CARING FOR CHILDREN BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT
PRIVATE FOSTERING
KINSHIP CARE

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

1. Private Arrangement
   - Child is cared for by a relative
   - Relatives are defined in the Foster Children (S) Act 1984 as
     - Grandparents
     - Brother or Sister
     - Uncle or Aunt (by blood or marriage)
     - Unmarried father
   - Child is not a foster child
   - Child is not looked after
   - There are general child protection duties to this child in our area
   - Financial assistance limited to occasional support or funding of Residence Order application.

2. Private Fostering Arrangement
   - Child is cared for by someone other than a relative for more than 28 days
   - Child is a private foster child
   - Child is not looked after
   - Duty on carer to notify the Local Authority, but often services become aware of arrangement without formal notification
   - Local Authority duties after notification
     - To visit child and carer within 1 week, 3 monthly for first year and 6 monthly thereafter
     - To obtain medical reports on child and carer
     - To visit parent
     - To be sure that placement best meets child’s needs
   - Financial assistance limited to occasional support or funding of Residence Order application

3. Kinship Care
   - Child is cared for by relative or other person with pre-existing relationship with child
   - Carer is assessed and approved by Local Authority Kinship Panel
   - Notification is given to NHS and parent
   - Carer has contract with Local Authority
   - Child is looked after and has Care Plan
   - Care Plan is formally reviewed
   - Carer receives a Kinship Allowance
   - Some private arrangements (see 1 above) or private fostering (see 2 above) become kinship care placements over time.