For further advice and information, please contact one of the following organisations:

**The Voice for the Child in Care (VCC)** – a national charity that speaks up for and supports young people. Call for free on **0808 800 5792**.

**ChildLine** – a free helpline for children and young people. Call **0800 1111** to talk about any problem.

**Hertfordshire County Council** – the local authority offers support and advice. Call **0300 123 4043**.

Your teacher, social worker or youth worker can also give you help and advice.

For more help and advice about the information in this leaflet, contact Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre on **0300 123 4043**.

If you would like help with translation or need this information in large print, braille or on audio tape, or if you need other help with this information please contact the Customer Service Centre.

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**Bengali**: আমাদের সেবা প্রদানকের জন্য আমরা আপনাকে কিছু সমস্যা সমাধান করতে পারেন। এটি আমাদের কর্তব্য হল আমরা আপনাকে এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে চাই।

**Chinese**: 我们需要帮助的人是您。您可以通过**0800 1111**来了解任何问题。

**Italian**: Per informazioni in italiano, o se desidera l'aiuto di un'interprete, contatti i numeri elencati in precedenza.

**Portuguese**: Para informações em português ou se precisar de uma interprete é favor telefonar para um dos números acima.

**Punjabi**: ਆਪਣੀ ਕਿੜ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੁਝਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਲਈ, ਅਕਸਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੁਝਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

**Turkish**: Sağlanan hizmetlere ilgili bilgileri Türkçe, istiyorsanız ya da bu dilinden çevirmene gereksinim duyarısanz, lütfen yukarıdaki telefon numaralarını arayınız.

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Do you know someone under 16* who is living away from their parents?

(*or under 18 for a young person with a disability)

**Information on private fostering**

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What is private fostering?

Private fostering is when a child under 16 (under 18 if they’re disabled) lives with an adult who is not a close relative for 28 days or more.

There can be lots of reasons why a child doesn’t live at home and their parent has arranged for someone else to care for them. Maybe . . .

- they’re living with a family friend because their parents are arguing or getting divorced
- they’ve moved in with the family of their boyfriend or girlfriend
- their parents work very late and cannot look after them
- they were sent to this country for education or health reasons and their parents live overseas

What do you need to do?

If you are the parent of a child who is being looked after by someone else, or you are looking after someone else’s child you must let the council know.

The law says that we need to be told at least six weeks before the arrangement begins or, in an emergency, within 48 hours. We need to know information about the child and where they are living, who they are living with and we must also be told if the child moves and where they have moved to.

If you know of a child or young person who is not living with their parents, please contact the council’s customer service centre. We can also give you help and advice if you are involved in a private fostering arrangement.

What will the council do?

The law says that we need to be told if a child or young person isn’t living with their parents so that we can make sure that they are healthy, safe, happy and doing well.

We will arrange regular visits to check that the child or young person is being well looked after and we can also give help and advice to the carers, parents and the young person.

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There can be lots of reasons why a child doesn’t live at home and their parent has arranged for someone else to care for them. Maybe . . .

If a child is not living with their parents or a close relative, like a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, then the law says Hertfordshire County Council must make sure that it is told about the arrangement by the person looking after the child and the child’s parent.

However, many parents and carers are not aware of this and therefore do not notify the council, even though this is against the law.

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