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For the attention of Voluntary, Community and
Faith Sector Partners

Your ref
Our ref LSCB/Priv Fostering/VCFS
Date 1 October 2008

Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Partners

Private Fostering Arrangements

As you will be aware the Children Act 2004 and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006), following on from the enquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié made the regulation of private fostering arrangements a requirement of local safeguarding children boards. This re-enforced the requirements already placed upon local authorities to regulate these arrangements.

Any parent, private foster carer or anyone else involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify the council where the child will be/is placed. Very often parents and carers are not aware of their statutory obligations and it is very often general practitioners, head teachers and other front line staff that become aware of such arrangements.

Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board require Lancashire County Council to be made aware of any such arrangements to ensure that they can meet their statutory obligations to keep children living in such circumstances safe.

If you are aware of children living under such arrangements, as defined below, you have a statutory obligation to inform Lancashire County Council as soon as practicable: -

- Private fostering is a private arrangement made between a child's parents and someone who is not a close relative to care for a child for 28 days or more; where the child lives with the carer. Close relatives are an aunt, uncle, brother, sister or grandparent but not a great aunt or uncle
- Private fostering covers arrangements made for children aged less than 16 or less than 18 if the child is disabled. It does not mean arrangements made for children who have been placed by Children's Integrated Services.

You can contact Lancashire County Council to notify a private fostering arrangement using this free phone number: 0800 195 1183

If you would like more information regarding Private Fostering you can access a dedicated website via the following link:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=3121&pageid=7440&e=e>

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Jenkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Jenkins

Manager, Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board