or under 18 years if they are disabled, and is staying with someone other than a close relative for more than 28 days in total, it is a private fostering arrangement. A close relative is:

- a parent
- a biological aunt or uncle
- a grand parent
- a sibling
- a step parent by marriage or civil partnership

## If you are planning to privately foster or are already doing so you must inform City of York Council Children's Services.

In return, the council has a duty to ensure the child is safe and offer support to carers while they look after the child.

Children are privately fostered for a number of reasons:

- Separation, divorce or arguments in the child's family
- the young person is the partner of one of your own children
- For health, cultural or educational reasons

### What support will private foster carers receive?

Private foster carers will be able to access support, information and advice from City of York Council Children's Services. Social workers will make regular visits to see how the child is getting on.

### For more information contact:

Even if you are not sure you are in a private fostering arrangement, please contact York MASH on **01904 551900** or email **MASH@york.gov.uk**