

Private Fostering Compliance Policy

Policy statement

IQ Consultancy LTD recognises moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and places the highest priority on ensuring the health and safety of the students in their care.

The purpose of this policy is to provide staff with the information they need in order to secure positive outcomes for privately fostered children and reduce the risks to their welfare and safety.

This policy is based on guidance from the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering and the Children Act 1989 and ensures that **IQ Consultancy LTD** adheres to their principles.

Full details can be found on the website:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274482/national_minimum_standards_for_private_fostering.pdf

The member of staff responsible for any welfare, health and safety issues is **Kasha Handcocks** phone: +44 (0) 782444 9540.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of this document are to:

- Make sure that staff and volunteers are aware of their duties and functions in relation to private fostering;
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children privately fostered by **IQ Consultancy LTD** ;
- Clarify what advice and support private foster carers and parents of privately fostered children may receive;
- Clarify what advice and support children privately fostered should/may access so that their welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Definitions

A **privately fostered child** is defined in the Children Act 1989 as a child under the age of 16 (or under 18 if the child has disabilities) who is cared for and provided with accommodation for 28 days or more by someone who is not the child's parent, or close relative, or someone with parental responsibility. It is a private arrangement between parent and **IQ Consultancy LTD**.

Language Schools and Host Families - children attending Language Schools may meet the criteria for private fostering. Such children are usually boarded with 'host' families. If the arrangement meets the criteria for private fostering, it will be considered to be private fostering.

Holiday schemes - where 'holiday' schemes are organised and children are boarded with host families the arrangement will be treated as private fostering if the length of stay with the host family or the age of the child meets the criteria for private fostering.

Guardianship Organisations – Guardianship organisations provide "guardians" with whom children who are at boarding school can live when the school closes during the holidays and the child is unable to return to live with his/her parents. This usually applies to children whose parents are abroad and, for whatever reason, cannot have the child back with them. Where such arrangements are intended to last for more than 28 consecutive days then they should be treated as a private fostering arrangement.

Principles

IQ Consultancy LTD works to the following principles:

- Child focused** – the child's welfare, safety and needs are at the centre of the process at all times. The child's wishes and feelings will be given full consideration;
- Partnership** – all staff, volunteers and homestays will work in partnership with children parents, and other organisations to ensure that the most appropriate services are provided to meet assessed need;
- Anti-discriminatory practice** – all services provided will be free from discrimination, prejudice or racism.

Local authority role in safeguarding and promoting welfare

IQ Consultancy LTD must notify the appropriate Local Authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is to begin. Where the arrangement is to begin within six weeks, the local authority is to be informed immediately.

In order to understand the child and to care for him or her **IQ Consultancy LTD** has to require information about the child and this information should be passed on to the Local Authority when giving notification. This information should include:

- The child's history which can include the child's name, sex, date and place of birth
- Information regarding the child's health
- Eating preferences
- Education
- Religious, cultural or ethnic background
- Hobbies

IQ Consultancy LTD should give them the Local Authority information including what has been outlined above and should also include:

- The name and current address of the person giving notice;
- The date on which the intended private fostering arrangement will start or when it started;
- Any conviction, disqualification or prohibition imposed on the private foster carer or any other person living or employed at his/her household;
- Any court orders relating to the child.

IQ Consultancy LTD must also notify the appropriate Local Authority of any change of their circumstances regarding the above. The Local Authority should also be notified if the child has a new private foster carer.

IQ Consultancy LTD must record all correspondence with the local authority private fostering team and secure relevant permissions to share such information as is necessary with the student, parents, agents (where appropriate), homestay and partner school.

Full details can be found on the website:

<https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/private-fostering/>

Review

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed

on:(date)

Signed:

by **the DSL Kasha Handcock**

Date: