

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, January to March 2022

Data collated as of the 31.3.22



| | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--|
| Number of Enquiries Number of Initial Visits | 15 1 | 38 14 | Cumulative data from January to March 22 |
| Number of fostering families | 122 | 119 | As of the 31.3.22 |
| Foster placements available for children that are not occupied | 15 | 7 | As of the 31.3.22 |
| De – registrations (households) | | | As of the 31.3.22 |
| Mainstream | 5 (5 children) | 5 (10 children) | |
| Connected | 7 (7 children) | 0 | |
| Foster to adopt | 2 (2 children) | 0 | |
| Panel activity (households) | | | Cumulative data from January to March 22 |
| Reviews | 9 | 9 | |
| Newly approved; | | | |
| Mainstream fostering families | 1 (1 child) | 0 | |
| Connected fostering families | 6 (6 children) | 8 (12 children) | |
| Matches for children and their long term fostering families | 1 (child) | 10 (20 children) | |
| Supported Lodgings | 1 (1 young person) | 0 | |

What is working well

- Performance is improving across the service in terms of compliance and quality.
- Foster carer reviews are taking place in timescales, over 80% of reviews held have been in timescales. No reviews have been held outside of timescales due to practice.
- Foster carers are receiving monthly supervision which supports the fostering families and the children in our care
- There has been a significant increase in enquiries and initial visits with a further planned recruitment drive in May 2022
- We have improved timeliness of completion of connected carers assessments which supports plans of permanence for our children, at the time of writing no fostering assessments have exceeded the 24 weeks timescale.
- There has been a significant increase in children matched with their foster carers as their plan of permanence
- The recruitment of a liaison worker and hub carer for the Mockingbird has commenced
- We have three social work students in the service.
- Staff morale remains good and they work collectively to support the service, the fostering families and the children in our care.
- We are utilising available foster placements more effectively and have a better understanding of availability.

What are we worried about

- There remains not enough fostering families for our children in our care we continue to have on average 50% of our children who are looked after in internal placements.

What makes things more complicated

- Data performance systems are improved providing greater accuracy.
- There has been a number of deregistration's of mainstream foster carers, one has been due to this being progressed by the service, one as a result of a transfer to an IFA and the others had not provided care to children for extended periods due to their own personal circumstances.
- There were 7 foster placements available at the time of obtaining the data, these were a mixture of availability for babies and respite provision for children

Plan

- To increase the number of fostering enquiries and increase the number of newly approved carers to 10 in 2022 and 20 in 2023
- Develop an improved system and tool box for collecting views of children looked after and fostering families birth children.
- To continue to develop a robust and targeted training programme for staff within fostering service to improve practice.
- Recruitment drive to progress in May 2022