NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
www.nelincs.gov.uk

7th April 2025

Dear Sir / Madam

**Private Fostering – awareness raising**

I am writing in relation to children who may be privately fostered in North East Lincolnshire. As you will likely be aware, private fostering is an arrangement for a child to live with a carer where the decision reached to do this is directly between parents and the carer, and where the carer is not closely related to the child.

A close relative is defined in the legislation as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, step-parent, brother or sister. Put simply: where a child is cared for by someone who is not their close relative for more than 28 days, and where this arrangement has been made directly between the parents and carers, they are experiencing private fostering.

When children are privately fostered, the local authority has certain duties to undertake to identify whether children are safe and whether their needs can be met with the carers. Here in North East Lincolnshire Council, we would like to raise awareness of private fostering among professionals working with children and in our communities, so as to ensure that we can support children in these circumstances.

It is important for all professionals who are working with children to be mindful of the need to refer children experiencing private fostering to the local authority.

Please find attached a poster and some leaflets that can be used within your setting to raise awareness. The leaflets are likely to be helpful if you are considering making a referral, to share with parents or potential private foster carers to explain why you are doing so.

We held a face to face session with Head Teachers on the 6th March 2025 and we will be attending the GP Safeguarding and Primary Care Forum on the 4th June 2025. If you would like me to arrange further events with your individual settings please can you let Queenie Carrie know via email queenie.carrie@nelincs.gov.uk and we can arrange this so that the information about this group of children can be shared with your staff.

If you are aware, now, of a child who is privately fostered, please call our integrated front door on 01472 326292 for a discussion.

Yours sincerely

A. Matson

Ann-Marie Matson
Director of Children's Services