Private Fostering

Early Years
Sam has attended Nursery for the past six months. Her mum, Nicola, tells you that she has an exciting job opportunity in Portugal for at least the next three months. Nicola goes on to inform you that, during that time, Sam will be living with her best friend (whose child also attends Nursery). Nicola tells you that Sam is happy with these arrangements as she knows the other Mum really well.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record this, and if so where?
- What actions would you take in the longer term?
- If you felt that you needed to take further advice who would you speak to?
- Would you do anything differently if the “best friend” was not known to the nursery?

Use the advice on the “Private Fostering” website Private Fostering Information and Advice

Ensure that the parent is aware that this is private fostering and show them the information relating to this

Call ChECS to ensure that this has been reported as private fostering

Over time keep an eye on Sam to ensure she appears safe, well and happy (be aware of any changes in her behaviour/demeanour); take action if necessary
Primary:
Josh, aged 9, is talking to the Midday Assistant and tells her that he is fed up of sleeping on his aunt’s settee because it’s noisy and he can’t get to sleep properly. On being asked why he is sleeping on the settee he explains that his dad said he was being too naughty at home so he had been sent there. He is unsure how long he has been there but says that it has been for a long time.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record the incident, and if so where?
- What actions would you take in the longer term?
- If you felt that you needed further advice who would you speak to?

Check what the situation is with the parent/s (a long time to Josh may be 2 days). If the family are struggling with his behaviour suggest a CAF to ensure that all their needs are being met. If you are concerned following this discussion consult with ChECS

Use the advice on the “Private Fostering” website Private Fostering Information and Advice

Monitor Josh; provide natural opportunities for him to talk if he needs to. If he does talk to you remember: do not interrogate, ask open questions if relevant Tell me what you mean by that Explain that to me Describe that (TED)

Check that Josh is ok.
Secondary and College:
Carlos is a recent arrival to the school. On his third day he is accompanied by a woman who tells you that she is his godmother. He has come from Barcelona to live with her for six months so that he can experience an English school. She has brought with her a letter from his parent and his passport and birth certificate.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record this, and if so what and where?
- What actions should be taken in the longer term?
- If you felt that you needed to take further advice who would you speak to?

Use the advice on the “Private Fostering” website Private Fostering Information and Advice.

Ensure that the godmother is aware that this is private fostering and show her the information relating to this.

Call ChECS to ensure that this has been reported as private fostering.

Over time keep an eye on Carlos to ensure he appears safe, well and happy (be aware of any changes in his behaviour/demeanour); take action if necessary.