



Annual Report on Private Fostering

2019-20

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1 Planning on Private Fostering

- 1.1 Between January and July 2019 Private Fostering was the responsibility of the Connected Person's Support Team with a designated Social Worker. The assessment part of that role is now with the Connected Person's Assessment Team. This team has experience of assessing family and friends and the completion of reports. With this being a team responsibility, the pool of persons available to assess at short notice has been widened.
- 1.2 Responsibility for the welfare of the child residing in a Private Fostering placement, is now with the Assessment and Intervention Team. This is in line with our neighbouring Local Authorities. More details outlined below.
- 1.3 The Team Managers for the Connected Person's Assessment Team have lead officer responsibility for private fostering and reports to the LSCB as required but no less than annually.
- 1.4 Standard 1 of the National Minimum Standards requires that the Local Authority has a written statement or plan which sets out its duties and functions in relation to private fostering. The Private Fostering Action Plan was created in January 2019 and is updated annually. The most recent is attached to this document (Appendix A)
- 1.5 A statement of purpose has been established.
- 1.6 The private fostering functions relating to assessing suitability is with the connected person's assessment team, whilst welfare visits are with the Assessment and Intervention Team.
- 1.7 Coram BAAF Quarterly Special Interest Group on Private Fostering has now ceased meeting. We are however signed up to support and guidance from Coram BAAF, in relation to Private Fostering.

2 Notification Arrangements – see appendix B for the pathway

- 2.1 The Duty and Advice service receives all enquiries and referrals regarding proposed private fostering arrangements. All the publicity specifies that this service is the contact point. The child is allocated to a Social Worker in the Assessment and Intervention Team who have case accountability for the child. The responsibility for assessing the private fostering placement is with the Connected Person's Assessment Team, who will undertake a joint visit with the allocated social worker. They will visit the household to establish it fits the criteria for private fostering and ensure there are no safeguarding concerns apparent. The Social Worker from the Connected Person's Assessment Team will undertake a full private fostering assessment, following which their involvement ceases.

- 2.2 The current arrangements ensure there is a timely and robust response to all notifications to the Service.
- 2.3 The Designated Social Workers for Private Fostering, Team Manager and Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board Admin and Information Officer will implement a range of initiatives to highlight the notification arrangements to existing and potential private foster carers and the public. This includes:
- Public Leaflets and posters widely circulated
 - Maintenance of a dedicated webpage on the Council's website
 - Fostering Marketing Team to develop strategies to improve awareness of Private Fostering.

3. Safeguarding and Promoting Welfare

- 3.1 The Duty and Advice service are the team that receives all new referrals in Children's Services. Upon receipt of a suggested Private Fostering placement, they will undertake safeguarding checks prior to passing through to the allocated team. The joint assessment will determine that there are no safeguarding concerns and that the child is residing in a private fostering arrangement.
- 3.2 The Team Manager of the Connected Person's Assessment Team signs off all assessments on the overall suitability of Private Fostering arrangements.
- 3.3 The Children's Social Care procedures forms on Private Fostering were reviewed following the commissioning of TriX and were subsequently updated.

4 Advice and Support

- 4.1 The Social Worker from Assessment and Intervention ensures that private foster carers, parents and children receive appropriate advice and support. As appropriate this is given in different formats where English is not the first language.
- 4.2 Where appropriate the Social Worker will give advice on options available to safeguard and promote a child's welfare (e.g. recommending a Child Arrangement Order).
- 4.3 Where a situation is more complex and requires work from various agencies, the child will be deemed a Child in Need.

5 Monitoring Compliance with Duties and Functions

5.1 2018 -2019 Financial Year Private Fostering activity

Age	Gender	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
13	Male						1						
13	Male						1						
13	Female						1						
7	Female											1	
4	Female											1	
Number of children with an outcome of private fostering							3					2	
Age	Gender	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
7	Female											1	1
4	Female											1	1
15	Male								1	1	1	1	1
15	Female												
9	Male												
Number of children where LA notified of private fostering									1	1	1	3	3
Age	Gender	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
17	Female	1	1	1									
15	Male							1	1	1	1	1	1
17	Male	1	1	1	1	1							
Number of children where private fostering agreed		2	2	2	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1

5.2 Currently July 31st 2019 there are 2 children in Private Fostering arrangements known to us as outlined below. All Private Fostering arrangements are reviewed annually.

Age at time of placement	Ethnicity	Date placed	Reason
Age 5 years	C2	17-05-19	Birth Parent living abroad child living with Great Aunt.
Age 14 years	A1	29-07-19	Birth Parent has agreed child stay with family friend at current time.

5.3 Ofsted inspection took place in June 2019 and Private Fostering arrangements were inspected as part of the inspection process.

5.4 The Team Manager from the Connected Person's Assessment team have developed a tracker to ensure the timeliness of assessments and collection of data.

6 Future Plans

6.1 Private Fostering in Kirklees has been placed in various teams over the last five years. It is now permanently placed in the Connected Person's Assessment Team for the assessment part of the process and Assessment and Intervention for the support and monitoring. Both teams are skilled in their own right, so as to deliver what is required for our privately fostered children.

6.2 Social Workers are to attend the next Kirklees Safeguarding Board Annual Conference to raise awareness of Private Fostering.

6.3 Social Workers are to link with Housing colleagues to raise awareness amongst this group of staff of Private Fostering.

6.4 Link with the Safeguarding Board and hope this will assist in raising awareness amongst other professionals as we feel this is not being achieved as fully as we would like.

6.5 We are discussing with schools admissions a form change to reflect if a child is in a Private Fostering arrangement. This needs further discussion with the relevant professionals.

