



# Thousands of children across the UK are being cared for by someone under a Private Fostering arrangement.

A Private Fostering arrangement is when children are being cared for by someone who isn't a close relative for more than 28 days.

(\*Close family relative is defined as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.)

To help keep children safe and support families all parents and private foster carers must notify the local council. By not notifying us, families are missing out on essential welfare checks for the children, as well as other useful support services.

If you know of a private fostering arrangement, please contact the MASH Team on **01793 466903** or email: [swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk)

For more information search 'Private Fostering' on Swindon Borough Council's website.  
[www.swindon.gov.uk](http://www.swindon.gov.uk)