

Policy and Procedure Statement

This document provides the policy framework and procedures for Bristol City Council to fulfil its duties and functions in relation to private fostering. The legislation is the Children Act 1989 and the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005. The document aims to fulfil the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering. This framework supports the safeguarding of children who will be, or are, privately fostered by raising awareness of these children and their needs, and providing clear guidance to professionals working with them, carers looking after or considering looking after them, and parents or those with parental responsibility who make arrangements for children to be privately fostered.

Responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child or young person is retained by the parent or person with parental responsibility while the private foster carer becomes responsible for the day to day care of the child. The local authority role is to ensure that the welfare of the child is satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted, taking account of all their needs, including education, health, language, religious, racial and cultural background.

This document therefore sets out the duties and responsibilities of Bristol City Council in order to legally define privately fostered children; how duties and functions will operate to ensure that relevant staff and other agencies are aware of their role; and identifies specifically who carries out which role including providing advice, assessment and decision making and monitoring.