

**Kent County Council**

**Sufficiency Strategy  
2013-2015**



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## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out how Kent County Council will meet the placement needs of current and future children in care and care leavers, and improve their outcomes, in light of our understanding of their needs and current provision.

This strategy is set within the context of national policy, legislation and guidance. It is linked to key local planning documents, in particular to Every Day Matters and the Multi Agency Looked After Children Strategy, submitted to Cabinet in December 2011 and updated in February 2013.

Local Authorities are required to take steps to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for children in care within their local area. In 2010, the Statutory Guidance for the Sufficiency Duty was issued. This guidance is explicit in placing a duty on Local Authorities to act strategically to address gaps in provision by ensuring that they include, in relevant commissioning strategies, their plans for meeting the sufficiency duty.

The Children Act 2008 defines Sufficiency as “a whole system approach which delivers early intervention and preventative work to help support children and their families where possible, as well as providing better services for children if they do become looked after. For those who are looked after, Local Authorities and their Children’s Trust partners should seek to secure a number of providers and a range of services, with the aim of meeting the wide-ranging needs of looked after children and young people within their local area.”

However, the scope is not restricted to just making good quality placements; the intention is to co-ordinate the range of activity across Children’s Services, including a clear focus on supporting families to stay together, wherever it is safe to do so, thus minimising the need for children to come into care, or supporting their timely return to their families.

This approach is consistent with Phase 3 of the Kent Safeguarding and Looked After Children Improvement Plan “Putting Children First” which is centred on improving the quality of services provided to children in need, those in need of safeguarding and those in care. The objectives outlined in the Improvement Plan are in-line with the County Council’s vision and the ambitions as set out in Bold Steps for Kent.

The reduction in the level of funding for Local Authorities over the next four years means that the focus on efficiency and value for money will be stronger than before. The challenge for Local Authority Children’s Services will be to sustain or improve on service quality and good outcomes for service users.

This strategy addresses the needs of children and young people from birth to the age of 21, (or 25 where children’s services continue to have statutory responsibility) including children and young people with disabilities who are, or who may be, accommodated by KCC. It meets the requirements of the sufficiency strategy by collating needs and resource information and market analysis but also describes what needs to happen in relation to work with children in care or children at risk of coming into care.

It is consistent with our pledge to Children in Care (CIC) which is based around six themes:

- A sense of belonging
- An adult who is there for each child in care

- A good education
- Good memories for the future
- Getting ready for being an adult
- Championing each child's needs and interests

The priorities of Kent County Council's Placement Strategy are as follows:

- Safely achieve a reduction in the number of children coming into care, ensuring that the needs of children and young people are met.
- Ensure that CIC are progressed through the system without unnecessary delay and can achieve timely and appropriate reunification with their families, or permanent alternative placements, thus reducing the length of time spent in care.
- Ensure timely achievement of permanent placements through dual assessment of fostering and adoption and twin track planning.
- Secure placement stability through placement choice, good matching, and support for foster carers.
- Reduce placement costs through better sufficiency, improved commissioning arrangements and contract monitoring.
- Involve children and young people, families, carers and professionals in the design, delivery and evaluation of services.
- Improve outcomes through provision of stable placements which support continuity of relationships, community links, education and health provision and promote the right conditions for maximising the child's potential.
- Increase the proportion of CIC in placements local to their family, learning and social networks where it is safe to do so.
- Support children and young people in care to make a successful transition into adulthood through the provision of good quality leaving care services which promote stability of relationships, education, training and employment, suitable accommodation and support.
- Work with Adult Services to ensure clear pathways are in place for young people requiring services as adults.

The placement strategy action plan covers **four** key strategic objectives, all of which focus on reducing the numbers of children in our care where safe to do so, and using our resources in the most efficient and cost effective way. The document also includes some impact measures which will be monitored to evidence progress on delivery.

These are:

1. To support children to remain safely within their family

2. To manage risk within the family/community, provide support to children who are on the edge of care, and support CIC to return to live with their families as soon as possible and where it is safe to do so
3. To provide and commission the right mix of placements within the county to meet identified needs of children who are or may become CIC as cost effectively as possible; the services provided should contribute positively to improving outcomes for children placed within them
4. To plan effectively for CIC to ensure they have stability and permanence, do not remain in care longer than is necessary and leave care positively

The supporting background data outlined below in relation to needs and current market analysis is summarised from Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 which provide more detail in relation to our responsibilities to undertake a review of sufficiency, and sets the context for the development of a detailed commissioning strategy.

The rest of the document is structured around delivering these four objectives with each section describing what we will do in that area.

## **2. Demographics of Kent**

Since 2010, there has been a growth in the county's population for children and young people under 19 years, from 350,500 in 2010 to 360,400 in 2012. This number is projected to grow to 366,300 by 2015. A corresponding 4.5% growth in our CIC population would mean an extra 82 CIC by 2015.

Kent is made up of 12 districts, organised into four areas for delivery of Children's Services. The three districts projecting the highest 0-19 population growth are Ashford (12%), Dartford (12%) and Maidstone (7%).

According to the 2010 Index of Deprivation, the three districts with the highest scores are Thanet, Shepway and Swale. The three districts with lowest scores are Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling and Sevenoaks. There is a correlation between child poverty and poor outcomes for children, and there is a need to monitor and assess the impact of the forthcoming welfare reforms. For detail see Appendix 1 Table 1.3.

## **3. Children in Care population**

Since March 2010 the total number of CIC in Kent has increased from 1469 by 25% to 1831 children in March 2013, which equates to 56.7 per 10,000. This rate is above the average for our regional comparator authorities, which is 52.2. However we have a fluctuating number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (190 in March 2013, down from 236 in March 2010), and if we do not include this number, our rate per 10,000 is 50.8 and below our comparator authorities and the national average of 59.

Analysis of entrants and care leavers shows that year on year, there has been a slight reduction of admissions and fewer exits. There is greater disparity between admissions and exits in the 0-10 year age group. For details of placement requests received from January to March 2013 see Appendix 1 Table 2.7.

In March 2013, 82 of our CIC had a disability, compared with 61 in March 2010.

Our aim is to ensure that we are looking after the right children at the right time and in the right place, and we will closely monitor our figures in relation to all children in our care.

The current breakdown by district and more detail about trends across the county can be found in Appendix 1 Tables 2.1 to 2.4.

### 3.1 Diversity of our Children in Care

As would be expected in an area with Kent's demographic profile, the largest ethnic group in our CIC is white British (1530, representing 83.6% of the CIC population).

The table below demonstrates the range of diversity of CIC compared to the under 18 population as a whole.

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Kent Under 18 population</b>	<b>Children in care (March 2013)</b>
White	90.7%	83.6%
Asian	3.2%	0.4%
Mixed	3.3%	5.3%
Black	2.0%	2.9%
Other	0.8%	7.8%

This illustrates that Asian children are under-represented in the CIC population, and mixed and other ethnic groups over-represented.

The above figures reflect our number of asylum seeking children and young people, which includes 79 Afghanistani, 31 African, 23 Arab and 18 Vietnamese young people as at March 2013. There is currently 1 Roma/Roma gypsy child, down from 6 in March 2011. The percentages of other ethnic groups have remained stable over the last two years.

### 3.2 Age range of CIC

<b>Total CIC</b>	<b>March 2010</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>March 2012</b>	<b>March 2013</b>
<b>0 – 4 years</b>	270	369	450	440
<b>5 – 10 years</b>	278	358	390	406
<b>11 – 15 years</b>	505	522	535	568
<b>16+ years</b>	416	450	429	417
<b>Total</b>	<b>1469</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>1831</b>

The largest cohort is the 11-15 age group but it can be seen that whilst numbers of 11 to 16+ young people have remained relatively static, since March 2010 to March 2013 there has been a notable growth in the number of 0-4 year olds (63%), and 5-10 year olds (46%), which will impact on our need to provide permanent placement options for those children who cannot return safely to their families.

### 3.3 Legal Status of CIC – March 2013

Age	EPO / Police protection	ICO / Care order	S20 accommodation	Placement Orders	On remand and accommodated	Total
<b>0-4 years</b>	4	178	78	180	0	<b>440</b>
<b>5-10 years</b>	0	256	50	100	0	<b>410</b>
<b>11-15 years</b>	0	336	225	7	0	<b>550</b>
<b>16+ years</b>	0	101	310	1	5	<b>426</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1831</b>
<b>% of total</b>	0.2%	47.6%	36.2%	15.7%	0.3%	

63% of all children are subject to Interim or Care Orders, or to Placement Orders (84% of all 0-10 year olds) so will require long term, permanent alternative family placements, including fostering, adoption or Special Guardianship.

However, in the 11-16+ age groups, 55% are in S20 accommodation so maintaining contact with their birth families, who retain parental responsibility, will be important in their placement choice.

### 3.4 Disabled Children and Young People

82 children have a disability representing 4.5% of CIC. The most significant needs groups are children with a learning disability (2.2%), diagnosed with autism or Asperger's (1.6%), mobility (0.7%) and behaviour (0.6%).

Numbers of disabled CIC are increasing, as a result of demographics, reducing infant mortality due to medical advances and association between disability and poverty. Placements are needed for children with challenging behaviour associated with autistic spectrum disorders which lead to family breakdown, as well as for younger disabled children who have experienced neglect, and foster carers who can care for deaf children and young people.

279 disabled children use residential short break provision on a regular basis.

### 3.5 Children Subject to Court Proceedings

KCC is working closely with legal services to meet the requirements of the Family Justice Review and achieve more speedy resolution of court proceedings, aiming for 26 weeks.

### **3.6 Adoption and SGO**

An increasing number of children are exiting the care system as a result of adoption or SGO. The numbers of SGOs granted have increased from 25 in 2010-11 to 71 in 2012-13.

Kent has an Adoption Sub-Group of the Improvement Board in place which has set targets to increase the number of children adopted, adoptive parents recruited and speed up the adoption process. 105 children were adopted in 2012-13, an increase of 50% from the 70 adoptions in 2011-12. This is slightly lower than the target of 109 but the numbers of children placed are increasing. Between the period 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013 a total of 143 children were placed with an adoptive family. Compared to the previous year 2011/12 where 68 children were placed, this performance represents an increase of 110.3%.

The number of children granted Placement Orders is also increasing –190 in 2012-13, up from 124 in 2011-12.

In 2012/13, 87 adoptive parents were approved compared with 67 for the previous 12 months.

Given the number of young children coming into care on statutory orders, the focus on adoption as a means to meet children's need for permanency must be sustained, and a marketing and recruitment strategy 'Changing Futures' is in place to support this.

### **3.7 Siblings**

From April 2012 to March 2013, there were 115 referrals for external placements for sibling groups.

There are currently (March 2013) 17 sibling groups placed with Independent Fostering Agency foster carers, comprising 10 groups of 2 children, 4 groups of 3 children, 1 group of 4 children and 2 sibling groups of 4 who are placed together in pairs.

#### **Young People Known to Youth Offending Service**

The '*Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) 2012*' introduces changes to the remand powers of Courts with a view to achieving a reduction in the numbers of children and young people who are remanded into custody. It also brings about the change of Children in Care (CIC) status for all remanded young people and leaving care status for those who remain in custody for 13 weeks or more as well as the transfer of financial responsibility to local authorities. The policy direction is to manage all young people on remand in the community unless there is a serious concern for public safety.

From April 2012 to March 2013 there were 43 custodial remands, compared to 68 in 2011-12 and 71 in 2010-11. 28 of these episodes have had placements in Youth Offender Institutions (784 placement days), 13 were in Secure Training centres (322 placement days), and 2 were a Psychiatric Institution placements (233 days placement).

In response to the changes resulting from the LASPO Act 2012, KCC is in the process of commissioning a pilot 'Retained Remand Foster Care Scheme' through Independent



Fostering Providers. KCC is seeking to secure 1 Remand Carer in the Maidstone area and another in Canterbury. The objective for KCC is to provide a stable family environment where young people will have the time and support to comply with the requirements of the Courts. Foster Carers would be required to manage adolescent behaviours and set firm boundaries, encourage and support young people and their family. The most likely age group who will be referred is young people aged 15 – 17 years. As part of this service, KCC is seeking Retained Foster Carers to contribute to Bail Support activities when they do not have a young person in placement as well as the provision of beds for the purpose of transfers of young people under the age of 17 years from Police custody (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 S38 [6]) when Bail has been refused post charge. The placement will only be required until the young person appears at the next available Court although they may return as a result of a remand to local authority accommodation.

### 3.8 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children

Due to its location and the presence of the Port of Dover, Kent supports a high number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people (UASC). UASC are accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

When the young person leaves care they are entitled to the same leaving care provisions as any other CIC under Section 23 of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

There are currently 649 asylum seeking children or young people supported by the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People’s Service of whom 190 are in care, 3 cases have no status and the remainder are care leavers (March 2013). The priority of the service is to ensure this group of young people have placements which meet their assessed needs and offer stability. Placements are as follows:

Placement type	KCC foster care	Specialist IFA	KCC residential	Leaving Care service	Other	Total
Number in placement	3	106	16	38	27	190

### 3.9 Young People leaving care - 16+

Catch 22 offer a supported lodgings scheme for up to 120 young people at any one time, of which 25% is allocated to supporting Children In Care and Leaving Care.

53 places of the remaining 90 places available are commissioned by Supporting People to accommodate former relevant young people aged 18 – 21 years. A further 24 places are also commissioned by Supporting People to house young people who are at risk; this is on an open access basis and does accept former relevant young people.

This accommodation plays a critical part in the housing and support options available to young people in transition from foster and residential care to greater independence. Supporting People are undertaking a needs assessment of the whole Supporting People housing related services over the next few months and this assessment will inform the future Supporting People commissioning strategy. The outcome of this needs assessment and the decisions taken may have an impact on the accommodation and funding that is presently supporting former relevant young people post March 2014.

Work is presently being undertaken to map what additional accommodation and support can be delivered at what cost by Supporting People's current providers. This provision would be over and above what Supporting People have contracted with them to deliver. There may be the potential for economies of scale to be achieved if Supporting People, Integrated Youth Services and Specialist Children's Services jointly procured provision.

There are currently 417 young people aged 16+ who are in care. Of these, 218 are worked with in the leaving care services (provided by Catch 22), 140 are asylum seeking young people, and 17 are disabled. The remaining 44 have a social worker in the district teams.

Of this group, 226 are in long term stable placements with foster carers or connected person placements, and 116 are living in supported accommodation, or independent living arrangements. For further placement data see Appendix 2 Table 7 and 8.

22 are in long term residential accommodation and will need support to move on to adult services or supported accommodation.

Kent County Council also supports over 100 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People who are care leavers, and who, according to the UK Border Agency and immigration legislation, are Appeals Rights Exhausted (ARE).

These young people are currently supported under Sections 23 and 24 of the Leaving Care Act 2000, as they are Care Leavers who are deemed to have the right to be supported as such.

### **3.10 Young People Aged 16+ who are Vulnerable and at Risk of Coming into Care**

The Southwark Judgement 2009 clarified the responsibility of Local Authorities to assess the needs of a young person who presents as homeless and to provide accommodation under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 if that young person is assessed as a 'child in need'. In all but the most exceptional cases, 16 and 17 year olds who present as homeless are, by nature of their homeless status, children in need. An assessment must determine whether they need to be accommodated under S20 of the Children Act 1989. Where this is not appropriate or the young person refuses, they will be considered a child in need and offered services and support as required.

Table 2.11 in Appendix 1 demonstrates that around 87% of referrals of homeless young people do not subsequently come into care. However, further work is needed to determine both the needs of those young people who are diverted elsewhere and what housing solution is found for them to ensure we are meeting needs appropriately.

#### 4. Views of Children and Young People about Choice and Sufficiency of Placement

There are a range of processes in place to consult with children and young people and fulfil our commitment to engage and consult with them and involve them in the design and delivery of services.

The table below summarises views of young people which should impact on decisions about securing placements and how we meet their needs in a holistic way.

Source/process in place	Key messages from young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Reviewing Officers carry out regular interviews and have facility for an on-line exit interview at the point at which young people leave care</li> <li>• Virtual School Kent (VSK) facilitates participation activity days</li> <li>• Family Group Conferencing Service collates views of young people with whom they have contact</li> <li>• Catch 22 regularly surveys the views of care leavers</li> <li>• The UASC service has a focus group of young people</li> <li>• Young people were involved in the recent procurement of the IFA Framework and participated in the evaluation of this tender</li> <li>• Some young people have had the chance to chair their own reviews although not everyone chooses to participate in their review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placement stability and security is crucial</li> <li>• Matching of children with foster carers is very important</li> <li>• Changes of social worker pose a problem for children – lack of consistency can be perceived as lack of care</li> <li>• More should be done to keep siblings together, or when this is not possible to promote positive contact</li> <li>• Stability of placement and social worker when young people approach 16 is important – this is a critical time in their education and other life experiences</li> <li>• Young people want to be consulted, to have a voice in planning and reviews; they would like to influence what we do and how we do it</li> </ul>

#### 5. Current Placement Provision

##### 5.1 Placement Mix and Cost

Whilst 75% of our children are in In-house foster care (1124 as at March 2013), we currently have 332 children placed in Independent Foster Agency placements. This figure is up from 259 in December 2011 (including 104 asylum seeking young people) – an increase of 28%.

Of the 332 children there are 104 asylum seeking young people placed with a specialist agency, and 72 out of county placements (please note this includes 47 placements in Medway). The biggest percentage increase has been in the number of placements for disabled children, up from 6 to 13 placements.

The percentage of children placed with a connected person remains static at 6%.

A recent review of children in high cost placement demonstrated that 44% of children in IFAs and 78% of children in residential placements have challenging or risk taking behaviour as their primary need.

The mix of placement is shown below:

Placement type	December 2011	March 2013	Direction of travel
KCC foster carer	1092	1124	↑
IFA carer	259	332	↑
Friends, family, connected person	109	115	↑
Placed with parents	63	26	↓
Adoption	55	95	↑
In-house Residential	13	16	↑
Private and voluntary sector residential	57	64	↑
Leaving Care	103	116	↑
Other	24	40	↑

## Placement Cost

The weekly unit cost of an in-house fostering placement is £544.79<sup>1</sup>. IFA placements range from £679 per week to £1,881 per week for very specialist needs. The establishment of the IFA framework and competitive tendering will offer an 11% reduction in placement costs from June 2013. In-house fostering continues to be the most cost effective provision, although the In-house specialist placement schemes are more costly than specialist IFA provision. We will work with the independent providers on the framework to develop innovative and cost effective provision to meet identified needs within our budgetary constraints.

The average weekly unit cost for P & V residential provision is £2,965 per week. These placements are for children with the most complex needs that require specialist provision, including those with disabilities. Where health and education services are provided in the placement, contributions are received from these agencies.

## 5.2 In-House Fostering

Kent has its own in-house fostering service organised on an area basis. As of March 2013, there were a total of 820 fostering households approved for 1712 placements (based on full occupancy) with 1124 children in placement.

Each area supports the following:

Area	No of carer households	Number of placements
North Kent	122	260

<sup>1</sup> Report to Procurement Board

(Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks)		
East Kent (Thanet, Canterbury and Swale)	341	764
South Kent (Ashford, Dover and Shepway)	185	403
West Kent (Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Malling)	103	180
Disability	37	19
Short break carers – disabled children	22	78
Treatment foster care	10	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>1712</b>

### Specialist in-house fostering

Kent currently operates two specialist fostering programmes providing placements for some of the most troubled CIC:

- Therapeutic Re-parenting Programme (TRP)
- Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC).

TRP is aimed at children aged 4-11 years who have significant attachment disorders, and currently has 15 carers working with 13 children.

MTFC is an evidence based programme which works with children aged between 11 and 17 years, and currently has 6 carers working with 4 children.

Both schemes have recently been reviewed, resulting in a clear recommendation to continue the TRP programme and redirect MTFC resources into extending the scope of TRP by increasing the number of children who could benefit from the scheme, and by rolling out elements of the training and support to other foster carers to support them in their task.

The fostering service has been restructured and there is now a county recruitment team responsible for all recruitment and assessment of new foster carers. The recruitment strategy will respond to the needs identified in this document and target recruitment at known gaps in localities and needs groups.

### 5.3 External Fostering – IFA framework

Kent has established a framework for the purchase of independent placements.

There are 34 providers on the framework, providing for a range of high priority needs including:

- Complex and Challenging Needs
- Young People on remand
- UASC
- Children with disabilities
- Rehabilitation

- Short term/bridging
- Parent and Child
- Residential migration

#### **5.4 Residential Provision**

Kent has local residential provision for 16 asylum seeking young people and a residential special school with children's home (Stonebay).

There are currently 64 children who are in external residential care placements. For details of placement in use see Appendix 2 Table 4.

There are a total of 279 disabled children who use overnight short break care, provided in one of KCC's five residential units (see Appendix 2 Table 6).

#### **5.5 16+ Accommodation Provision**

Catch 22 currently provide a leaving care service and work with young people aged 16 to 25. They do not work with disabled young people or UASC.

Of the 16 – 18 year olds worked with by Catch 22 who are in care, the range of accommodation provision is as follows:

- 226 are in stable long term foster placements, 22 are in long term residential provision, 116 in independent or supported accommodation. For further placement data see Appendix 2 Table 7 and 8.

Providing a choice of accommodation to support young people in their transition from foster care or residential care to greater independence is a challenge and work is ongoing with housing authorities and Supporting People to extend this range of provision.

#### **5.6 Other Support Services**

Kent Specialist Children's Services have invested in a range of services to support children, and these services will be available to all CIC in order to support placements and improve placement stability.

These services include:

- Community CAMHS which are contractually required to prioritise CIC
- Virtual School Kent – a service to work with CIC and support them to achieve the best possible educational outcomes
- KLIASS – Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service which will work with all adolescents including young people in care and leaving care
- Therapeutic service for children who have been sexually abused – currently available in the east of the county but soon to be commissioned as a countywide service which will include sexually harmful behaviour

The Kent 2011 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Children identifies health inequalities with regard to CIC. Building on this, work is underway on the following:

- Develop a greater understanding of health inequalities for CIC in Kent

- Understand the relationship between CAMHS services and the needs of CIC
- Review the quality of health assessments for CIC
- Explore the relationship between health inequalities and education outcomes for CIC
- Review evidence regarding youth homelessness and health inequalities
- The impact of other Local Authority CIC placed in Kent

## **6. Key Strategic Objectives which will inform commissioning**

### **Key Objective 1: To intervene early and support children to remain safely within their family**

Children's needs are best served in their own families if this can be safely supported. Helping families stay together must therefore be a key focus for all Children's Services. Early identification of need and effective early intervention is essential. Early intervention and prevention services can reduce the number of children and young people reaching the threshold for care and needing to become CIC, avoid repeat entry into care or support them to return safely to their families in a timely manner.

In order to support this we will:

- Access early intervention and prevention services commissioned through the EI&P framework contract across the county in line with our Early Intervention and Prevention strategy
- Ensure our Children's Centre's target services at our most vulnerable families and extend the functional role and brief to support siblings of Under 5s up to age 11, whilst retaining their core offer and focus on universal provision
- Support young people to access KIASS (Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service)
- Support all professionals to use the Common Assessment Framework effectively, to assess needs with the full participation of the child and family, and provide an integrated and holistic service to families, through a 'Team around the Family' approach
- Align our work with the Troubled Families programme across the county aimed at supporting families with multiple needs

### **Key Objective 2: To manage risk within the family/community**

We must manage risk effectively with families that are approaching the threshold for care, and work to ensure the right children come into care at the right times, and are supported to leave at the right time. We will provide a range of effective interventions which support families to make changes whilst always ensuring that children and young people are kept safe.

In order to support this we will:

- Further develop the use of Family Group Conferencing to engage the family in finding solutions, and identify members of the extended family or kinship network who have capacity to provide care.
- Work to an agreed protocol with adult services to establish need and commission services through the Early Intervention and Prevention Provider Framework to

- support parents with drug/alcohol, mental health problems, learning disability, or domestic abuse and monitor performance and impact on outcomes.
- Work closely with Safer, Stronger Families, a crisis intervention service commissioned to provide a countywide service for children and young people aged 11-15, with the aim of preventing these young people coming into care, and monitor the impact of this service in delivering improved outcomes.
  - Work with our Adolescent Support teams, and colleagues in housing, Supporting People and Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Services (KIASS) to provide support services to prevent 16-17 year olds coming into care or to support their speedy return to their families. This service will help to meet our responsibilities to provide homeless 16-17 year olds with accommodation under S20 of the Children Act 1989 as a result of the Southwark Judgement.
  - Build on and develop our housing strategy in partnership with district housing authorities, to ensure that suitable provision is developed for 16 to 17 year old young people who become homeless.
  - Continue to work with the courts to promote the use of community based remand options for young people to reduce the numbers remanded to the care of the Local Authority or to secure settings. Work in partnership with the Youth Offending Service to recruit or commission more remand and alternative to custody foster care placements (specified in our IFA framework contract) in order to manage the impact of legal changes as a result of implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 whereby all children remanded to custody or in the secure estate will become CIC.

### **Key Objective 3: Provide and commission placements to meet identified needs**

We need to be sure that we have the right range of placements to meet the assessed needs of CIC. As a result of rising numbers of CIC, we do not currently have enough capacity in our in-house fostering service to meet the statutory requirements of placing CIC within 20 miles of their homes. This means we have increased our use of Independent Fostering Placements to provide placements within the radius of 20 miles of their homes. This has increased from 189 in 2010 to 332 in March 2013. We want to ensure that our range of placements provide good value for money.

In order to support this we will:

- Recruit more in-house foster carers with the right combination of skills to meet the needs of children and young people in our care. We particularly need foster carers who can manage challenging and risk taking behaviour, provide care for sibling groups and disabled children, and placements of parents and child. A recent review of children in IFA placements showed that young children (under 5 years) are being placed because of no capacity in the in-house service, so we must target recruitment at this group.

We also need more placements in the north and west of the county. Carers must be supported to develop their capacity to equip them to meet the specific needs, which will include supporting contact arrangements, providing transport and contributing to assessments of need to support legal action. The fostering service has been restructured, and a countywide recruitment team established. They will work to implement the recruitment strategy which will increase the number of new foster care placements by 149 by March 2014, targeted on the known needs and localities.



- Further develop the Therapeutic Re-parenting Programme, re-investing resources from the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care programme which will be phased out as placements end.
- Work in partnership with Independent Fostering Agencies, to negotiate the best possible price with them for existing placements, and commission future placements through the Preferred Provider Framework which will achieve efficiencies through reduced unit costs and inclusion of support services. The framework arrangements specify types of placements for groups of children with identified needs, at an agreed price. The Framework is operational from June 2013.
- Establish an Access to Resources Team to streamline placement commissioning (in-house and external), monitor placements and outcomes for children, and collate needs data to inform future commissioning and fostering recruitment arrangements.
- Monitor requests for and use of placements and outcomes achieved through the establishment of the four Access to Resources Panels.
- Put contracts in place with all placement providers and monitor these to ensure compliance
- Promote joint agency approaches to provision of services for children with the most complex needs through the JRAP(Joint Resources Allocation Panel).
- Develop a strategy with partners to meet the accommodation needs for 16-18 year olds who are CIC
- Put in place a performance monitoring process to establish a better understanding of the needs of children coming in and out of care on a monthly basis, and to monitor the use of in-house and external placements.

#### **Key Objective 4: Good Care Planning**

Having a clear Care Plan in place is essential for children and young people in care, not only to ensure that they come into and exit care at the right times, but to meet our statutory obligations under the Care Planning Regulations. We need to ensure that children do not 'drift' through care, but have clearly-planned processes which allow them to be reunited with family and friends where possible, have stable, supported and well matched placements with alternative carers and exit the care system in a timely and positive way at whatever age this happens.

In order to support this we will:

- Focus on improving social work practice in relation to assessment and outcome based Care Planning, direct work with children, and management oversight of this work.
- Continue to operate Access to Resources Panels as a system to find the right placement to meet assessed needs. The four Panels are chaired by the Assistant Area Directors and attended by social workers, and aim to ensure that a rigorous assessment of need has been undertaken and detailed information is available to support finding the right placement in a planned way.
- Work closely with our partners to ensure the right support services from education, CAMHS, health and other universal and early intervention services are available to CIC, in order to prevent unnecessary placement breakdown, and meet identified needs. Support the newly commissioned community CAMHS service to prioritise CIC in line with the service specification.
- Commission a post sexual abuse/sexually harmful behaviour support service for CIC.

- Give children stability and permanence as quickly as possible, through developing a timely permanence plan for every child by their second CIC review and continuing to support the plan for permanence through the court process and beyond.

Permanence can be achieved through:

- Reunification with the birth family
- Living with other family, friends or connected persons
- Matched with permanent foster care until adulthood
- Adoption
- Special Guardianship Order
- Moving safely on to independent living

The Access to Resources Panels will monitor any drift in the planning process and check that actions are being taken appropriately to implement agreed plans.

- Work with legal service to manage cases in a timely way and reduce delay in court processes.
- Continue to implement a recruitment strategy for adoption, which targets adopters to meet the known needs in the right location in the county.
- Monitor progress of the fostering recruitment strategy which includes targets for needs groups and localities.
- Monitor placements and reduce drift through rigorous challenge by Independent Reviewing Officers, good quality supervision practice, use of performance management information, rigorous legal planning and ongoing monitoring of resource use by the Access to Resources Panels and Team. Monitor the time spent in care by different specified cohorts of children e.g. children under 5 years, or children for whom reunification is the care plan objective.
- Help young people prepare for adulthood and move positively to independence, through provision of a Leaving Care Service for all young people aged 16 and over. Make a decision about re-commissioning the service when the current contract ends or bringing the service in-house (currently under review).
- Work with Adult Services to ensure clear pathways are in place for young people requiring service as adults.

### **Monitoring progress on the strategy**

A detailed Action Plan has been developed to support implementation of the strategy, which will be supported over the next two years.

The strategy will be updated on an annual basis to reflect changes in needs or supply information, and respond to emerging policy initiatives.

The county CIC wider group will review progress on a six monthly basis and report to SCS DivMT.

All partners should be supported to recognise their role in implementation, through leadership, communication, supervision to promote good care planning practice, and clear accountability frameworks.

### **Key Impact Measures for Placements Strategy Action Plan**

The following impact measures have been identified as the key indicators of the success of the strategy and will be closely monitored and reported on formally every six months for the duration of the strategy.

- Overall Number of CIC
- Current and Projected Spend on placements with independent providers
- Number of Children beginning/ceasing to be CIC per month, by area and age band
- Proportion of Residential, In house Fostering, IFA fostering and supported living placements
- Reduce the number of CIC placed outside of Kent
- Numbers of CIC placed for adoption and made subject of SGO
- Level of capacity, referrals to and actual placements made in in-house foster service
- Net gain of in-house foster placements by locality and placement type
- Eliminate the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation for 16/17 year olds presenting as homeless.

## Appendix 1 – Needs Data

### 1. Demographics

**Table 1.1: Growth in 0-19 population from 2010 with projections through to 2015**

Existing data (National Statistics)	Projection data				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
350,500	360,900	360,400	362,400	364,000	366,300

**Table 1.2: Population projections children and young people age 0 – 19 years by districts**

Existing data (National Statistics)		Projection data				
Area	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ashford	29,800	30,700	30,900	31,700	32,600	33,400
Canterbury	36,100	35,900	36,200	36,400	36,500	36,800
Dartford	23,400	24,700	24,800	25,300	25,800	26,300
Dover	25,400	25,800	25,500	25,700	26,000	26,300
Gravesham	24,900	26,200	26,100	26,100	26,100	26,200
Maidstone	34,900	37,300	37,400	37,500	37,400	37,400
Sevenoaks	28,000	28,000	27,900	27,800	27,700	27,700
Shepway	23,000	24,500	24,300	24,300	24,200	24,300
Swale	33,800	34,400	34,400	34,500	34,600	34,800
Thanet	32,100	32,600	32,500	32,600	32,700	32,900
Tonbridge & Malling	30,800	31,500	31,300	31,300	31,200	31,200
Tunbridge Wells	28,400	29,300	29,200	29,200	29,200	29,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>350,600</b>	<b>360,900</b>	<b>360,500</b>	<b>362,400</b>	<b>364,000</b>	<b>366,400</b>

Data from KCC Business Intelligence; any difference is due to district numbers being rounded individually.

**Table 1.3: 2010 Indices of Deprivation Scores and Ranks**

Area	ID 2010 Score	National Rank (out of 326)	SE Rank (out of 67)	Kent Rank (out of 12)
Ashford	15.31	198	27	8
Canterbury	17.12	166	22	6
Dartford	16.71	175	24	7
Dover	20.69	127	13	4
Gravesham	19.46	142	17	5
Maidstone	13.85	217	28	9
Sevenoaks	10.49	276	40	12

Shepway	23.53	97	8	2
Swale	23.48	99	9	3
Thanet	28.47	49	2	1
Tonbridge & Malling	10.76	268	37	11
Tunbridge Wells	11.99	249	32	10

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 (ID2010) is released by Communities and Local Government (CLG).

## 2. Children in Care

**Table 2.1: Children in Care by district (excludes 16+, UASC and CWD)**

<b>Total CIC</b>	<b>March 2010</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>March 2012</b>	<b>March 2013</b>
Ashford	72	94	104	96
Canterbury	89	104	115	130
Dartford	50	68	66	68
Dover	86	103	93	108
Gravesham	67	83	128	93
Maidstone	67	90	128	130
Sevenoaks	38	40	41	60
Shepway	88	101	123	128
Swale	113	117	121	131
Thanet	208	240	230	233
Tonbridge & Malling	46	55	82	88
Tunbridge Wells	58	53	58	73
Adoptions team	0	0	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1148</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>1341</b>

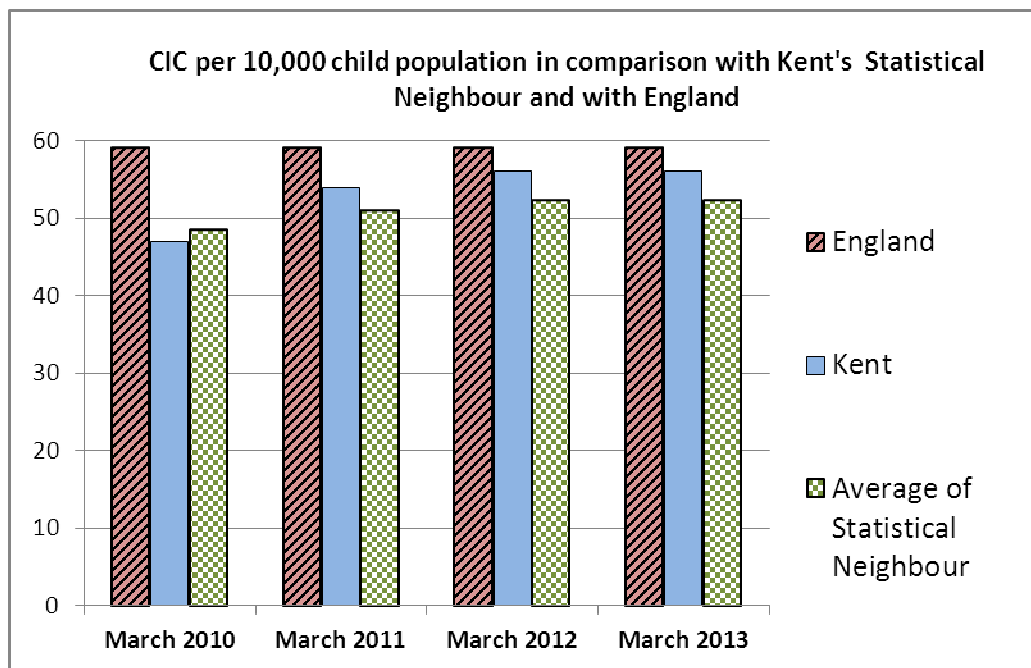
**Table 2.2: Children in care by district per 10,000 child population**

<b>Total CIC</b>	<b>March 2010</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>March 2012</b>	<b>March 2013</b>
Ashford	26.8	34.7	38.4	34.6
Canterbury	30.8	36.0	39.8	45.1
Dartford	23.8	32.4	31.4	30.2
Dover	37.7	45.6	41.2	46.4
Gravesham	30.2	37.2	57.4	39.2
Maidstone	21.4	28.5	40.5	38.6
Sevenoaks	15.0	15.6	16.0	23.4
Shepway	42.7	49.0	59.7	58.2
Swale	37.3	38.4	39.7	42.3
Thanet	72.7	83.9	80.4	80.1
Tonbridge & Malling	16.6	19.6	29.3	30.7
Tunbridge Wells	22.6	20.5	22.4	27.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>377.6</b>	<b>441.4</b>	<b>496.2</b>	<b>496</b>

**Table 2.3: CIC per 10,000 child population in comparison with Kent's Statistical Neighbour**

Total CIC	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013*
England	59	59	59	59
Kent	47	54	56	56
Average of Statistical Neighbour	48.5	50.9	52.2	52.2

\*The national and average data for March 2013 will not be released until autumn 2013 so figures used are for March 2012.



**Table 2.4: CIC by 16+, UASC and CWD**

Total CIC in Kent	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013
16+ (Catch 22)	190	230	245	218
UASC	236	238	186	190
Children With Disability	61	83	79	82

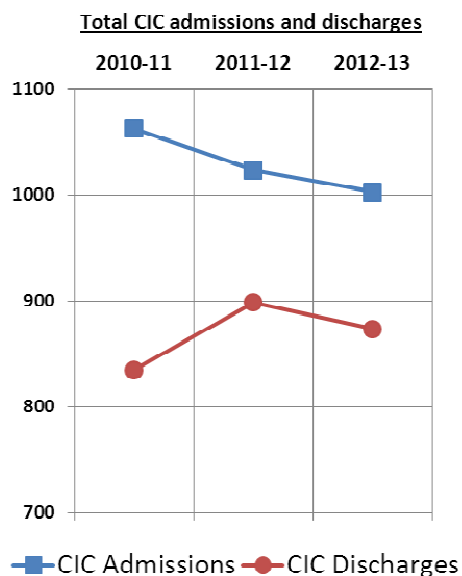
**Table 2.5: CIC with disability – breakdown of disabilities as at March 2013**

Type	Total number of cases
Diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome or autism	30
Behaviour	11
Consciousness	1
Epileptic	2
Hearing	5
Learning	40
Mobility	12
Vision	3
Other DDA	4

Please note that some children have more than one type of disability.

**Table 2.6: CIC admissions and discharges by age band**

CIC Admissions	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
0-4 years	338	369	328
5-10 years	189	172	170
11-15 years	272	291	274
16+ years	264	192	231
<b>Total</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>1003</b>
CIC Discharges	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
0-4 years	221	263	298
5-10 years	119	147	147
11-15 years	238	289	227
16+ years	257	200	202
<b>Total</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>874</b>



**Table 2.7: Placement request activity (January – March 2013)**

<b>Placement request activity</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>Short Breaks &amp; Disability</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of placement requests	42	40	83	98	15	8	<b>286</b>
Number of children placed with in-house carers	21	20	42	66	4	4	<b>157</b>
Number of children placed in emergency bed (scheme)		1	4	19			<b>24</b>
Number of children using disability short breaks					78		<b>78</b>
Number of parent/baby placements	2	1	3	3			<b>9</b>
Number of children using respite placement (from home)	1	5	6	3			<b>15</b>
Number of children using day care			1	1	8		<b>10</b>
Number of children ceasing to be looked after in a KCC foster home	8	11	10	17			<b>46</b>
Number of placement disruptions	1	3	9	5			<b>18</b>
Number of unable to place resulting in an IFA or P&V	10	16	9	2	5		<b>42</b>
Number of children placed in-house from IFA/P&V			5	5		2	<b>12</b>
Number of children placed for Adoption , SGO or Residence order with existing Foster carers	8	7		1			<b>16</b>
Number of Short Break nights provided					485		<b>485</b>



**Table 2.8: CIC by age range and Legal Status**

<b>Age (Years)</b>	<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>March 2010</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>March 2012</b>	<b>March 2013</b>
0-4	Accommodated Sect 20 CA1989	90	107	99	78
	Care Order	14	18	11	9
	Emergency Protection Order	2			
	Interim Care Order	115	189	232	169
	Placement Order Granted	45	55	108	180
	Police Protection	4			4
5-10	Accommodated Sect 20 CA1989	87	118	95	50
	Care Order	74	80	122	161
	Emergency Protection Order				
	Interim Care Order	77	119	102	95
	Placement Order Granted	39	41	71	100
	Police Protection	1			
11-15	Accommodated Sect 20 CA1989	247	259	235	225
	Care Order	208	200	239	299
	CYPA 1969 Supervision Order	1			
	Emergency Protection Order	1			
	Freeing Order Granted	2	2	2	
	Interim Care Order	40	56	48	37
	On Remand and Accommodated	1		2	
	Placement Order Granted	5	4	9	7
	Police Protection		1		
16+	Accommodated Sect 20 CA1989	287	304	301	310
	Care Order	122	134	121	98
	Interim Care Order	6	11	3	3
	On Remand and Accommodated	1	1	4	5
	Placement Order Granted				1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1469</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>1831</b>

**Table 2.9: Children who live near their family home (within 10 miles\* of their home)**

	Placement type	IFA	KCC in-house foster care	Relatives & Friends	Total
<b>March 2012</b>	<b>total</b>	264	1087	123	<b>1474</b>
	<b>within 10 miles</b>	67 (25.4%)	685 (63%)	83 (67.5%)	<b>835 (56.6%)</b>
<b>May 2012</b>	<b>total</b>	273	1045	127	<b>1445</b>
	<b>within 10 miles</b>	74 (27.1%)	670 (64.1%)	87 (68.5%)	<b>831 (57.5%)</b>
<b>August 2012</b>	<b>total</b>	293	1016	131	<b>1440</b>
	<b>within 10 miles</b>	78 (26.6%)	655 (64.5%)	83 (63.4%)	<b>816 (56.7%)</b>
<b>October 2012</b>	<b>total</b>	312	1015	119	<b>1446</b>
	<b>within 10 miles</b>	90 (28.8%)	652 (64.2%)	79 (66.4%)	<b>821 (56.8%)</b>
<b>December 2012</b>	<b>total</b>	326	1020	115	<b>1461</b>
	<b>within 10 miles</b>	95 (29.1%)	649 (63.6%)	83 (72.2%)	<b>827 (56.6%)</b>
<b>March 2013</b>	<b>total</b>	332	1028	115	<b>1475</b>
	<b>within 10 miles</b>	100 (30.1%)	669 (65.1%)	83 (72.2%)	<b>852 (57.8%)</b>

\*Please note that although the national standard for reporting is 20 miles, Kent reports on children placed within 10 miles of their home.

### **Sibling placements**

From April 2012 until March 2013 there were 115 referrals for sibling groups made with Independent Fostering Agencies as no suitable in-house resource was available.

There are currently (March 2013) 17 sibling groups placed with Independent Fostering Agency foster carers, comprising 10 groups of 2 children, 4 groups of 3 children, 1 group of 4 children and 2 sibling groups of 4 who are placed together in pairs.

**Table 2.10: Number of remands between April 2012 – March 2013**

<b>Number of YP remanded in Custody / Remanded to LA Accommodation with a secure requirement</b>	
Youth Offender Institutions	28 (784 days)
Secure Training Centres	13 (322 days)
Psychiatric Institution	2 (233 days)
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

**Table 2.11: Number of children referred to SCS with the primary stated issue of "Homeless Young Person – Southwark Judgement"**

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
<b>Number referred</b>	477	569	331

<b>Number becoming Looked after</b>	38	61	43
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## Appendix 2 - Market Analysis

### Fostering provision: Sufficiency of Provision to Meet Needs Locally.

#### In-House foster carers

Kent County Council runs a large in-house fostering service. In March 2013, KCC had a total of 820 Foster Carer households offering 1712 approved Foster Carer places, with 1124 children in placement.

**Table 1: In-house foster carers by type and locality**

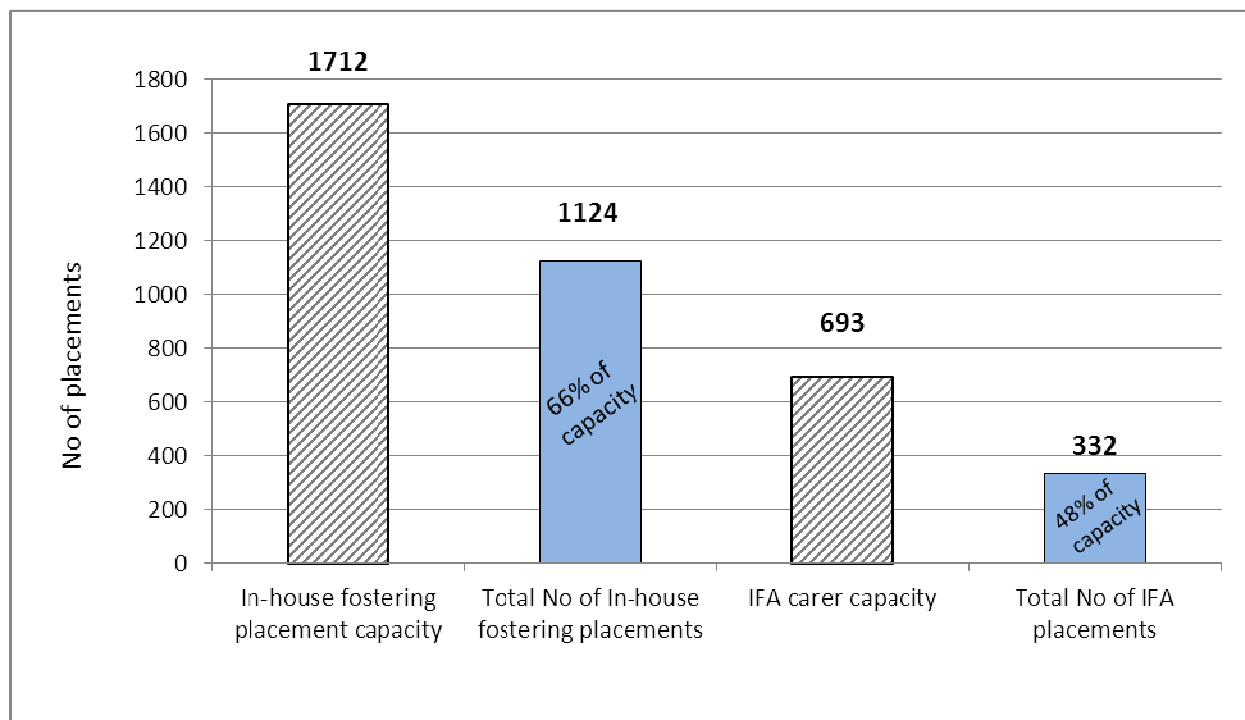
<b>FOSTER CARERS AT QUARTER END Jan – Mar 2013</b>	<b>West (Maidstone Tun.Wells, Tonbridge &amp;Malling)</b>	<b>North (Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks)</b>	<b>South (Dover Shepway Ashford)</b>	<b>East (Thanet, CanterburySwale)</b>	<b>Disabled Children</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total number of registered KCC carers</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>820</b>
<b>Total number of approved placements</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1712</b>
<b>Total number of children in placement</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1124</b>
Number of connected foster carers with a child in placement	23	12	14	10	1		<b>60</b>
Number of approved short break carers					22		<b>22</b>
No of carers who can care for a disabled child					37		<b>37</b>
Number of carers approved to provide parent/child	6	5	13	15			<b>39</b>

## Independent Fostering Agency Provision (IFA)

There are 34 Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) that have registered foster carers in Kent.

As at March 2013, KCC had a total of 332 children placed with IFAs; this included 72 children placed out of county (47 placements in Medway) and 104 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

**Table 2: Fostering Provision in Kent as at March 2013**



The striped columns in Table 2 demonstrate the current supply of both In-house fostering and Independent foster carers in Kent. The solid filled columns represent the number of children placed in in-house fostering and with IFAs. There is sufficient supply of Fostering Provision in Kent and the supply exceeds the demand for provision, but the challenge is finding appropriate placements that match the needs of the child, in the right locality in the county.

KCC contacts IFAs with requests to care for children when there is no appropriate match available in-house or when specialist needs cannot be met. Kent also requires additional independent fostering provision to support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, children with complex and challenging behaviours and sibling groups as well as non-specialist/standard foster care.

Despite the large concentration of IFAs in Kent, KCC still struggles to find appropriate foster placements to meet specific need groups, foster carers in close proximity to certain schools and foster carers in specific geographical area such as Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Maidstone.

This challenge is compounded by the large number of children (over 1000) who are placed in Kent by other Local Authorities.

To ensure sufficiency in local independent fostering provision that can meet specific needs groups of children/young people and offer cost effective placements, KCC has recently set up an Independent Fostering Preferred Provider Framework. A competitive tender process was undertaken and the Framework went live on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013. Table 3 below outlines (per category of need and by district area in Kent) the total number of foster carers in independent fostering provision who are able to support children and young people.

**Table 3: Number of Independent Foster Carers by Category of Need<sup>1</sup>**

Total number of current IFA Carers: 693	District												
	Ashford	Canterbury	Dartford	Dover	Gravesham	Maidstone	Sevenoaks	Shepway	Swale	Thanet	Ton. and Malling	Tunbridge Wells	Total Number
<b>Complex and Challenging Needs</b>	31	74	39	21	32	26	18	28	106	58	26	10	<b>469</b>
<b>Young People on Remand</b>	6	26	6	2	5	3	4	9	21	19	4	2	<b>107</b>
<b>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children</b>	13	45	30	12	23	14	16	21	61	42	22	8	<b>307</b>
<b>Children with Disabilities</b>	12	53	28	14	26	15	12	21	75	44	15	5	<b>320</b>
<b>Rehabilitation placements</b>	23	74	49	24	31	33	16	28	103	57	24	6	<b>468</b>
<b>Short Term/Bridging placements</b>	31	76	52	25	38	33	20	31	107	64	28	7	<b>512</b>
<b>Short Break placements</b>	15	47	29	7	28	14	10	16	60	35	19	6	<b>286</b>
<b>Parent and Child placements</b>	9	21	13	8	11	13	7	8	47	29	8	5	<b>179</b>
<b>Residential Migration placements</b>	23	50	17	17	18	17	3	19	86	42	11	2	<b>305</b>

Please note that the table above includes some double counting as some carers are able to offer a range of placement needs.

<sup>1</sup>Please note that this number is based on tender submission data submitted by Independent Fostering Agencies for specific categories of need, who bid to be on KCC's Preferred Provider Framework.

KCC's longer term objective is to monitor placement demand through the IFA Preferred Provider Framework over a two year period and then to develop more partnership focused approaches with IFAs on the framework in order to best meet KCC's requirements.

There has been a reduction in the unit costs of Independent Fostering Provision following the competitive tender process. Weekly prices will range from £679 to £1,881 (for very specialist provision). Although Kent's In-House Fostering Service is still delivering the most cost effective fostering provision, we are working closely with our Independent Fostering Providers to identify ways in which we continue to develop specialist and innovative provision to meet identified needs within our budgetary constraints.

### **Residential provision: Sufficiency of Provision to Meet Needs Locally**

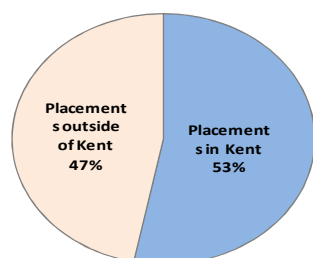
#### **Private and Voluntary Residential Children's Homes**

There are currently 74 registered Private and Voluntary (P & V) residential children's homes in Kent (up from 62 in 2009).

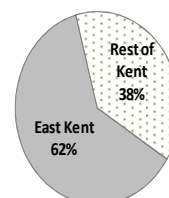
**Table 4: KCC's usage of Private and Voluntary Residential Children's Homes**

Placement location	Number of P&V residential homes used	Number of placements
Placements in Kent	19	34
Placements outside of Kent	26	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>64</b>

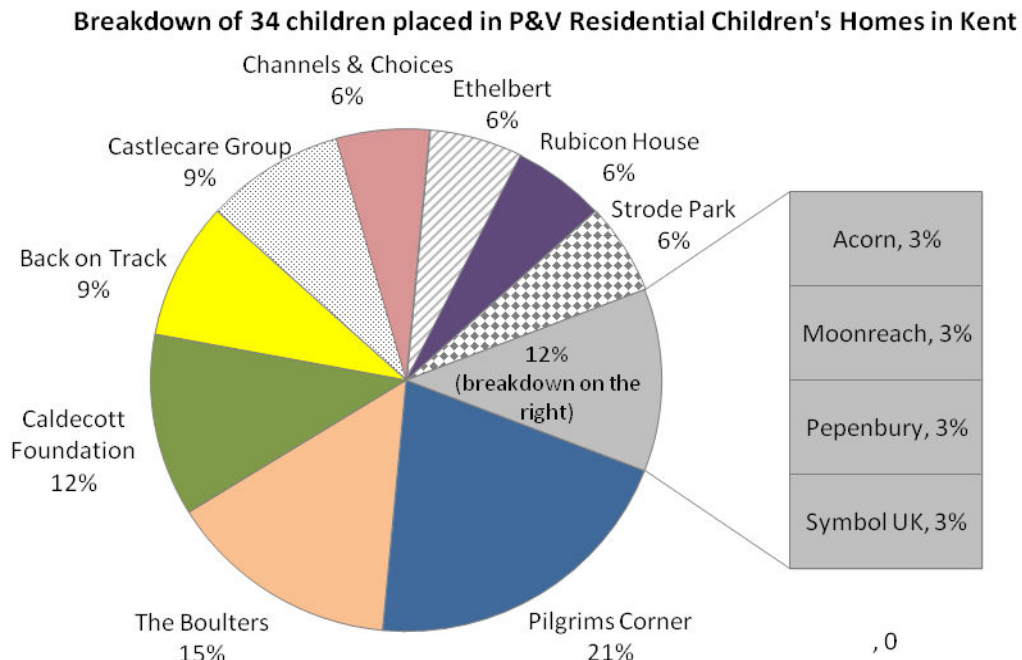
**In/out of county placement breakdown**



**Breakdown of 34 Kent placements**



The percentage of placements per provider in Kent is detailed in the chart below.



47% of the total 64 children in Residential Homes are placed outside of Kent. As at March 2013, 26 different providers are used to care for 30 children, most of whom have highly specialised needs which cannot be met locally.

Kent County Council struggles to find local residential placements to meet specific need groups. Although there are 74 registered P&V Residential Children's homes in Kent offering a total of 369 bed spaces, there are a significant number of children in care placed in these resources by other Local Authorities, which compounds the problem.

From April 2012 to March 2013, a total of 75 placement requests for Residential provision were made to KCC's Placement Support Service.

**Table 5: The total number of referrals received by need group**

Standard	Complex needs & Challenging behaviours	Highly specialist, requiring intensive intervention	Remand	Other/not recorded
10	29	2	1	33

Kent's is currently paying an average unit cost of £2,965 per week per child in Residential provision, amounting to £154,204 per annum.

## KCC Residential Provision

**Residential Provision for UASC:** As of March 2013 there were no UASC placed in P&V Residential Children's Homes. 16 UASC were placed in KCC's Millbank Reception and Assessment Centre.

**Special School with Children's Home on Site:** As of March 2013 there were 4 CWD placed in KCC's Stonebay Children's Home. 2 of the CWD are aged 16.

### **Short Break Provision for Children with Disabilities:**

Kent County Council owns and runs five Short Break Units in Kent. The table below outlines the location, number of beds in each unit, average annual occupancy for the year and number of children supported.

**Table 6: KCC's Residential Short Break Units**

<b>KCC's Residential Short Break Units</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of bed places</b>	<b>Average Bed usage</b>	<b>No. of children supported &amp; total no. of nights per year</b>
Bluebells	Detling	4	81%	36 children, 1084 nights
Fairlawn	Ashford	7	77%	65 children, 1954 nights
The Den (Sunrise Centre)	Tunbridge Wells	6	84%	62 children, 1839 nights
Treetops	Dartford	6	88%	47 children, 1906 nights
Windchimes	Herne Bay	6	79%	69 children, 1724 nights

KCC was a pathfinder for short break provision. KCC commissions a range of other short break provision services across Kent, and has a Framework Agreement in place for short break services.



## **Future commissioning intentions**

KCC recognises that there is a current gap in provision for appropriate step down placements for both young male and females but mainly females with serious self harming behaviours. We also have a shortage of intermediate placements needed for 6-9 months after children have been discharged from psychiatric units. These young people need intensive placement support that will facilitate their integration back into the community and therefore this provision needs to be locally based, so that a support package can be maintained. There is also the need for residential provision that can support young men with harmful sexualised behaviours.

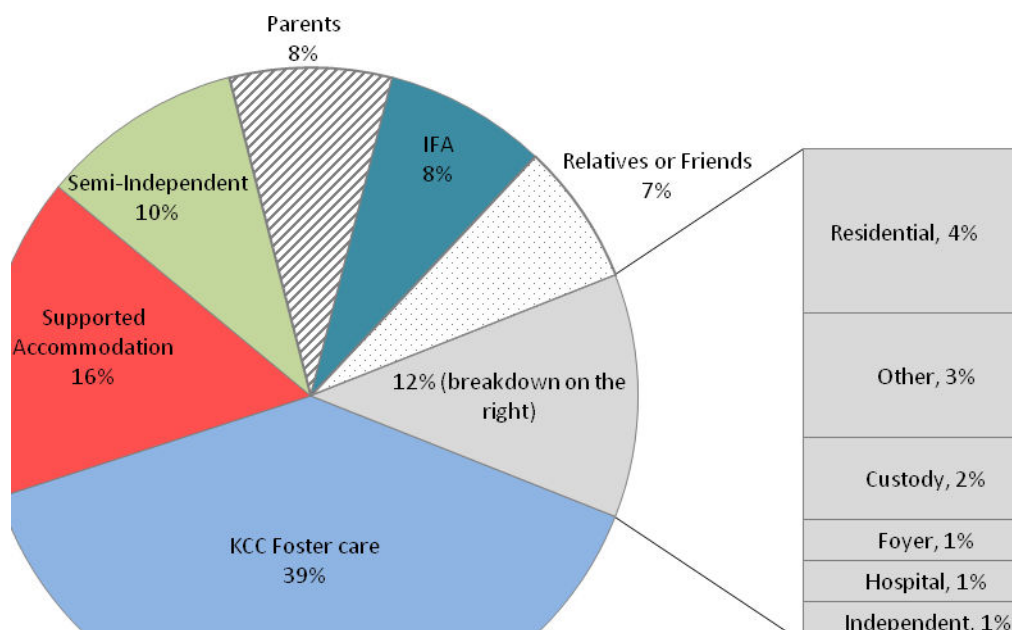
In June 2013, KCC will commence piloting the use of Residential Migration Placements, procured through the Independent Fostering Preferred Provider Framework that will support young children who are presently placed in residential provision outside of Kent to be supported, through a phased programme of care, to return to Kent and be placed with a Foster Carer family. Depending on the success of this pilot, this may be rolled out across Kent.

Kent County Council is part of the South East Region Commissioning and Contracting Group, involving around 19 other LAs in the South East of England. The regional group is presently working on developing a regional Framework, led by Southampton City Council, to commission and procure residential services from the independent sector for both Children in Care/LAC and SEN children (to be in place by 2014).

## 16+ Leaving Care Sufficiency of provision

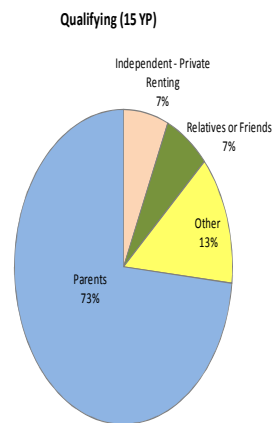
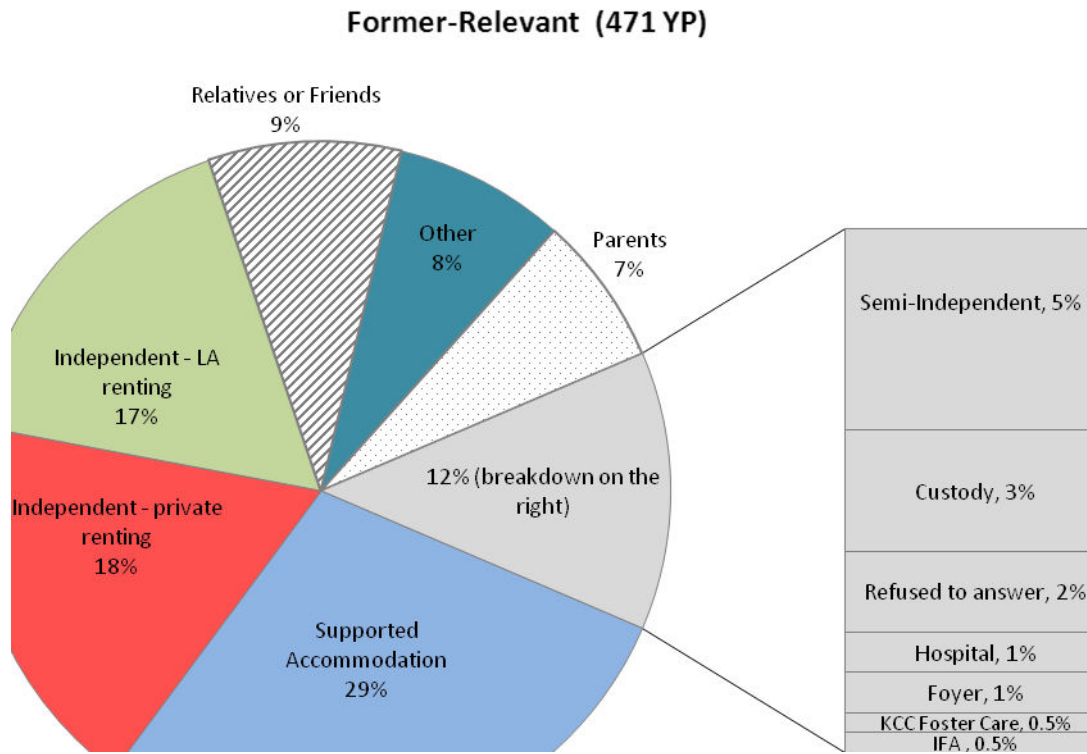
Catch 22 are currently contracted to deliver a Leaving Care Service for all eligible, relevant, former relevant and qualifying young people with the exception of UASC and Disabled children as this remains the responsibility of Kent County Council. In accordance with the agreed eligibility criteria, young people 16+ who present as homeless under Southward Judgement who remain in the care of the Local Authority for a period of 13 weeks are referred to Catch 22.

**Table 7: Placement type for 252 Young People (16-18 year olds) accessing a Leaving Care Service from Catch 22 (as of March 2013)**



39% of KCC's 16-18 year olds are placed with KCC's In-house Foster Carers at an average cost of £406.49 per week. 16% are placed in Supported Accommodation at an average cost of £166.60 per week. 3% 'Other' refers to 9 Eligible and 1 Relevant YP (of those 3 YP are placed in B&B accommodation with enhanced support, 6 are in standard B&B accommodation and 1 YP is homeless and currently sofa surfing).

**Table 8: Placement type for 486 Young People over 18 years accessing a Leaving Care Service from Catch 22 (as of March 2013)**



## Current placements for UASC 16+ Care Leavers

As at March 2013, there were a total of 456 UASC Care Leavers.

**Table 9: Placement type of UASC Care Leavers**

Placement type	Number
Independent Placements (Private Housing)	422
Independent Fostering Agencies	2
With Friends/Relatives	7
Custody	4
Hospital	1
Milbank Assessment centre	1
Dover Detention centre	1
Recorded Missing	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>

Kent County Council has commissioned private rental/housing to accommodate majority of 16+ UASC Care Leavers. Of the 456, 15 young people receive floating support through Asphaleia Care. According to UASC monthly performance report, as at March 2013, there was only one child in IFA who was placed outside of Kent.

At present the UASC Service reports difficulties sourcing sufficient accommodation in the districts of Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone due to the higher cost of rentals in these areas. The UASC service is presently engaging with District Councils to address this issue and improve arrangements for young people who have been classified as UK citizens and therefore eligible for social housing.

## Current placements for Disabled young people 16+

**Table 10: Placements for Disabled YP 16+ as at March 2013**

	West Kent	East Kent
P & V Residential provision	2	4
KCC - Stonebay	1	1
Foster care	2	4
Living with parents		1
Other		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>