



Private Fostering is:

A private fostering arrangement is one that is 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 that it should last for 28 days or more. Private foster carers may be from the extended family, such as a cousin or great aunt.

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.

Reasons why children may become PF

a parent is ill

a parent is in prison

a parent is going abroad

the relationship
between the parent and
young person has
broken down – “sofa
surfing”

family crisis or
bereavement

parents might be
studying or working
long hours

a child has come from
another country to
study English privately
or at a language school

a child has come to
England as a refugee
accompanied

a child brought to UK by
charities

PF Vulnerability

Under the radar
(invisible/not notified)

Lack of professional
knowledge regarding PF

Lack of information handover
re child's needs from parent to
carer at placement

Risks : Trafficking; slavery; CSE

Placements often made in
emergency so may have lack
of planning

Parents making poor decisions
regrading carers

Child out of cultural
context/unknown
people/limited language

42% of PF children said they
thought no-one knew

Seen as Parent's responsibility
because 'private'

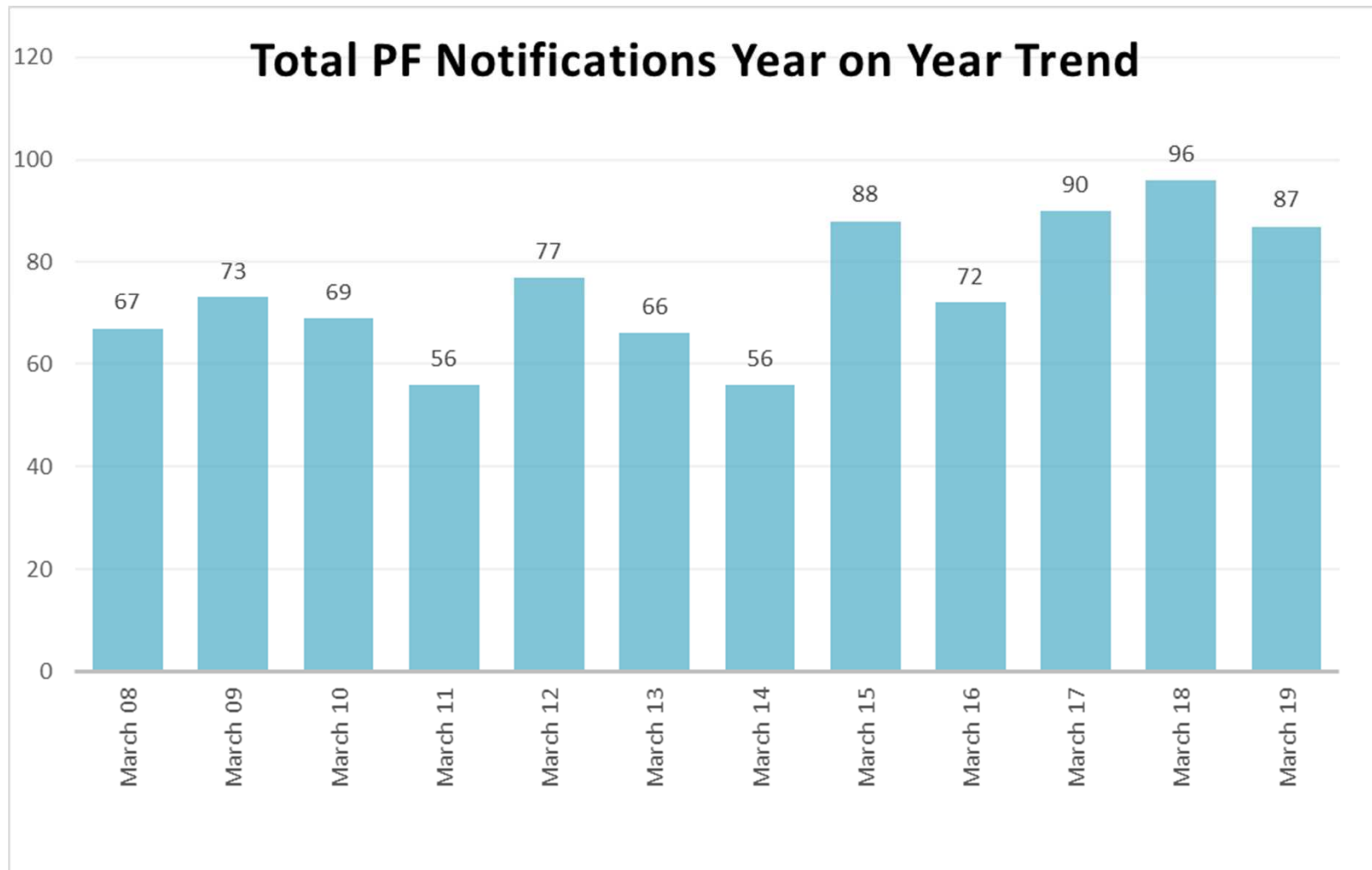
Limited/no contact with family

Child's voice not given as
much weight, particularly if
parent doesn't believe them

Parents absent &
not always
contactable

Children lied to about why
they are with PF Carers (eg
'parents dead')

Setting the scene in Kent



Social work intervention and duties

