You can talk to
Childline
Telephone: 0800 11 11
Log on: childline.org.uk

To make a comment or complaint
Contact the customer service officer:
Telephone: 020 8545 3086
Email: childrensservicescomplaints@merton.gov.uk

Are you living away from home and away from your parents?

Are you under 16 years old (or under 18 years if disabled)?

Have you been there for more than 28 days?

Is the adult you live with NOT a close relative like a brother or grandparent?
If you answered YES to these questions you might be privately fostered!

.... So, what do you do next?

If you think you are a privately fostered child, talk to your carers about what you have read.

If this is difficult, then try talking to a trusted adult, such as a teacher or youth worker about what should happen.

If you have access to a computer you can get lots of information from www.privatefostering.org.uk

Your carer or an adult will need to contact the children and families social care team via the contact details on the back of this leaflet.

Why will a private fostering officer or social worker visit me?

This is to make sure that you are being looked after and kept safe. They will talk to you to find out how you are feeling and if you are happy. It is the duty of the local authority to make sure that all children and young people are cared for properly and kept safe. The private fostering officer or social worker will also speak to your mum and/or dad to make sure they know you are being properly cared for and that they are happy with how you are being looked after.

Will I still see my mum and dad?

Even though you are living with a carer you will still be able to see or speak to your mum, dad, brothers and sisters. Your mum and/or dad will have discussed with your carer about keeping in touch with you. The social worker or private fostering officer will help you keep in touch with your family.

What happens next?

The private fostering officer or social worker will visit you every six weeks to talk to you and your carer/s to make sure that you are ok. You can tell them if you are not and if there is anything bothering you. You can also phone the private fostering officer or social worker to talk to them if there is something bothering you. There is a list of phone numbers on the back of this leaflet for you to speak to someone about things that are worrying you, or if you want to ask questions.

Enquiries about private fostering

If you have any enquiries about private fostering arrangements you should contact us at:

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team
Children, Schools and Families Department
Telephone: 020 8545 4226 or 020 8545 4227
Email: childrensdayservice@merton.gov.uk