

Corporate Parenting Board

Quarterly Report

21/22



MIDDLESBROUGH
CHILDREN
MATTER



**Our mission is to show
Middlesbrough children
that they matter.**

Fostering Service 2021 – 2022 Quarterly Report, October – December 2021

Data collated as of the 31.12.21



	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Number of Enquiries	14	10
Number of Initial Visits	3	1
Number of fostering families	130	122
Number of children placed with Middleborough Carers	176	169
Foster placements available for children that are not occupied	50	15
De – registrations (households)		
Mainstream	4 (7 children)	5 (5 children)
Connected	1 (2 children)	7 (7 children)
Foster to adopt		2 (2 children)
Panel activity (households)		
Reviews	4	9
Newly approved;		
Mainstream fostering families	1 (1 child 2 if sibs respite only)	1 (1 child)
Connected fostering families	4 (8 children)	6 (6 children)
Matches for children and their long term fostering families	7 (10 children)	1 (child)
Supported Lodgings	0	1 (1 young person)

What is working well

- Social workers and Supported Lodgings worker are receiving monthly reflective supervision
- Workers continue to scale themselves on average 7/8 out of 10 in respect to work satisfaction
- Increased levels of compliance and Management Oversight evidenced within fostering family records
- New policies have been introduced to staff and fostering families
- We have devised a 12 month training program which includes face to face training from BAAF and The Training Hub – all specific to the training needs identified within the team.
- Supported Lodgings Providers are now enjoying monthly formal supervision and the opportunity to attend support groups
- Our first cohort of Fostering Academy carers are being nurtured within our service and are on target to complete their TSD Standards within 12 months of approval.
- A large scale marketing campaign has been developed in close consultation between the fostering service and the marketing team
- Pathways through Fostering training is underway and has been well received by carers.
- A Recruitment Strategy has been devised to sit alongside the wider marketing strategy for the LA
- Social Worker caseloads continue to remain stable and are conducive to improving quality of practice in addition to compliance
- Development of ICT systems to streamline working and provide greater clarity for performance, quality and understanding fostering families journey
- Introduction of peer supervision
- Embedding of early permanence planning meetings and midway reviews for children in connected carer arrangements, supporting permanency being achieved at the right time, this is further supported by close liaison with the court manager. This to develop further to include Family Group Conference service.
- The implementation of the Mockingbird is at formative stages with a scheme of work planned in January 2022

What are we worried about

- Impact of COVID-19 on recruitment of foster carers – lack of enquiries and difficulty in undertaking home visits.
- We do not have enough MBC approved foster carers to place all of our children in internal provision
- Recruitment of fostering families remains a challenge however this is not unique to MBC, there is a national shortage of fostering families