

## Private Fostering cases

Should you come across a child living in a home and being cared for by someone other than their parents or a relative like a grandparent/aunt/uncle, this could be a Private Fostering Arrangement. It is mandatory that the council should be informed of such arrangements. All Private Fostering arrangements must be registered, and many are still unregistered.

## How you should report all cases

Any cases, of whatever nature, should be first discussed with your manager, giving details of your concerns. Following this you may be asked to help refer the case to the Lead Officer for safeguarding at the council's housing department.

**Working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Wandsworth.**

WANDSWORTH  
**Safeguarding**  
CHILDREN &  
YOUNG PEOPLE

## Contacts

The contact point for further advice or passing on details of cases of concern is the Information Support Officer on **(020) 8871 6864** or **[hms@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:hms@wandsworth.gov.uk)**

The Lead Officer for Safeguarding in Wandsworth housing department can be contacted on **(020) 8871 6781**.

If a child is at immediate risk call **999**.

For out of hours emergencies call **(020) 8871 6000**.

For more information about Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board, go to **[www.wscb.org.uk](http://www.wscb.org.uk)**

Designed and produced by the Corporate Communications Unit, Wandsworth Council CS.192b (4.08)

**safeguarding  
children  
and  
promoting  
their  
welfare**

WANDSWORTH  
**Safeguarding**  
CHILDREN &  
YOUNG PEOPLE

## Your duty

All agencies and organisations working in Wandsworth have a duty under the **Children Act 2004** to safeguard all children and young people with whom they work or come into contact.

This applies to all staff, whether employed directly or contractors and also includes agencies and organisations who might not work with children and young people directly, but could come into contact through their daily duties (eg. adult mental health

workers whose clients might have children or grand-children, building contractors who are called to fix something at a property where children are living, etc.

If your contact with children and young people is only occasional or via a one-off visit to a home, you are unlikely to come across signs that a child is neglected or in danger. However if you do come across such a child, the signs of significant harm or neglect are likely to be quite striking.

## Typical cases

### Typical cases of neglect or harm that you might report:

- A child who shows obvious signs of injury beyond what might be accidentally sustained in home or school.
- A child whose parents or carers seem to be regular abusers of drugs or alcohol, and as a result the child seems to be neglected.
- A child of school age at home who seems to have no proper reason for not being at school. You may need to ask a casual question “no school today?” to check this out.

- Other significant signs of neglect or abuse, including sexual abuse or inappropriate relationships or lifestyles.

**The key to the process is to be vigilant and as objective as possible. Cases of significant harm or neglect are likely to ‘jump out at you’ as highly unusual. If you are still unsure then discuss issues with your manager before progressing with a referral.**

Where possible, and if you feel able, express your concerns to the parents/carers of the child, and explain you will need to refer the case for advice.