

Dear carer,

North Yorkshire Children's Social Care has been notified by the Border Force at Manchester Airport, that you are caring for one of several children who are currently residing in the United Kingdom on an exchange program from Australia.

This arrangement is classed as a private fostering arrangement. Private fostering is where children and young people under the age of 16 (or 18 if disabled) are looked after by someone who is not a parent or close relative for more than 28 days. The law requires that parents and carers tell the local authority about private fostering arrangements. This includes long holiday arrangements and 'education guardians'.

North Yorkshire Children's Social Care will allocate a social worker to complete a private fostering assessment, which will assess the suitability of the carers and needs of children. Social Care must assess the suitability of all aspects of private fostering arrangements. Social Care must establish:

- that the intended duration is understood and agreed between the parent and private foster carer;
- the wishes and feelings of the child;
- that the children's physical, intellectual, emotional and social and behavioural development is appropriate and satisfactory;
- that the financial arrangements are agreed and are working;
- the private foster carers capacity to look after the child and the suitability of other members of the household and premises (DBS / CRB checks on everyone over 16 in the household);
- that arrangements have been made for the child's health including GP registration;
- the arrangements for education;
- that standards of care are understood, agreed and satisfactory;
- how day to day decisions about the child will be made; and
- contact arrangements.

This assessment is based on a nationally agreed format and should be completed within 42 working days (or the return of the DBS checks, whichever is sooner). The assessment will be completed by a Social Worker supported by a Social Worker from the Fostering Service. Where there are concerns that the child may be a child in need (where there are concerns about the health and development of the child without the provision of services) a section 17 assessment should be carried out, using the Assessment Framework materials and, if appropriate, a child in need plan drawn up and reviewed on a regular basis.

You will be contacted shortly to begin this assessment.

Yours Sincerely,

Adele Herdsman
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