

# NEWHAM PRIVATE FOSTERING AWARENESS RAISING WEEK

(13<sup>th</sup> to 17 July 2020)

## What is Private Fostering?

Private Fostering Arrangement is when a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if disabled) is cared by someone who is NOT their parent, legal guardian or a 'close relative' for **28 days or more**. CA '89. 'Close relatives' are defined as, grandparents, brothers, sisters, biological uncles or aunts and step-parents (whether of full blood, half blood or by marriage /affinity). CA '89. Private Fostering Arrangement is essentially one that is made between a parent / legal guardian and a carer (without the involvement of the Local Authority). Definition of private fostering: <https://corambaaf.org.uk/fostering-adoption/kinship-care-and-private-fostering/private-fostering>.

## What is Private Fostering Awareness week?

Local Authorities across England annually dedicate a week of raising private fostering awareness. Private Fostering Week offers local authority an opportunity to highlight the vulnerability of children in private fostering arrangements who remain unreported and 'invisible' to their local authorities. In line with the Government's focus on safeguarding privately fostered children, a key objective of the national awareness week is to increase the notification levels of children in private fostering arrangements.

## Professionals within the council

Partner agencies within health, education (admissions, independent schools, language schools), housing, police, faith groups CAMHS and in other capacity who have contact with children and young people; have a legal duty to notify Children's Social Care if they suspect or become aware that a child is being cared for in a private fostering arrangement, is at risk of being trafficked, is being subjected to child exploitation, has experienced FGM, domestic servitude and forced marriage for example.

## In Newham

There are approximately **86,833** children and young people resident in Newham. However, our notification levels remain **low**. We need **YOUR HELP** to increase the notification levels and ensuring that privately fostered children in Newham are **safeguarded** and their welfare is **promoted**.

## Parents, legal guardians and carers

..have a legal duty to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement to ensure that the child and their carer is provided with advice, support and access to service provisions.

## Raise a Notification to Children's Social Care MASH TEAM

NEWHAM MASH PORTAL: [www.newham.gov.uk/mash](http://www.newham.gov.uk/mash)  
EMAIL: [MASH@newham.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@newham.gov.uk)  
MASH GOLDEN NUMBER: 0203 373 4600

THESE CHILDREN **MUST** BE '**IDENTIFIED**' AND '**NOTIFIED**' TO **CHILDRENS MASH TEAM**.

**MANY PRIVATELY FOSTERED CHILDREN REMAIN 'INVISIBLE' WHILST THEIR SAFETY, VULNERABILITIES AND NEEDS ARE 'UNDETERMINED'.**

THESE CHILDREN MAY BE LIVING WITH ADULTS WHO CLAIM TO BE '**CLOSE RELATIVES**' BUT THEIR IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD IS '**UNDETERMINED**'

## Contact Private Fostering Team with any enquiries, advice and guidance on notification protocols

Nasim Ahmed (Private Fostering Lead- [Nasim.ahmed@newham.gov.uk](mailto:Nasim.ahmed@newham.gov.uk)) and Mark Thompson (Practice Lead- [Mark.Thompson@newham.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Thompson@newham.gov.uk))