

Private Fostering Annual Report

1. Introduction

This annual report provides an overview of referrals, assessment and support of privately fostered children who were referred to Kent Local Authority; alongside compliance with national minimum standards (including awareness raising) for the year April 2021 to end March 2022. As per the Replacement Children Act 1989 Guidance on Private Fostering, the Corporate Director and KSCMP will need sight of the annual report.

Private Fostering is a distinct and separate activity from other fostering arrangements in Kent. It is managed within the Children's Social Work Service with no direct connection to the Fostering Service. By definition, a Private Fostering arrangement is one 'made privately (without the involvement of a Local Authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention it should last for 28 days or more'. However, regardless of the 'private' status of the arrangement, the Local Authority maintains a duty under s44 of the Children Act 2004 (amendment to s67(1) Children Act 1989) to satisfy themselves the welfare of privately fostered children in their area is being satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted.

Private Foster Carers may be from the extended family, such as a cousin or great aunt. However, a person who is a relative under the Children Act 1989 i.e., a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, or aunt (whether of full or half blood or by marriage) or stepparent will not be a Private Foster Carer.

A child who is residing in a residential home, hospital, or school (where they are receiving full-time education) is excluded from the definition. However, children under 16 who spend more than 2 weeks in residence during holiday time in a school become privately fostered children for the purposes of the legislation during that holiday period. In a Private Fostering Arrangement, the parent retains Parental Responsibility.

This report is provided under requirements laid down in the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering which came into force in July 2005.

Section 7.9 – the Local Authority provides that a report is written each year for consideration by the Director of Children's Services which include an evaluation of the outcome of its work in relation to privately fostered children within its area.

Section 7.10 – The Local Authority reports annually to the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board about how it satisfies itself that the health of privately fostered children in its area is satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted, including how the Local Authority cooperates with other agencies in this connection.

2. The Report

Private Fostering Staffing Structure

Kent's Private Fostering work is undertaken within the Children's Social Work Service (CSWS), with the responsibility of assessment for and support of privately fostered children sitting with district Children's Social Work Teams (CSWT's).

Responsibility for supporting Private Fostering arrangements was managed in a variety of ways in Kent over the last decade, with current arrangements implemented after the March 2017 Ofsted inspection. Since this time, the allocation of privately fostered children is aligned to the allocation of all other Children in Need within the Children's Social Work Service.

To support the consistency and quality of private fostering social work, Kent developed a network of Private Fostering Leads (these are Social Workers, Senior Practitioners or Team Managers) and Business Support Leads across the county who provide support to front-line Social Workers, raise awareness within their areas, share good practice within the network of Private Fostering Leads and offer support and advice to colleagues.

Strategic ownership for Private Fostering rests with the Assistant Director for Safeguarding, Quality Assurance and Professional Standards.

Awareness Raising

Awareness raising activities this year included:

Multi-agency partners

There were two training sessions held with multi-agency partners, advertised through the Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership. These were held virtually on 9th February 2022 and 30th June 2022 facilitated by Private Fostering Lead, Anita Hiller, and were attended by police officers, health practitioners, education professionals and colleagues from Integrated Children's Services.

Nationally, there was no official annual Private Fostering Week last year but to facilitate awareness raising as we emerged from national lockdowns, KCC decided to set its own awareness week, held later in the year. This was held from 11th to 15th October 2021 and included information in a press release, on Twitter, Communities of Practice Channel (a staff Teams channel) and in the CYPE Connection bulletin. .

At the time of the last annual report a Private Fostering App was in the development stage. The content was written and reviewed but changes to accessibility legislation meant the provider's app software needed to be redesigned. Unfortunately, the company wanted a significant price increase for the redesign which meant the app was not cost effective in terms of the ratio of benefits to costs, so the contract was cancelled. This was at no cost to KCC.

A Private Fostering Bulletin was created in 2021. This included information about Private Fostering and new developments, as well as what to do if you suspect a child is being privately fostered. This bulletin was circulated to all our partner agencies and included English language schools, faith organisations, youth groups and any other organisations who may come into contact with children in Private Fostering arrangements. It is difficult to measure the effectiveness of this bulletin, but the cost of circulating is free in most cases with just the commitment of time from a Business Support Advisor. The bulletin is due to be updated with any news and circulated again this reporting year 2022/23.

Homes for Ukraine

In March 2022, the Government introduced the Homes for Ukraine scheme whereby UK individuals, charities, community groups and businesses can record their interest in supporting Ukrainians fleeing the war. This was designed for families to come to the UK and there was a concern some children may be brought to the UK and left unaccompanied. This is known to have happened on three occasions, affecting four children in total. These situations are being assessed as Private Fostering arrangements. Given the situation in the Ukraine and the levels of desperation for some parents to keep their children safe, further children in this situation are likely to be identified.

In July 2022, The Government announced a scheme for unaccompanied Ukrainian minors. The details are as follows:

Children under 18 who are not travelling with or joining a parent or legal guardian are known as 'eligible children', where parental or legal guardian consent requirements are met.

Sponsors need to be personally known to the child's parent or legal guardian and this relationship predates the conflict on 24.02.22 (with some exceptional cases).

Sponsors for eligible children would need to commit to provide accommodation and support, either:

- until they left the UK
- for up to 3 years (the length of their visa)
- until they turned 18 years of age (and sponsorship has lasted for a minimum of 6 months) – whichever is soonest

Safeguarding checks on sponsors must be completed prior to new visa applications

These arrangements will be classed as Private Fostering unless there is a change in legislation so districts may see a significant increase in children subject to Private Fostering arrangements soon. The scheme raises concerns by many of exploitation of young Ukrainians, so this is a risk which needs to be factored into assessments.

On 22nd April 2022, Anita Hiller and Sophie Baker (Practice Development Managers), met the Children's Welfare and Safeguarding County Coordinator for Homes for Ukraine. This was to discuss the various arrangements which may be classed as Private Fostering (for UK children and Ukrainians) and to raise awareness amongst their team who are completing welfare checks in homes.

A Private Fostering Factsheet was produced for dissemination amongst all the agencies undertaking visits to those homes in receipt of Ukrainian nationals.

On 28th July 2022, a training session was held with Homes for Ukraine multi-agency practitioners.

Although this report covers the year April 2021 to March 2022, there have been three Ukrainian children subject to private fostering arrangements since the scheme began. One child remains in a private fostering arrangement as the other children returned to their parents' care in the Ukraine.

Good Practice in Private Fostering Forums continued bi-monthly, chaired by the Private Fostering Lead, Anita Hiller, and attended by the Private Fostering Leads from most Children's Social Work Services. Some services have not identified new Leads when old ones left, and some services do not attend the meetings consistently. This will be an action moving forward as these sessions discuss case examples, areas of challenge, current trends/ developments, and good practice examples. Information is disseminated back to district teams and audits would indicate practice improved since these have been running. It is therefore, vital that each service has a Private Fostering Lead and prioritises attendance.

Some areas are more proactive in terms of Private Fostering with East Kent being particularly focused on practice. This is partly due to the number of English language schools in their area, and as a result, usually higher numbers of privately fostered children.

Kent Academy remains a resource for practitioners looking for information on Private Fostering. They can access e-learning (KCC and KSCMP) and a breaktime biteable. This is an area which needs further development and the KCC Private Fostering E-learning will be updated this year.

Liberi and PowerBI

Shakeela Chaudry, Management Information Officer in the Management Information, and Intelligence Team, continues to work closely with district Children's Social Work Teams to ensure Liberi is being used to appropriately record Private Fostering assessments, visits and other activity. The Private Fostering pathway on Liberi is complex and difficult to navigate so this is an invaluable service and helps to minimise poor recording and data errors, as well as ensuring we are compliant with our statutory requirements.

Individual workers and teams can check their Private Fostering arrangements and timescales on PowerBI and look at trends in Private Fostering. This is enabling close monitoring of Private Fostering arrangements and more effective oversight from managers. The data set on PowerBI is fairly limited for Private Fostering and it would be beneficial for districts and Private Fostering QA oversight to have more data available on privately fostered children.

Following the introduction of the improved Private Fostering Arrangement Assessment Record (PFAAR) template on Liberi in October 2020, assessments have improved in quality and analysis. Annual reviews are being completed although not always within timescale. Work continues to improve timescales and quality of annual reviews, and a simple tweak on Liberi of ensuring annual reviews go to a manager for sign off improved this.

The Liberi Operational Group approved 3 key changes for Private Fostering, and these are about to go live imminently following successful testing.

1. Drop down option on case note for privately fostered child – Initial Private Fostering Virtual visit
This was designed as notifications for international students are sent very early and this allows social workers to start their introductions with these children and their families before they come to the country. The child is then seen within the statutory time framework when they arrive.
2. Form on Private Foster Carer's file to record visit to carer from Social Work Assistant.

This is in respect of those children subject to Child Protection/Child in Need plans while subject to Private Fostering arrangements. The Private Fostering Carer is allocated a Social Work Assistant if they would like this support and the Social Work Assistant records their visits to them on this form on the Private Fostering carer's file.

3. Drop down option on case note for privately fostered child – Social Work Assistant visit to Private Fostering carer.

This ensures the above visit is noted on the child's file, but no specific details noted unless there are safeguarding concerns.

Ofsted Inspection May 2022

Private Fostering was one of the key areas inspected. The report stated:

Appropriate steps are taken to ensure that children in private fostering arrangements are safeguarded effectively. The impact of COVID-19 has resulted in reduced numbers of children in these arrangements, and the range of private fostering awareness-raising activity continues. Clear arrangements for notification, backed by specialist advice and support, ensure that private fostering assessments include all the required safeguarding checks and keep children's welfare at their core. Children are visited in line with requirements, permanence is considered throughout, and these arrangements are routinely reviewed within timescale.

This is a very positive review of Kent's Private Fostering processes and oversight. Ofsted identified a strong culture of understanding private fostering arrangements across all districts within KCC. It is vital we continue to build on these strengths and ensure privately fostered children remain safe, given the vulnerabilities of this group of children.

New Notifications

In the year 2021-22, there were 67 new private fostering notifications. This represents a decrease from the year ending 2021 and numbers have not been this low since 2014.

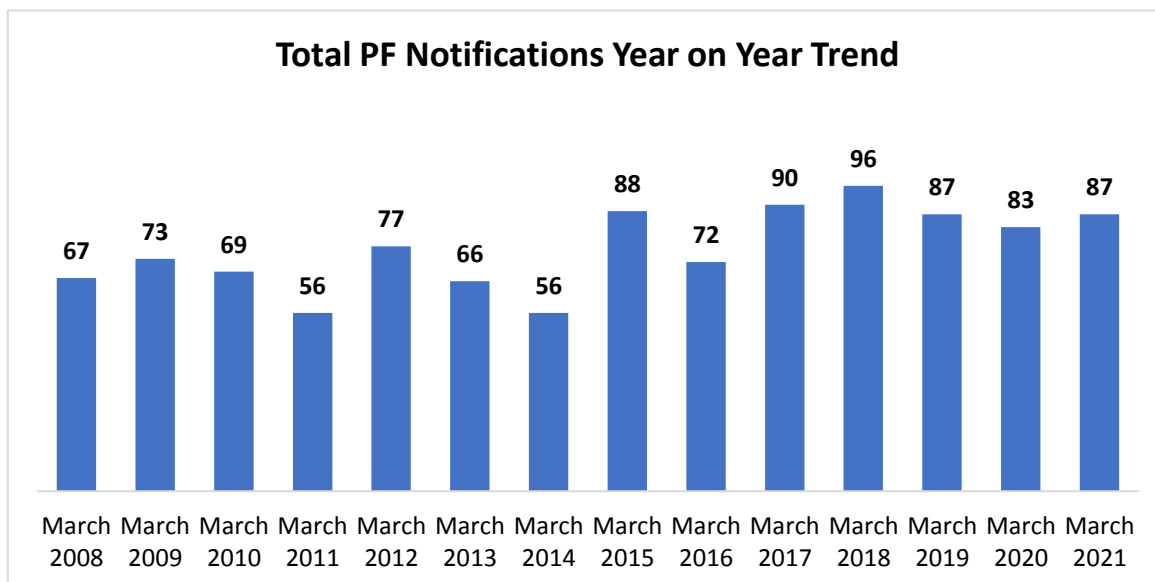
There are a number of hypotheses for the decrease:

- The covid pandemic saw international travel stop and, although numbers of international students coming to Kent increased again, this is still slower than usual. Students appear to be coming for shorter periods. This causes complexities as some arrangements are ending before the district was able to complete assessments. In addition, it means host families are getting frustrated as they are subject to multiple assessments.
- In contrast to last year, the number of breakdowns in family relationships with adolescents moving to Private Fostering arrangements is not as high as during lockdowns due to pressures within family units being lifted. The 'cost of living crises may have a similar effect.
- International pupils boarding in private schools started to return home during school holidays. Those who stayed at school for more than 2 weeks are legally classed as privately fostered children – although for only a very short period and at great cost of time to Children's Social Work Teams, who start

the extensive paperwork and processes, only for the arrangement to stop before the assessment is complete.

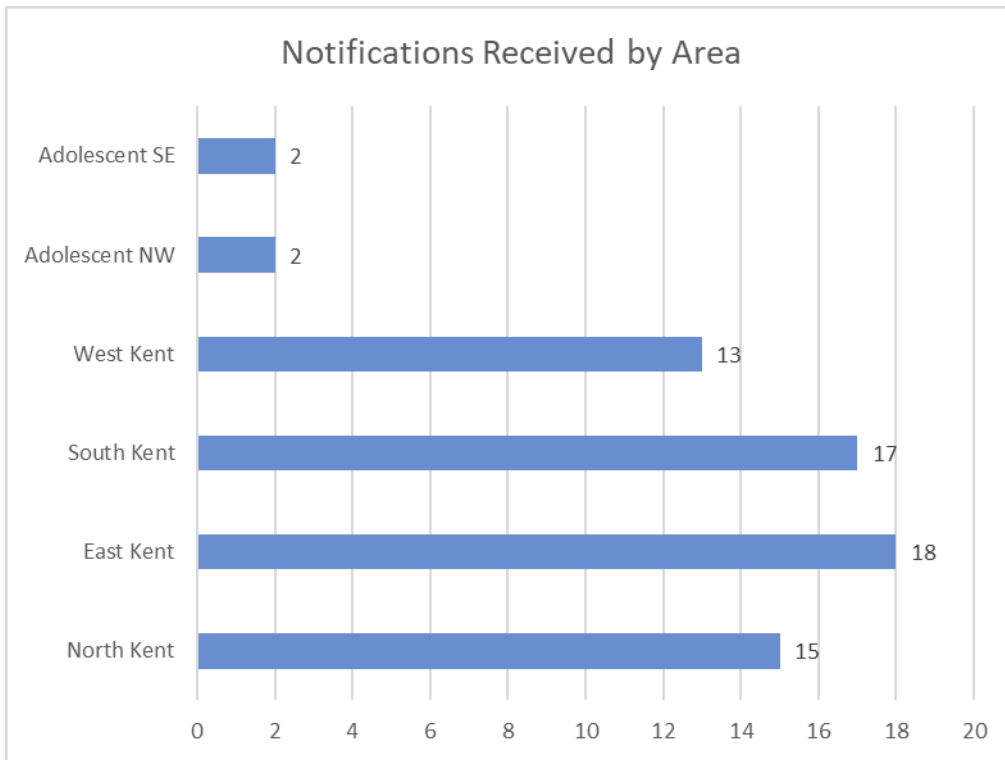
- Lack of awareness within our own workforce due to changes in staff and newly qualified workers may have led to under reporting.

Graph 1 – Total PF Notifications Year on Year Trend 2008-2021

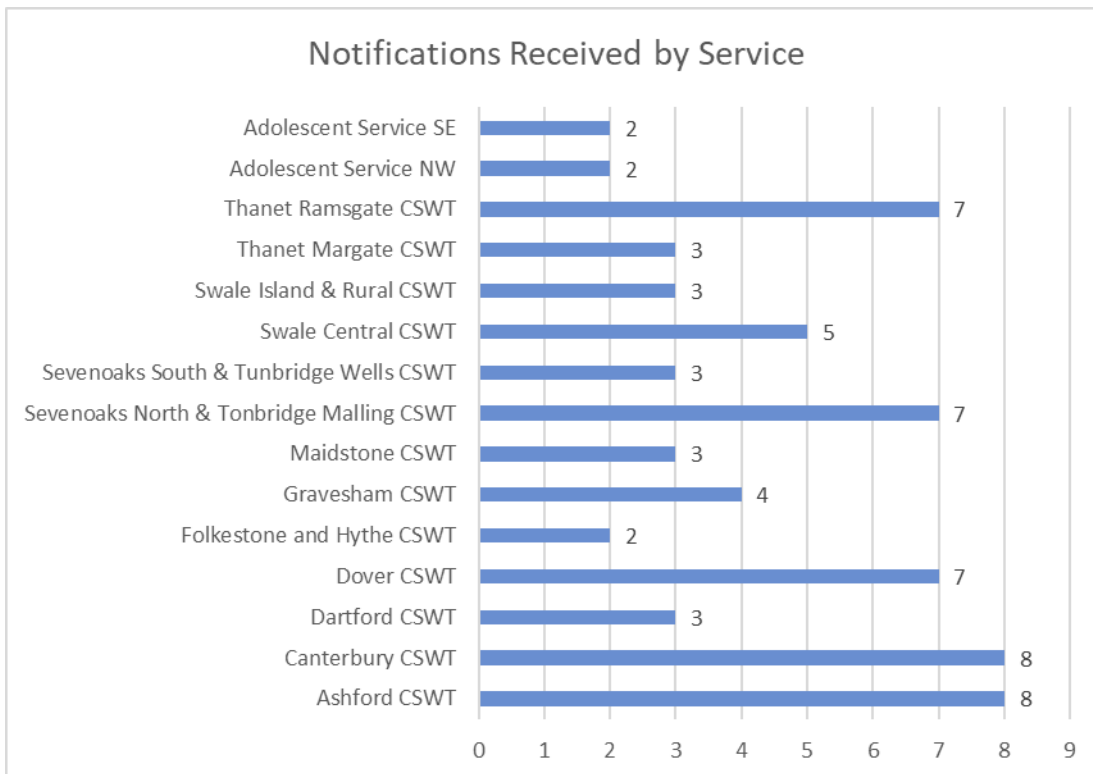


Areas were fairly even in notifications this year, which is unusual as East Kent received 39% of all notifications last year. Canterbury and Ashford had the highest number of notifications of 8 each. The lowest number were Folkestone and Hythe at 2 and both Adolescent SE and Adolescent NW at 2 each. There are a number of hypotheses to explain the decrease in adolescence Private Fostering. This could be seen as a drop in family breakdowns for adolescents, although some Private Fostering arrangements may start with CSWT and then move to Adolescent Teams at a later point. Equally, there has been a drop in private fostering arrangements due to the restrictions by the covid pandemic leading to more isolated ways of managing family breakdown which has led to more adolescents coming into care since the start of the pandemic.

Graph 2 –Notifications Received by Area April 2021 – March 2022



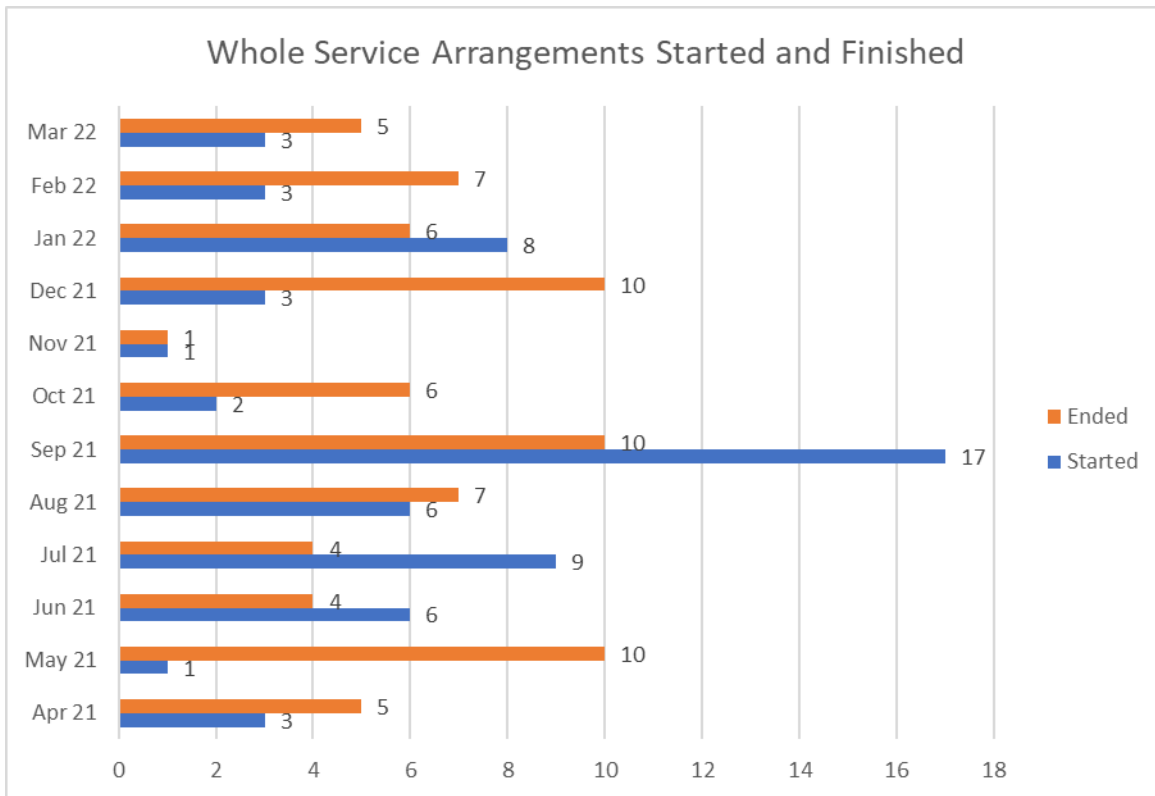
Graph 3 – Total PF Notifications by Received by Service April 2021 – March 2022



Progression to Arrangement

It is a positive sign of appropriate notification that 62 of the 67 notifications to Kent within the year proceeded to formal arrangements once assessments were completed. More arrangements ended (75) than started (62).

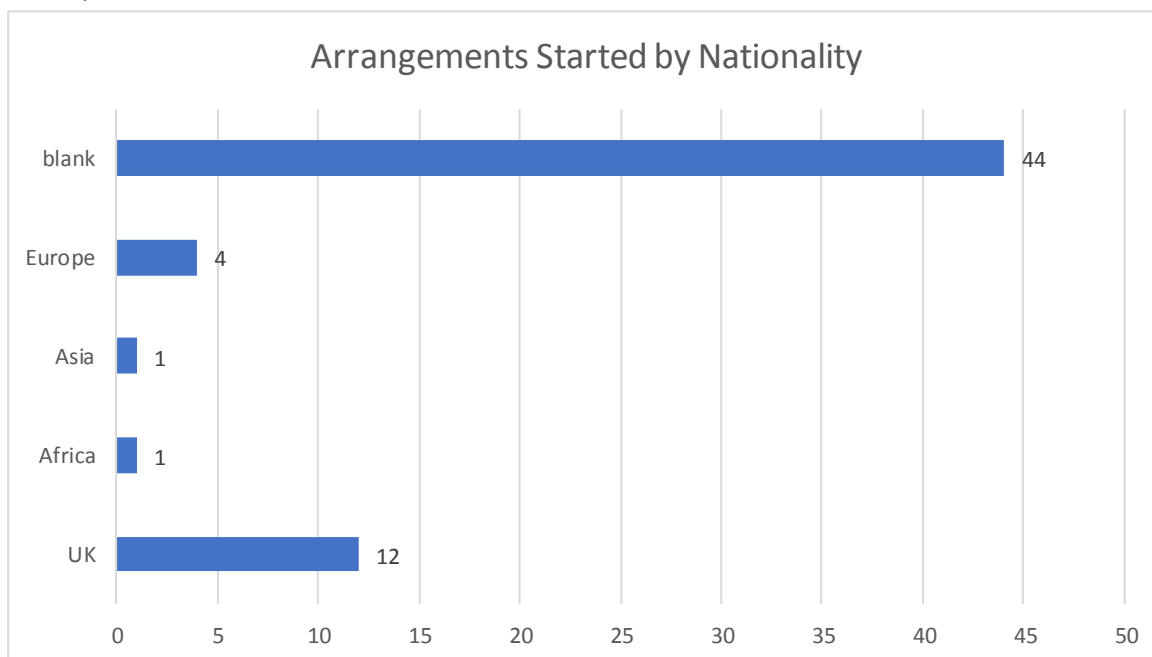
Graph 4 – Whole service arrangements started and finished



Country of Birth

The data on “country of birth” is very poor this year with 44 different arrangements where the country was not recorded. Graph 5 shows the nationalities. Of note, only 12 were from the UK, compared to 42 last year. However, as stated, these figures are not accurate. This needs to be an area of focus this year.

Graph 5 – arrangements started by nationality

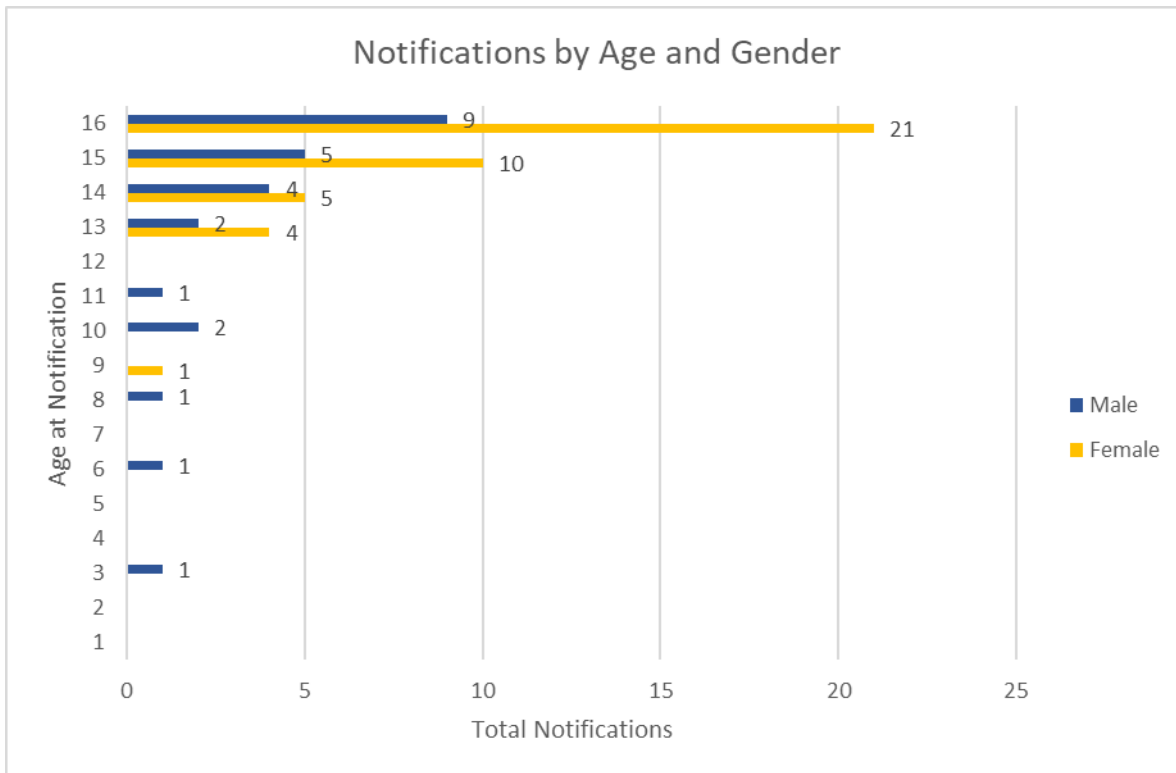


Age and Gender of Children at Notification

As with previous year on year trends, the age of children referred as being in Private Fostering arrangements continues to be weighted (as would be expected) towards the older adolescent age band of 13 to 16 accounting for 90% of notifications.

There were 7 arrangements for children 11 years and younger and 5 legal orders were obtained indicating permanence is considered for these younger children. It is important social workers continue to consider the suitability of Private Fostering arrangements for younger children and consider permanency and this is discussed regularly within the Good Practice Forums.

Graph 6 – notifications by age and gender



Having seen a drop in females last year, this year saw a return to more females than males. In-depth analysis of the reasons for this was not completed but the hypothesis was that more male adolescents came into these arrangements during the covid-19 pandemic and now that international students, who tend to be more females, are returning, the usual ratio returned.

Source of Private Fostering Notification

It is helpful to consider the source of Private Fostering referrals, not least because it provides an indicator of awareness of notification requirement within the Local Authority, with partner services/agencies and the community more widely.

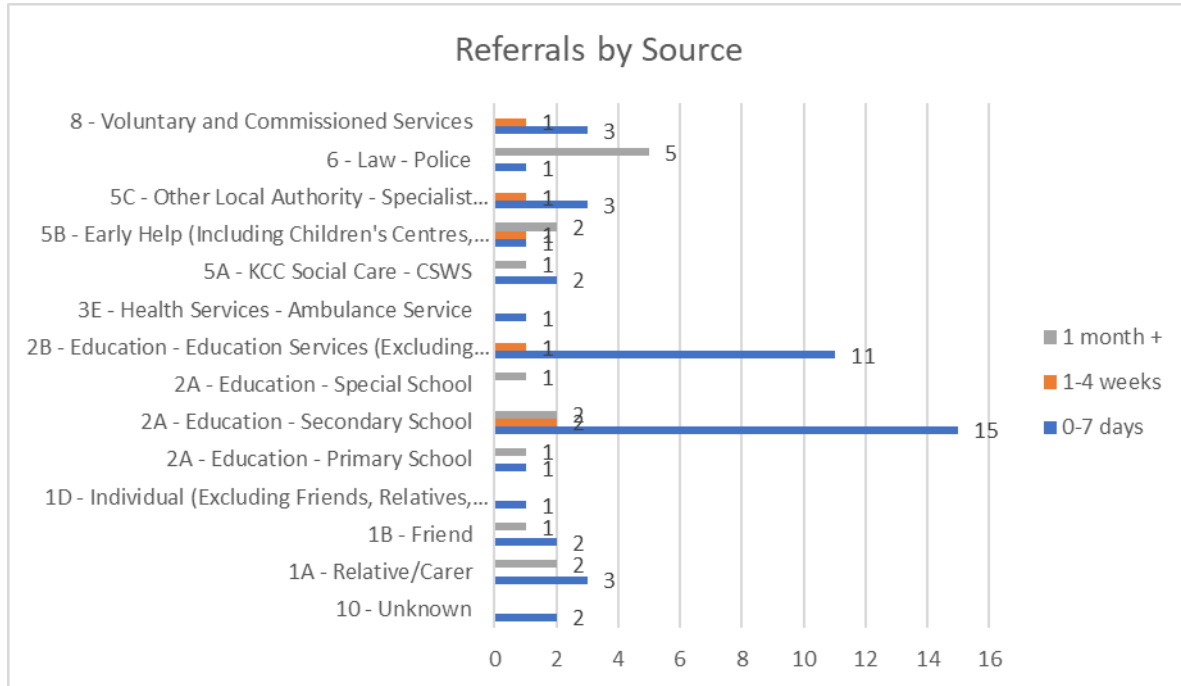
As would be expected, the largest cohort of notifications (28: 41%) came direct from education providers (secondary schools/English language schools/primary schools).

Only 3 notifications came internally from Children’s Social Work Services which was the same as last year but significantly lower than the year before. This may

have been impacted by levels of social work intervention during the pandemic but it is possible the level of awareness amongst our less experienced workforce needs to increase. Therefore, a programme of awareness raising will resume within Integrated Children’s Services to ensure these arrangements are not being missed.

Of note, 38% of notifications last year were from an unknown source. Work to improve recording indicates a significant improvement in this area with only 3% being unknown. This is positive as it means recording is more accurate.

Graph 7 – referrals by source



Private Fostering Arrangements Ended

During the report period, 75 Private Fostering arrangements in Kent came to an end (several started prior to April 2021). Of these, 28 (37% of ended placements) returned home to their parents and 16 children (21%) reached the age of 16, placing them above the legal age-band for Private Fostering. Some of the children in these two groups may have been language students.

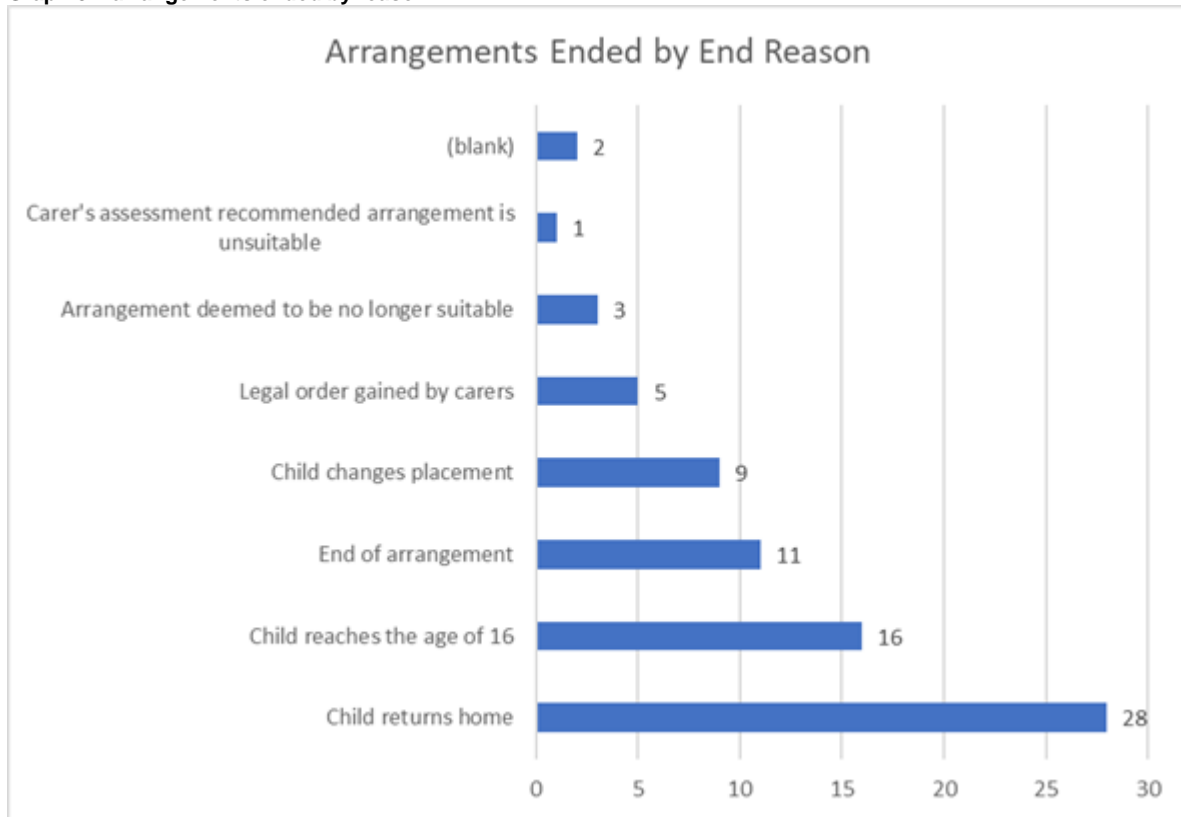
Of the remaining ended arrangements, 3 arrangements ended as the arrangement was no longer deemed suitable and 9 children changed arrangements. One ended as the assessment outcome was the arrangement was not suitable.

It is positive to note 5 of the children’s arrangements ended because of their carers gaining a legal order providing them with legal Parental Responsibility for the children they cared for. It is an expectation social work oversight and support considers permanency planning for children placed with Private Foster Carers on an extended basis and this should be considered as part of the arrangement’s annual review. For children who find themselves privately fostered long term, the gaining of an order takes away any ambiguity of the status of their arrangement or care provided, it gives them stability and it ensures security in situations where parents are unable to provide on-going care but were responsible in identifying an appropriate alternative. Additionally, it observes the child’s right to family life and

seeks to limit the role of a social worker in those families where it is no longer necessary.

Only 2 arrangements ended without a reason, which is a marked improvement on last year (28).

Graph 8 – arrangements ended by reason



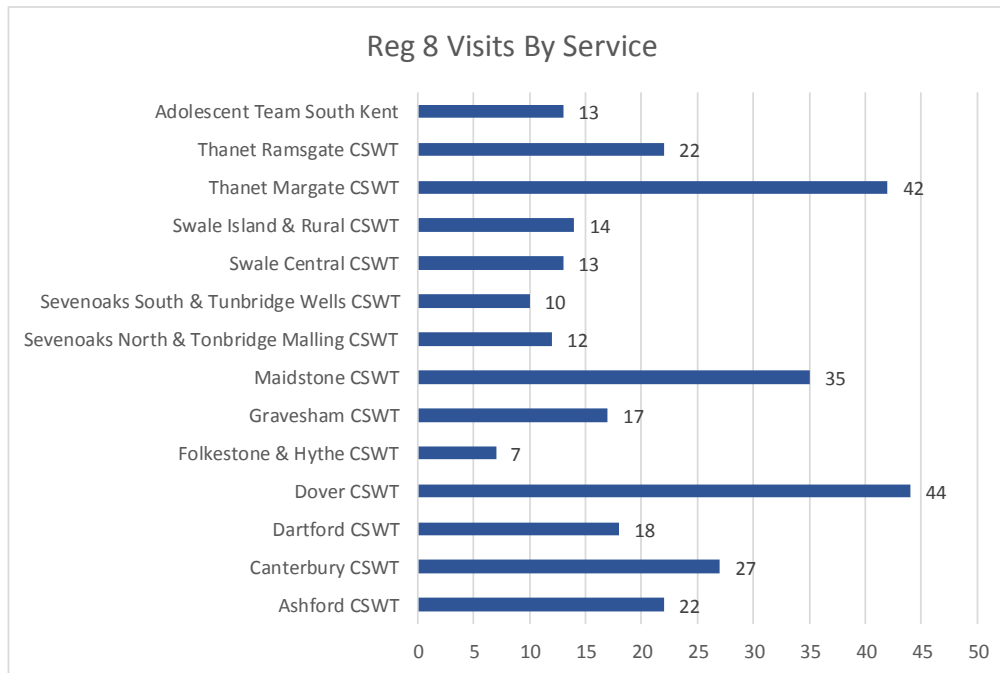
Ongoing Visiting Requirements

In April 2020, the visiting requirements for Privately Fostered children were nationally altered under The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 with an expectation children would be visited as soon as is reasonably practicable following the receipt of a notification and as is reasonably practicable thereafter. However, given the vulnerability of our Privately Fostered children, there was an expectation Kent Social Workers continued to visit children at the rate noted within historic statutory requirements; at a minimum frequency of 6 weekly in the first year of placement and 12 weekly in subsequent years. These visits are important to monitoring children's progress and welfare and are specifically detailed to observe the overall standard of care; ensure the child is developing appropriately; ascertain the wishes and feelings of the child (seeing them alone); to ensure the child's health, education and contact needs are being met; and to support rehabilitation home in appropriate circumstances.

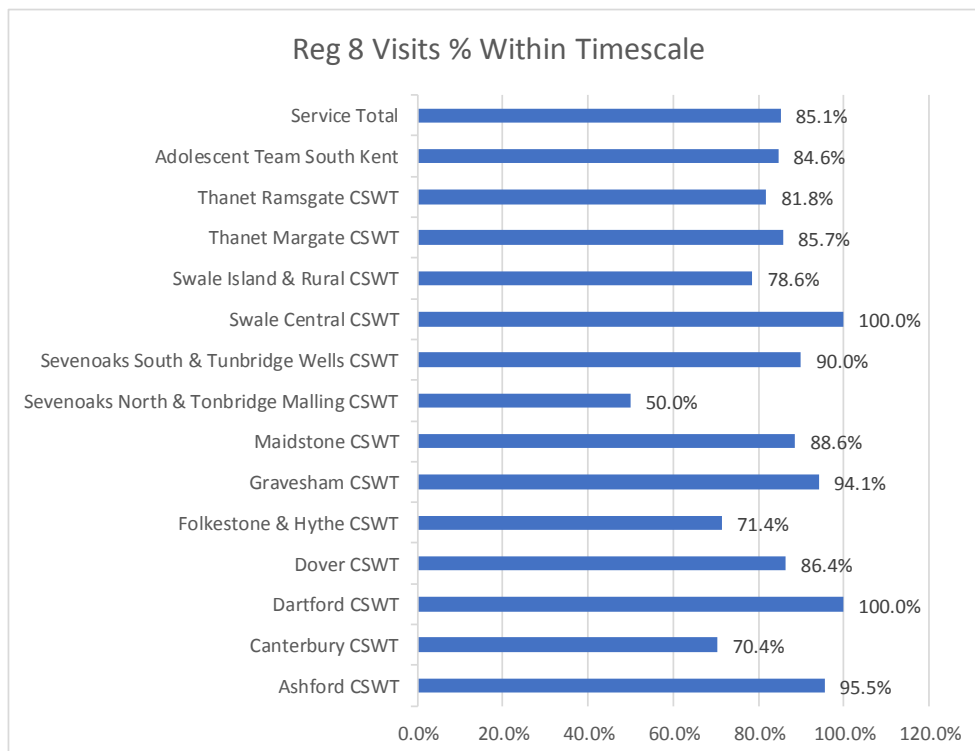
As of 31st March 2021, the percentage of children's 6 or 12 weekly visits held within timescale (measured over the previous 12-month period) stood at 85.7% (88.5% in 2021). The target is 90%. The lowest district was Sevenoaks North, Tonbridge and Malling at 50% and both Swale Central and Dartford achieved 100%. It should be noted these figures can be impacted upon by the number of notifications for children not born in the UK as there is a delay before they arrive in the country and the initial visit cannot be held within timescale. The new virtual PF visit option and the benefit of technology will help to ensure social workers can start their

discussions with these children before they come to the country so visits within timescale should be considerably higher next year.

Graph 9 – Reg 8 Visits by Service



Graph10 – Reg 8 Visits % Within Timescale



Additional Vulnerability

Children would not be placed in Private Fostering arrangements as part of a social work-led safety plan (if the LA 'brokered' an arrangement as a requirement towards

safety and to avoid foster care, this would be considered a Connected Persons arrangement). However, some families will choose to place children with friends and extended family for other reasons whilst they are defined as Child in Need or subject to Child Protection Plans. The figures highlight the considerable additional vulnerabilities and traumas which form part of these children's lives and the huge importance of ensuring the children are given appropriate priority and support, regardless of current 'additional' need status.

Nonetheless, the circumstances of children living with others who are not their immediate family and who may be strangers in another country, possibly with an unfamiliar language, food, routines, rules, expectations, or culture, makes them by definition vulnerable children who require skilled and dedicated oversight.

In order to offer management oversight, the PFAAR is signed off by the Service Manager of the relevant Children's Social Work Service whose role it is to ensure the assessment is thorough, the relevant checks undertaken, and the arrangement is suitable and safe. The annual review is sent to a manager for sign off too.

There were 103 different Private Fostering arrangements open at some point during 2021/2022. 6 (6%) of these also had a Child Protection Plan which overlapped with the arrangement at some point in 2021/2022. 26 (25%) of these had a Child in Need Plan which overlapped with the arrangement at some point in 2021/2022

Of those children subject to dual Child Protection Plans/Private Fostering, 5 out of 6 had a Social Work Assistant allocation and 8 out of 26 of those children subject to Child in Need Plans/Private Fostering. This will form part of the awareness raising and training to ensure compliance with the guidance.

Audits

Private Fostering work is audited as part of the county audit process in line with other children receiving support from the Children's Social Work Service. From April 2021 to March 2022 inclusive, case records of 28 privately fostered children were audited by the district. 26 of those audits were moderated by Anita Hiller and Sophie Baker, Practice Development Managers with in-depth knowledge of Private Fostering legislation and process.

Table 1 – Audit gradings breakdown by Area:

Area	Total PF audits completed	Overall grading	Referral	Assessment	Planning	Management oversight	Child focused practice
Kent		75%					
Adolescent SE	1	1G	1G	1G	1G	1G	1G
North	6	1RI 5G	5G 1O	2RI 4G	1RI 4G 1O	3RI 3G	1RI 4G 1O
East	9	2 RI 7 G	3 RI 6 G	5RI 4G	2 RI 7 G	3 RI 5 G 1O	9 G
South	6	3 RI 3 G	2 RI 3 G 1 O	3 RI 2 G 1 O	6G	4 RI 2G	1 RI 5 G

West	6	1 RI 5 G	1 RI 5 G	4 RI 2 G	1 RI 5 G	3 RI 3 G	5G 10
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O = outstanding, G = good, RI = requires improvement, I = inadequate

Audit analysis

There were no audits considered Inadequate and 6 graded as Requires Improvement out of the 28. There were no sections graded Inadequate either which is a significant improvement in practice. There were Outstanding points of practice identified in all areas. Therefore, strong performance with respect to private fostering practice commensurate with Ofsted's findings.

Additional monitoring/oversight

In addition to the audit process, a dip sample of the Liberi records of privately fostered children is undertaken on a bi-monthly basis to check adherence to the Private Fostering Regulations. If there are any aspects need addressing or if any good practice was identified, the allocated Social Worker and Team Manager are notified.

In July 2021, 10 additional audits of privately fostered children were completed. The following points were identified:

- Disparity in the quality of audits due to the experience of person auditing. Action: Sophie Baker and Anita Hiller moderate all Private Fostering audits.
- Annual reviews not always completed. Action: PowerBI tracks these now.
- Some children were subject to Child in Need pathway in addition to Private Fostering and this was not necessary. Action: districts ended the Child in Need Plans.
- Checks not always updated with annual reviews. Action: annual review has management sign off within Liberi now.

Future audits

Last year's plan stated the annual focus of 10 Private Fostering audits would be repeated each July. However, Private Fostering numbers are low at present (16 at the time of writing) and 4 are already audited every two months, so it was felt this was not necessary. This will be kept under review.

Bi-monthly audits of 4 children privately fostered will continue as part of the audit cycle.

GDPR

A new Privacy Notice for the Private Foster Carer was created in 2021 to ensure they are aware of the gathering, storing and use of their data. This should be included in packs for all new Private Foster Carers. A question regarding this could be included in the audit questions moving forward to ensure we are GDPR compliant.

Conclusion

The data highlights a reduction in the number of privately fostered children but a return to ratios in terms of nationalities and gender observed in previous years.

There are indications Private Fostering awareness increased through extensive promotion but focus this year needs to be on colleagues within Integrated Children's Services, as well as multi-agency partners.

Practice improved, as evidenced by audit gradings and Ofsted's findings, and there is closer monitoring of Private Fostering arrangements. Good practice is highlighted and shared within bi-monthly forums and information is disseminated to districts, building a culture of interest, enthusiasm, and best practice across the county. However, district representation at these meetings needs to improve to ensure practice issues are not missed.

It is positive to see some children secured permanence through legal orders and some returned home to their families. Permanence for younger children in Private Fostering arrangements is considered and promoted with Private Foster Carers when reunification is unlikely or not possible. In addition, the support for Private Foster Carers will ensure stability of arrangements for the additionally vulnerable group of children who are subject to Child in Need Plans and Child Protection Plans.

There was positive recognition for KCC's work in ensuring private fostered children are safe in Kent.

3. Recommendation(s)

Update of the Private Fostering Annual Plan 2021-2022

Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Completed
Continue to raise awareness of Private Fostering within partner agencies and wider community	Private Fostering Bulletin to be sent to partner agencies including Education, Health, and the religious communities	Half-yearly – next bulleting March 2022	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	Bulletin sent July 2021
	Development of a Private Fostering app to be downloaded to support practice guidance with our partner agencies	December 2021	Sophie Baker - Practice Development Lead	Project cancelled
	Various activities throughout Private Fostering Week to raise awareness with partner agencies	October 2021	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	CYPE bulletin Media release Communities of Practice Teams Channel Twitter

Develop Private Fostering practice across Integrated Children's services	Private Fostering training and access to resources on the Kent Academy to be reviewed	September 2020	Divisional Management Team/S Anita Hiller - Practice Development Manager	KSCMP training held twice in February and June 2022.
	Bi-monthly Good Practice in Private Fostering forums to be held with district Private Fostering Leads to discuss best practice and disseminate information. Private Fostering Leads to feed back to districts	Bi-monthly throughout the year	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	Continue to be attended – attendance is inconsistent Need representatives from every district.
	Consultations available and advice given regarding complex Private Fostering Arrangements	As and when required on ad hoc basis, throughout the year	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	These continue on an ad hoc basis. PF Leads offer support in each district.
	Districts to continue to have designated Business Support Officers to monitor agency check requests and initial visit 'packs' which contain all necessary paperwork	Throughout the year	Districts	Continued

	for proposed PF carers to complete. Packs to include new Privacy Notice for Private Foster Carers			
	Development of a Private Fostering app to support practice of ongoing/initial private fostering arrangements	December 2021	Anita Hiller - Practice Development Manager	Project cancelled due to digital accessibility
	Practice Development Bulletin with focus on Private Fostering for Private Fostering Week	October 2021	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	Sent July 2021
Ongoing practice monitoring	Private Fostering cases to be included in the audit cycle with a larger sample being audited in July 2021 and yearly thereafter	Bi-monthly throughout the year	Anita Hiller- Practice Development Manager	This audit was not repeated this year due to low PF numbers – see report
	Dip sampling of Private Fostering cases to ensure annual reviews are being undertaken, Social Work Assistant is allocated when children are subject to CIN and CP, and to ensure correct processes are in place.	Ongoing	Anita Hiller- Practice Development Manager	Continued

	Information regarding source of notification to be more detailed at point of initiating referral on Liberi. Liaison with the Front Door Service to consider what is required to improve this	By 30.09.21	Practice Development Manager / Bryony Khadaroo & Lesley Gould – Service Managers, Front Door Service	
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Proposed Annual Private Fostering Plan 2022/2023

Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Completed
Continue to raise awareness of Private Fostering within partner agencies and wider community	Private Fostering Bulletin to be sent to partner agencies including Education, Health, and the religious communities	Next bulletin September 2022	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	
	Various activities throughout Private Fostering Week to raise awareness with	October 2022 – unless national week announced	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	

	partner agencies			
Develop Private Fostering practice across Integrated Children's services	Private Fostering training and access to resources on the Kent Academy to be reviewed	Further training planned for multi-agency partners June 2023. Training for ICS – October 2022 and April 2023. E-learning to be updated.	Anita Hiller - Practice Development Manager and Practice Development Team	
	Bi-monthly Good Practice in Private Fostering forums to be held with district Private Fostering Leads to discuss best practice and disseminate information. Private Fostering Leads to feed back to districts	Bi-monthly throughout the year	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	
	Consultations available and advice given regarding complex Private Fostering	As and when required on ad hoc basis, throughout the year	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	

	Arrangements			
	Districts to continue to have designated Business Support Officers to monitor agency check requests and initial visit 'packs' which contain all necessary paperwork for proposed PF carers to complete. Packs to include new Privacy Notice for Private Foster Carers	Throughout the year	Districts	
	Practice Development Bulletin with focus on Private Fostering for Private Fostering Week	October 2022	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	
Ongoing practice monitoring	Private Fostering cases to be included in the audit cycle with a larger sample being audited in July 2021 and yearly thereafter	Bi-monthly throughout the year	Anita Hiller - Practice Development Manager	
	Dip sampling of Private Fostering cases to ensure annual reviews are being undertaken, Social Work Assistant	Ongoing	Anita Hiller – Practice Development Manager	

	is allocated when children are subject to CIN and CP, and to ensure correct processes are in place.			
	Information regarding the report on nationality to be promoted in training and Good Practice Forums.	Bi-monthly forums, training October 2022 and April 2023.	Anita Hiller - Practice Development Lead	
	Districts to ensure PF Lead in every district and attendance at Good Practice Forums.	By 30.09.22 and attendance throughout the year	AD's:- Report be presented to DivMT Anita Hiller - Practice Development Lead	

4. Contact details

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