



**REF: National Private Fostering Awareness Raise WEEK
(13-17 July 2020)**

We are writing to remind you that this year's private fostering week is the week beginning the 13th to the 17th of July. In keeping with the Government's focus on safeguarding children who may be at risk of harm, the key objective of the national awareness week is to increase the notification levels of children being cared for in private fostering arrangements. This year's Safeguarding Theme is entitled **Self-Interrogation**

The National Private Fostering week is not just for raising awareness about private fostering, because raising awareness is an on-going activity, but more importantly it is a week for all professionals working with children and families to take a movement to reflect and self-interrogate about their knowledge about private fostering.

- Do I really understand what this means?
- What is the legislation underpinning Private Fostering?
- As a practitioner or organisation what actions have I/we taken to ensure that you/we notify the local authority of these arrangements?
- Do I/we understand the safeguarding implications within these private fostering arrangements which may include;
- Child Trafficking
- Child slavery
- Child sexual exploitation,
- FGM, Female Genital Mutilation and
- Forced marriages just to mention some examples.

To learn more and make a difference book for our Private fostering training on the 14th July 2020 via Webinar. Please email
Sarah.Seikegba2@croydon.gov.uk

MANY MORE 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'

Remember Safeguarding is a shared responsibility and by Working Together with partner agencies, we will ensure that every child in Croydon has the right help at the right time to keep them safe and to meet their needs, so that they achieve, thrive and reach their full potential.

What to do next?

Contact Croydon Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

Daytime hours:

(Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) 0208 726 6400 main council number

(Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) 0208 255 2888 for **urgent child protection matters** that require the same day intervention from a SPOC social worker;

SPOC Consultation:

(Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) 0208 726 6464 where professionals with safeguarding responsibilities can **consult** early help consultants or social workers in the SPOC for advice on **non-urgent** cases

Out of hours:

5pm - 9am Monday- Friday, 24 hours Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 0208 726 6400

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