



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Privacy Notice Family Placement

This notice, in conjunction with Wokingham Borough Councils overarching privacy statement, explains when as a service we collect personal information, what we use your data for, who has access, who we share it with, and what your rights are.

Who are we?

Family Placements team
People Services
Wokingham Borough Council,
Shute End,
Wokingham,
Berkshire,
RG40 1BN

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-and-families/childrens-centres/>

What is the lawful basis for processing the information?

The lawful basis for processing your information is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation, and by you providing consent to join and use the service, as specified by the following legislation:

- Children Act 1989
- Fostering Regulations 2011
- Fostering Minimum Standards 2011
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- The Special Guardianship Regulations 2005
- Special Guardianship Amendment Regulations 2016
- Special Guardianship Statutory Guidance January 2017

How do we collect information from you?

Information is collected from you as the service user via online web forms, hard copy documents, e-mail, by telephone or through face-to-face discussion. This information will be collected from either you directly as the data subject, or from a representative acting on your behalf, e.g. a solicitor. Additionally personal information is supplied by you or third parties once approved as a foster carer or Special Guardian in order to support your continued approval; such as DBS checks.

In the course of approving and supervising Foster Carers and Special Guardians, your information may also be collected from third party sources: The local authority in whose area you live in, NSPCC, Disclosure and Barring Service, Past and Present employer, via Social Media posts, References (personal and employment), Previous partners, Health and Schools.

What type of information is collected from you?

The service collects and processes a range of information about you. The information is provided to enable the Children Centre to carry out its duty and functions, provide you with a service, and continue to make service improvements.

We will collect the following information: Surname, Forename, Date of Birth, Address, Postcode, E-mail, Phone number, Gender, Languages spoken, Ethnicity, Disability, Religion, Family network and relationship information, Financial details, Employment details (including past employment), Medical details, and Information relating to assessments and approvals for suitability to foster children.

You will be informed of any other data we collect, that is not listed above, orally or through email at the time of collection of the data.

How do we use the information you have provided?

All information provided is used by Wokingham Borough Council for the purposes of:

- Process foster carer applications
- Assess suitability to become a foster carer
- Monitor the progress and stability of placements, to safeguard and support children
- Provide ongoing support, advice and training to foster carers
- Ensure that foster carers receive the correct payments
- Assess and evaluate our services
- Responding to enquiries and other matters
- Analysing statistical data for service development purposes (usually anonymised)

Who has access to the information about you?

Your information is managed by staff employed in the Family Placements team. Your information may also be shared with officers in People Services for assistance with these matters. All personal data is stored securely; we have in place security measures which are intended to ensure, as far as possible, the security and integrity of all personally identifiable information.

Your data is stored securely on our systems (Mosaic) and accessed only by authorised officers of Wokingham Borough Council by using their own Username and Password all created in-line with pre-defined user credentials. Personal data is also held in electronic files on the Councils network drives. These are only accessible through personal logon credentials and access privileges to specific drives.

Unfortunately, the transmission of information via the internet is not completely secure. Although we will do our best to protect your personal data, we cannot guarantee the security of your data transmitted to our sites, any transmission is at your own risk. Once we have received your information, we will use strict procedures and security features to try to prevent unauthorised access, and any exchanges of information carried out once we are in receipt of your data will be done securely.

Any personal data held in paper format is held in lockable filing storage, and accessed only by authorised officers, as is data held on audio or CD/DVD media. Data may be stored in paper form and is always secured in lockable cabinets when not in use. Access to Council sites is also secure requiring a personal electronic pass (lanyard) to access staff only areas.

Who we may share your information with?

When contacting the Family Placements team to gain access to services, your information will be shared with other Council staff to the extent required to provide you with the service you have requested. The Council may share your information with other Local authorities, and Fostering agencies. Regulation 26(1A) gives the fostering service undertaking the current assessment the power to request access to records about the applicant held by the fostering service or adoption agency which granted the approval

Your information may also be shared with statutory bodies for the purposes of inspection, including Ofsted, The Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.

There may be other organisations not named on the above list, to which we may refer you to, we will always inform you about the referral and the information shared with that organisation.

Where the Council engages third parties to process personal data on its behalf, they do so on the basis of written instructions, are under a duty of confidentiality, and are obliged to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of data.

To ensure that information is continued to be held securely and that accuracy is maintained, there will also be instances where our system suppliers will need to access individuals personal information. This will be on a strict need to know basis and all contracts have confidentiality clauses built in.

The Council will not transfer your information to countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) unless this is necessary, and only to countries which have sufficient safeguards in place to protect information.

Information will be shared internally if required for better performance and efficiency of Council services and the welfare of individuals.

Wokingham Borough Council may also share personal information with the police and other local authorities under Article 23 of the General Data Protection Regulations in order to prevent or detect crime.

How long do we store your information?

The duration that the Council will hold information, and what happens at the end of that period, are as described within the Councils corporate retention schedule available on our website: www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/information-and-data-protection/privacy-statement

Does the service utilise automated decision-making?

The Family Placements service does not utilise automated decision-making in the services that it provides.