Are you caring for someone else's child?

This could be Private Fostering

Private foster carers are entitled to advice and support. If you have not yet notified the local authority, please do.

Phone: (020) 8871 6622 or visit: www.wscb.org.uk
Examples of private fostering include:

- Children and young people living apart from their families.
- Children living with family friends whilst a parent is in hospital.
- Children with parents overseas.
- Children living with host families due to family breakdown.
- Children on study exchange arrangements.

Children are privately fostered if:

they are living with extended family, great aunts or uncles, cousin, former cohabitee of a parent or a non relative.

Children are NOT privately fostered if:

they are living with a relative as defined by The Children Act: parent, grandparent, step parent, sibling, uncle, aunt, by full or half relation or by marriage.

If you are a parent or carer

You must tell Children’s Services at least six weeks before the arrangement begins, that you intend to privately foster a child. If however the arrangement is made in an emergency, then you must tell Children’s Services within 48 hours, this is now law.

Contacting Children’s Services

For further advice or information about private fostering, please contact Children’s Services between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday

phone: (020) 8871 6622
visit: www.wscb.org.uk
email: IPOC@wandsworth.gov.uk

Initial Point of Contact, Children’s Services, 2nd Floor, Town Hall Extension, Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU