



Corporate Parenting Committee

Thursday 12 February 2015 at 5.00 pm

Boardroom 3&4 - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way,
Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Moher (Chair)
Conneely
Hossain
Thomas
Warren

Substitute Members

Councillors:

S Choudhary, Colacicco, Crane
and Dixon

Councillor:

Davidson and Ms Shaw

For further information contact: Anne Reid, Democratic Services
020 8937 1359, anne.reid@brent.gov.uk

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The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members.

Item	Page
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1 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 6
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2 Matters arising	
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3 Deputations (if any)	
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4 Children in Care - feedback on Transition to Independence document	
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To be presented by the Chair and Vice Chair of Care in Action.

5 Fostering Quarter 3 report	7 - 28
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The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council's Corporate Parenting Committee about the general management of the in-house fostering service and how it is achieving good outcomes for children. This is in accordance with standard 25.7 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards (2011).

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Nigel Chapman, Head of Placements
Tel: 020 8937 4456
nigel.chapman@brent.gov.uk

6 Performance Scorecard - Quarter 3	29 - 30
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The Operational Director Social Care will present performance data for the quarter October – December 2014.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Graham Genoni, Operational Director, Social Care
Tel: 020 8937 4091
graham.genoni@brent.gov.uk

7 Work programme 2015	31 - 32
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A draft work programme for 2015 is attached for consideration.

Ward Affected:
All Wards

Contact Officer: Graham Genoni, Operational
Director, Social Care
Tel: 020 8937 4091
graham.genoni@brent.gov.uk

8 Any other urgent business

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 16 April 2015



Please remember to set your mobile phone to silent during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.

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MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE **Thursday 11 December 2014 at 5.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Moher (Chair), Councillors Conneely, Crane (for Hossain) Thomas and Warren

Apologies were received from: Councillor Hossain

1. Deputations

None.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED:

that approval of the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting be deferred until later in the meeting.

(Councillor Warren asked that his dissent from this decision be recorded).

3. Brent Adoption Service report - 1 April 2014 to 30 September 2014

Nigel Chapman (Head of Placements) introduced the report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People the purpose of which was to provide information on the general management of the Adoption Service and how it was achieving good outcomes for children. The report detailed the activity of Brent's adoption service from April 1 2014 to 30 September 2014. Nigel Chapman made reference to questions raised at the previous meeting regarding the service's performance in relation to other local authorities and. he drew attention to tables in the report which compared Brent with national performance figures. On the average times between children entering care and moving in with their prospective adopters and the number of children who wait less than 18 months between entering care and moving in with their prospective adopters, performance was above average and average respectively. Performance on the time taken between court authority to place and matching with an adoptive family would have been average were it not for one case which had skewed the figures. Whilst this one child did adversely effect the overall figures, for the child it was an absolute success as he had been a hard to adopt child who was eventually placed. Data on comparisons with other local authorities would be published in the following month and available at the next meeting.

Members raised questions about whether there had been any noticeable improvement in court turnaround times and decrease in the number of children

without adoption plans. The committee heard that there were more approved prospective adopters than children available and fewer children were being recommended for adoption than was previously the case. The focus was on older children and those with disabilities who were harder to place. Nigel Chapman reported on the first Fostering for Adoption placement, support received from Coram, opportunities to meet and share with other local authorities and the post adoption support fund that would be available during 2015.

RESOLVED:

that the content of the report, which provided evidence that the management of the adoption service was being monitored and challenged in order to promote good outcomes for children, in line with standard 25.6 of the Adoption National Minimum Standards (2014), be noted.

4. **Brent Fostering Service Quarterly Monitoring Report 1 July - 30 September 2014**

The report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People provided information on the general management of the in-house fostering service and how it was achieving good outcomes for children, in accordance with standard 25.7 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards (2011). The report covered the second quarter of the reporting year and had as an appendix relevant statistical data from the previous reporting year to enable a comparison to be made against other West London boroughs. In introducing the report, Nigel Chapman (Head of Placements) highlighted the key points which included placement activity, efforts made to increase the number of in-house fostering placements and challenges in placing siblings together. Nigel Chapman advised members of a recent fostering promotion event directed at the Somali community, the Foster Carers Annual Conference earlier in the year which was well attended and the learning and development calendar which reflected a comprehensive training list. Discussions have taken place with a provider of Social Pedagogical training with the aim of improving local placement choice and stability. The service has also been working closely with west London boroughs to improve services jointly and develop a cross West London action plan which is being drafted.

In response to members' enquiries on activities to raise awareness of fostering, Nigel Chapman drew attention to new publicity which had been updated to include pictures, musical references and the website had also been updated and now received an increased number of enquiries. Monitoring arrangements were seen to have improved with only two complaints. Nigel Chapman confirmed that foster carer reviews completed in the period had, on the whole, gone well and offered to provide a more detailed report to a future meeting. He confirmed that foster carers had to have attended training in order to be eligible for enhanced allowances. Members also questioned whether anything further could be done to increase the number of children placed close to home and whether there were any other communities on which promotional attention should be focussed. Nigel Chapman responded that advertisements were placed in EU community press and this was felt to be sufficient for the present given their circumstances as new arrivals. It was hoped that more progress would be made with other communities of longer standing. Joint improvement initiative work was taking place with other boroughs. Nigel Chapman

confirmed that decisions on placements were primarily based on the needs of the child and residential care was unlikely to be the first course of action.

In response to a question on the placement of sibling groups, Nigel Chapman responded that a number of foster carers were approved to look after more than one child. More were needed and efforts were being made to target those areas of the borough that already had larger accommodation. It was confirmed that house extensions were sometimes authorised for adoptive parents but not foster carers.

Members raised questions on the preparation for the transition to independent living and heard that training courses were available and young people's readiness for independence was assessed. Each child would have a suitable plan in place from age 16 which identified what services and support would be put into place to support them to reach independence. This would include support from their social worker, Care in Action, their foster carer or semi-independent provider. Over the last three years the department has worked with Fixed for your Future (a Big Lottery programme) which provided mentoring and advice and support to care leavers.

RESOLVED:

that the Fostering Quarterly report for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014 be noted.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 October 2014 as amended and circulated prior to the meeting be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

(Councillor Warren asked that his dissent from this decision be recorded).

6. Matters arising

None.

7. Care in Action (Children in Care Council) - questions and answers

Caroline MacGinnis and Paul Egunjobi (Care In Action) were present to update members on recent LAC activities and events. Caroline MacGinnis reported back on a Chance To Ask event held on 30 October at Wembley Stadium for young people aged 8 to 22 years which, she felt, had been very successful. Paul Egunjobi advised that Care Leavers group had been established so that older children in care could have their own forum to discuss issues. It would meet on a monthly basis and it was hoped that many care leavers would attend. Caroline MacGinnis gave an update on the APPG meeting she had attended at Westminster Palace and the committee were pleased to hear of the Brent Celebration of Achievement Award ceremony the previous week at which Paul had addressed young people on the importance of opportunities and education.

8. LAC education attainment report

Gail Tolley (Strategic Director, Children and Young People) gave a presentation on the provisional outcomes for 2014 for the Virtual School for Children Looked After. The numbers in care had declined however there were a larger number in the older age ranges and coming into care relatively late. She summarised achievements from Early Years to Key Stage 5 highlighting efforts being made to improve outcomes, personal challenges that led to placement moves which interrupted schooling at critical times, achievements where percentage results had declined and the continuing challenges posed by children who come into care late in their school life or had to move away. The challenges were seen to be to minimise mobility particularly in Year 11, meet special educational needs and needs of pupils with English as an Additional Language. Gail Tolley also outlined the plans to improve performance in 2014/15. Members in discussion, raised questions on how to help children performing below average to catch up, the challenge of SEN and how to improve support to children who have to relocate.

Gail Tolley responded that one of the best ways to help LAC was for them to attend schools judged to be either good or outstanding and where this was not the case, the Strategic Director was advised and decisions taken thereafter on a case by case basis. SEN children needed to have the right placement for their needs. The pupil premium was focused on English and Mathematics but poor emotional well being and disruption could hinder educational achievement. Gail Tolley assured the Committee that a small team of staff in the Virtual School monitored achievement and intervened where necessary, including utilising the pupil premium. Members paid tribute to the significant increase in the number of LAC in Further Education now one in six, compared to a few years ago.

Caroline MacGinnis (Care In Action) questioned whether children aged 0 to four were receiving the right levels of support to avoid them being disadvantaged early in their school life. The Strategic Director, Children and Young People referred to the support given to LAC in the EYFS; 80% of the 3-4 year olds had placements that were either good or outstanding. Children would also have a personal education plan when they come to school which was reviewed.

Ann Holmes (Head of Care Planning and Children in Care) confirmed that the Fixed for your Future programme was due to end and the Virtual School would support those LAC not in education, employment or training.

9. Care Quality Commission report; Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding

Kate Tuohy, (Designated LAC Nurse, Brent Clinical Commissioning Group) presented the report which gave an progress update on recommendations made by the Care Quality Commission as requested at the last meeting. She drew members attention to the Action Plan and was pleased to note that most of the actions had been RAG rated green. Electronic record keeping was now underway.

In discussion, reference was made to the 2011 inspection where the assessment had been poor. The committee was pleased to hear that, in contrast, there had been no breach reports issued in the last few months. The committee questioned the decision to exempt young people in youth offending or similar institutions from having health assessments by the CLA Health Team in Brent and heard that access was difficult and facilities to see them considered inadequate. They would

receive an assessment from the institution and Gail Tolley assured that the council's role was to ensure that work with health colleagues continued.

10. **Development of Forward Plan**

The committee agreed that the Strategic Director, Children and Young People discuss the forward plan with the Chair and report back.

11. **Any other urgent business**

The Strategic Director Children and Families undertook to investigate the backdating of setting up home allowances due to be paid to young people.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

R MOHER
Chair

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Corporate Parenting Committee 12 February 2015

Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People

Brent Fostering Service Quarterly Monitoring Report 1 October – 31 December 2014

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council's Corporate Parenting Committee about the general management of the in-house fostering service and how it is achieving good outcomes for children. This is in accordance with standard 25.7 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards (2011).
- 1.2 The report covers the third quarter of this reporting year. To enable a comparison to be made against other West London boroughs appendix (i) is attached that provides relevant statistical data from the previous reporting year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee is requested to review, comment on and question the contents of this report. This is to provide evidence that the management of the fostering service is being monitored and challenged in order to promote good outcomes for children.

3.0 Service Values

- 3.1 The in-house fostering function is positioned within the Placements Service of Children and Young People's Services. The vision for the Placements service as set out in the 2014-15 service plan is that:
- The best foster carers are recruited for our children.
 - All placements receive high quality support, effectively targeted according to need.
 - There is an increase in the number of children placed closer to home with our in-house foster carers.
 - Children are found permanent families without delay – whether within their extended family network or outside.
 - Staff within the service are encouraged to become more professionally autonomous and confident.

4.0 Staffing Arrangements

- 4.1 The primary in-house fostering functions are distributed across two teams:
- The recruitment and assessment of foster carers is completed within the Kinship, Fostering and Adoption Assessment Team.
 - The ongoing support and supervision of foster carers is the responsibility of the Fostering Support Team.
- 4.2 The Fostering Panel Advisor, Fostering Reviewing Officer and Fostering Development Co-ordinator roles are also managed within the Placements' Service and are line managed separately from the two operational teams in order to provide appropriate questioning.

5.0 Placement Activity

- 5.1 One of the service priorities is that the proportion of Looked After Children placed closer to home with in-house foster carers' increases.
- 5.2 As at the 31st December 2014 there were:
- 110 children placed with Brent foster carers compared to 122 children at the end of the previous quarter. The reduction was partly caused due to the granting of Special Guardianship orders for children formerly with in-house carers and also young people turning 18 and choosing to remain with their foster carers under 'staying put' arrangements.
 - 54 children placed with a relative or family friend on a fostering basis compared to 41 children at the end of the previous quarter. This is a significant increase that has ensured that children remain looked after within their kinship network.
 - 87 children placed with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) compared to 87 children at the end of the previous quarter.
- 5.3 The overall LAC population increased during the reporting period; from 333 on 30th September 2014 to 336 on 31st December 2014.
- 5.4 As at 31st December 2014 the proportion of children placed with an in-house foster carer or relative/friend, as a proportion of the total LAC population remained at 49%, the same as the previous quarter. When IFA placements are included 75% of our LAC population was living in a family setting as at 31st December 2014.
- 5.5 One of the service priorities is to ensure children are placed as close to home as possible, which will usually involve placement with a suitable in-house foster carer. We continue to meet challenges in placing large sibling groups, adolescents with difficult behaviours and children where the plan is for them to reside outside of the local area. Marketing and recruitment activity as well as development work within the West London Alliance are seeking to address these supply issues.
- 5.6 Where placements are made with IFAs in an emergency the in-house fostering team work closely with other colleagues to consider whether a move to an in-house carer is possible and in the child's best interests.

6.0 Recruitment Activity

- 6.1 The fostering service carried out 14 recruitment focused activities within the reporting period with the aim of raising awareness of fostering and encouraging potential foster

carers to come forward. The service had a presence at various events that included the Brent Libraries for Black History Month, a Brent Equality and Diversity awareness session and a White Ribbon event. In December a fostering information session was held at the Civic Centre specifically for the Brent Somali community. This event was well attended and provided a good opportunity for us to understand community concerns and to ensure fostering processes were communicated effectively. Alongside our presence at local events the service ensures regular advertising in local media, transport services and advertising boards in Brent and neighbouring boroughs.

- 6.2 The monthly information evenings continued to be held at the Civic Centre for members of the public to find out more about the fostering role and to enable us to determine whether an individual or family has the potential to become a carer for Brent.
- 6.3 The recruitment activity during the reporting period produced 45 enquiries about fostering. These enquiries resulted in 6 initial visits. As at the 31st December 2014 there were 9 formal assessments in process under the 2-stage fostering assessment process. As part of the assessment and preparation process a number of professionals speak to prospective carers about the fostering task, including the involvement of young people who have been within the care system.
- 6.4 At the beginning of the reporting year the service aimed to recruit fifteen non-related foster carers between 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015 with a net growth of approximately 5 fostering households once carer resignations and terminations of approval were taken into account. There have been five non-related foster care approvals to date this reporting year and it is unlikely the overall target of 15 will be met, although the number of approvals of family and friends foster carers continues to rise. The introduction of the new 2-stage fostering assessment process contributed to some delays earlier in the reporting year, as these were led by the applicant. These have now been resolved. We have also taken action to terminate the approval of a number of carers who have not fostered for some time and this is likely to mean that we do not receive a net increase of carers this reporting year.

7.0 Fostering Panel

- 7.1 The fostering service has a Fostering Panel constituted in accordance with Regulation 23 of the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011. The service maintains a central list of Panel members. The panel chair and vice chair are independent people with professional experience of fostering. The Panel meets on the first Friday of every month.
- 7.2 The functions of the Fostering Panel are to consider:
- Each application and recommend whether or not a person is suitable to be a Foster Carer, Connected Person(s) (Family and Friends Foster Carer) and the terms of their approval
 - The first annual review of each approved carer and any other review as requested by the fostering service.
 - The termination of approval or change of terms of approval of a Foster Carer.
- 7.3 The panel has a quality assurance role and monitors the standard of reports presented to it and relays any issues or concerns to the Registered Manager. The panel makes

recommendations to the fostering service and these recommendations are referred to the Agency Decision Maker who is the Operational Director, Children's Social Care.

- 7.4 During the period 1st October – 31st December 2014 three panels were held with nineteen specific cases discussed during these sessions. Within this group, six new 'Family and Friends' foster carer households and two new fostering households were approved. Five fostering and two family and friends households were found suitable to continue as foster carers following review. One family and friends foster carer's approval was recommended for termination as a result of the child leaving the placement. Three fostering households' approval was recommended for termination. These were due to a change in housing circumstances for one carer; another carer deciding to leave because of the breakdown in relationship with the child's social worker and another carer sadly passed away. All of the recommendations made to the Agency Decision Maker were ratified.
- 7.5 The Fostering Panel has noted more consistent attendance and engagement from children's Social Workers when cases are presented, following this issue being noted within the previous quarterly report. The Heads of Service for Placements and Care Planning will continue to monitor this issue.
- 8.0 Training and Support to Foster Carers**
- 8.1 All of Brent's foster carers are allocated to a Supervising Social Worker who carries out monthly supervision and support visits, ensures carers provide a good standard of care and creates an important link between the child's social worker and the foster carer.
- 8.2 As part of foster carers' commitment to Brent and reinforced within their foster care agreement is a requirement to attend mandatory and identified training courses. During the period 1st October – 31st December 2014 16 training courses were held, attended by 119 foster carers.
- 8.3 Every month a foster carers' support group is held, facilitated by Supervising Social Workers but informed by the needs of carers. The groups are well attended and provide an important communication link between carers and the Placements' Service. A foster carers' focus group was also held to discuss training needs and early discussions about establishing an association. Foster carers and their foster children also enjoyed a Christmas party and many of our carers attended the annual Foster Carers' Celebration event in December. Details of these events can be found on pages 5 & 7 within appendix (ii), the Fostering Newsletter - Winter 2014.
- 8.5 A number of learning and development opportunities for carers were offered during the reporting period. Our programme of introducing social pedagogy to fostering began with two meetings held in November and December that incorporated awareness raising sessions about the concept. A 10-day course will commence from January 2015 for 20 participants – a mixture of foster carers, supervising social workers and children's social workers. The training model has been in use elsewhere in the UK with a small number of local authorities and has demonstrated encouraging activity. The aims of our course are to help participants gain greater reflective capability and to be able to choose and apply the models taught on the course to their practice. This will enhance the quality of care provided to children, increase the ability of carers to continue to care for children with challenging behaviour and will enable children in care to show a greater engagement in their education.

9.0 Monitoring Arrangements

- 9.1 During the reporting period there were seven allegations made against Brent foster carers. In three cases no formal action was taken. The remaining four cases went through a formal child protection process and one is still ongoing. No further action was taken in the other three cases. These cases related in one example to inappropriate enforcement of boundaries; one to the difficulties a carer experienced in managing challenging adolescent behaviour and the third involved a serious dispute between a foster carer's teenage daughter and the young person in placement.
- 9.2 There were four formal complaints received from Brent foster carers. These related to a variety of issues:
- One related to a difference of opinion regarding the amount of allowance provided between a nominated carer and the foster carer.
 - One complaint was regarding a foster carer requesting larger accommodation from her Housing Association.
 - Another complaint related to a breach of a foster carer's confidential information by an NHS Hospital Trust.
 - The final complaint related to difficulties experienced by a carer in managing her child's behaviour and the support offered by Children's Social Care.
- 9.2 All foster carers, regardless of the length of their approval with Brent must have an annual review of their arrangements. The Fostering Reviewing Officer completed 31 annual reviews out of a possible 35 during this period. Those incomplete within the period were due to foster carer and social worker unavailability. These have all been rearranged. The service is working to improve the quality of the reports for reviews and that they are more evidence based and that they will demonstrate the learning undertaken by carers and how their care has led to improved outcomes for children.

10.0 Service Development

- 10.1 As described above, the innovative training programme to introduce social pedagogy to foster carers and social care staff is now in progress. The programme expects to deliver recognisable improvements in the relationship between foster carers and social workers where a better quality of interchange between staff/carers and young people is observed by participants and their supervisors. This course is an early step in refocusing the approach to enhance the quality of care to our children and young people.
- 10.4 Collaborative work has continued with other boroughs within the West London Alliance (WLA) to strengthen working arrangements to improve our fostering services. The benchmarking data (at appendix i) has enabled authorities to compare strengths and development areas. An area for Brent's development is to reduce the number of unplanned endings of foster placements. We are addressing this through our refreshed training programme for carers and improving the recruitment and retention of children's social workers. An action plan for West London fostering has been approved by Directors of Children's Services. A protocol has been agreed to share internal fostering vacancies across boroughs. Joint preparation training for foster carers is being established that will enable more courses to be available across the sub-region to increase the choice available to potential foster carers. An out of hours support telephone line is to be

commissioned to allow carers the opportunity to speak to a knowledgeable fostering professional in situations where advice is needed and to prevent situations from escalating. The WLA action plan also includes joint marketing and advertising activity to find foster carers from particular groups where we as individual authorities struggle to recruit – such as sibling groups and adolescents.

Appendices

- i) West London Alliance Ofsted Fostering Data 2013-14.
- ii) Foster Carers' Newsletter Winter 2014.

Contact Officer

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GAIL TOLLEY

STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Appendix (i)

West London Alliance Fostering Ofsted Data 2013-14

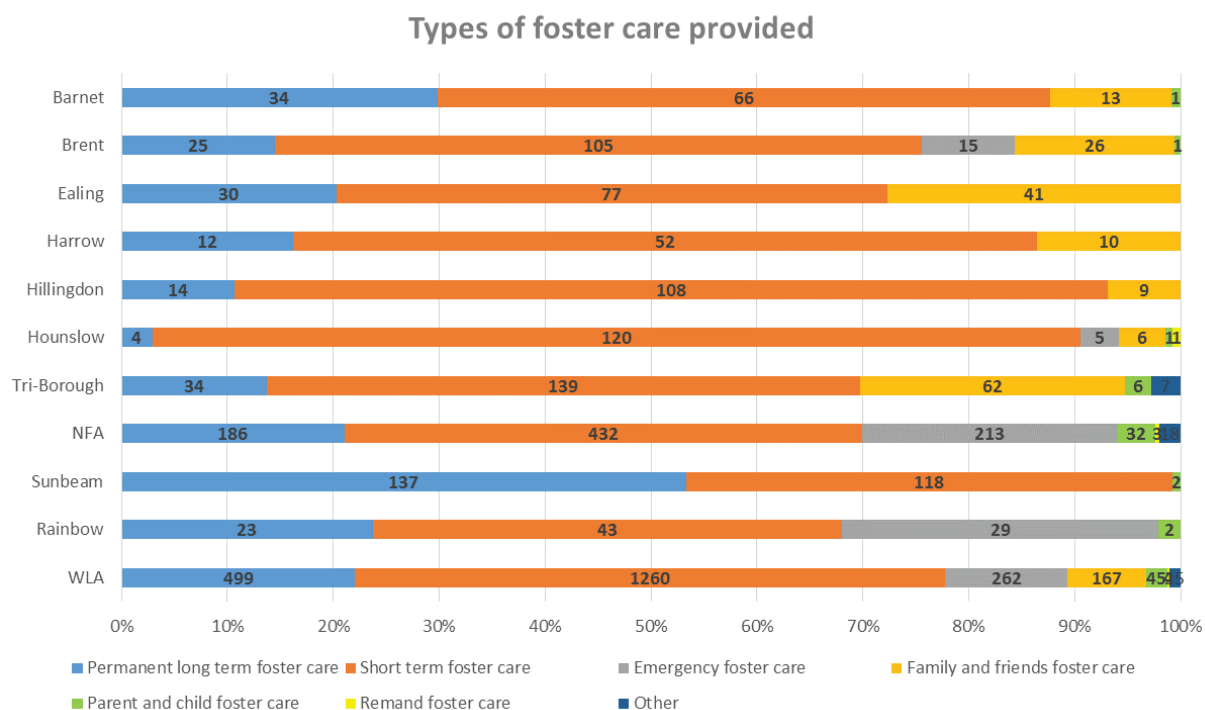
West London Alliance

Fostering services recruit, prepare, assess, train and support foster carers. In the West London Alliance (WLA) there are two types of service, one provided by Local Authorities (LAs) and one provided by Independent fostering services (IFA). Independent fostering services are private companies or charities, which are registered with Ofsted and provide placements to children with foster carers approved by them.

Key findings

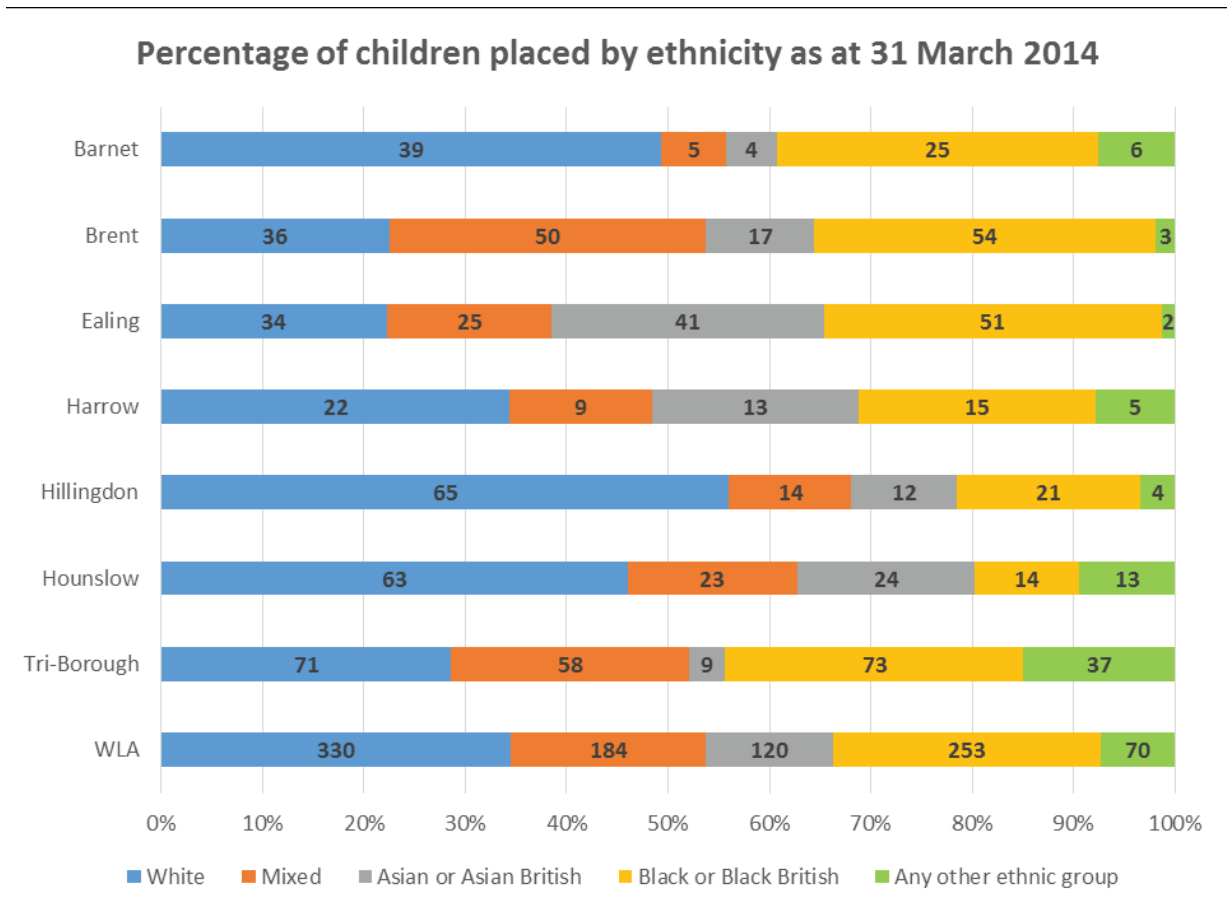
Children and Young People

- As at 31 March 2014, there were 2,242 children and young people placed in foster care: 1,004 (44.8%) children in LA provision and 1,238 (55.2%) children placed in IFS provision. Of the 1,004 children in LA provision, 942 (93.8%) were fostering places and 62 (6.2%) were short break or respite places.
- Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, the number of children placed in foster care at any point in the year was 3,563, excluding short breaks: 2,066 (58.0%) placed in LA provision and 1497 (42.0%) placed in IFS provision.
- Across the West London Alliance the biggest types of foster care provided were 'Short term' (55.7%) and 'Permanent long term' (22.1%).



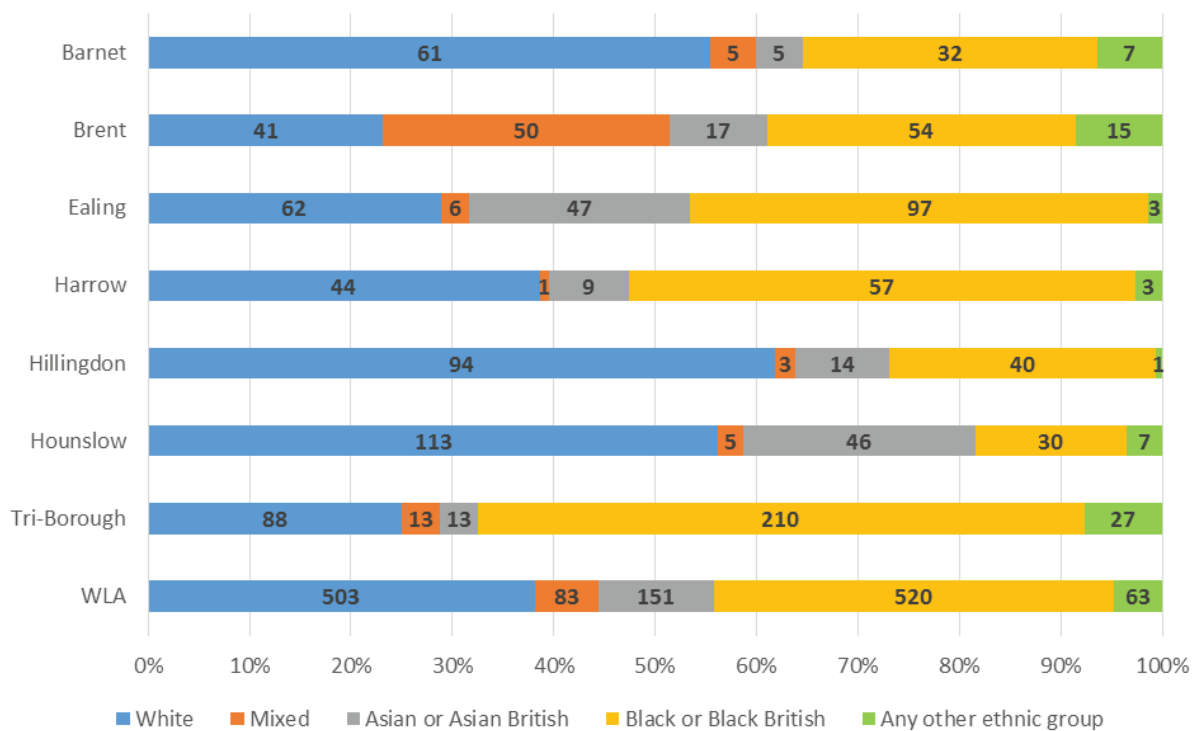
- Of the 2,060 children placed by LAs, at 31 March 2014 there were 147(7.1%) who were disabled.
- Across the West London Alliance the two biggest ethnic groups for children placed in foster care are 'White' (34.5%) and 'Black and Black British' (26.4%). Hillingdon has the largest proportion of children from a 'White' background (56.0%) placed in foster care. Brent has the largest proportion of children from a 'Mixed' ethnicity background (22.5%). Brent, Ealing and the Tri-

Borough councils have the largest proportion of children from a 'Black or Black British' background (33.75%, 33.33% and 29.4% respectively) in foster care.



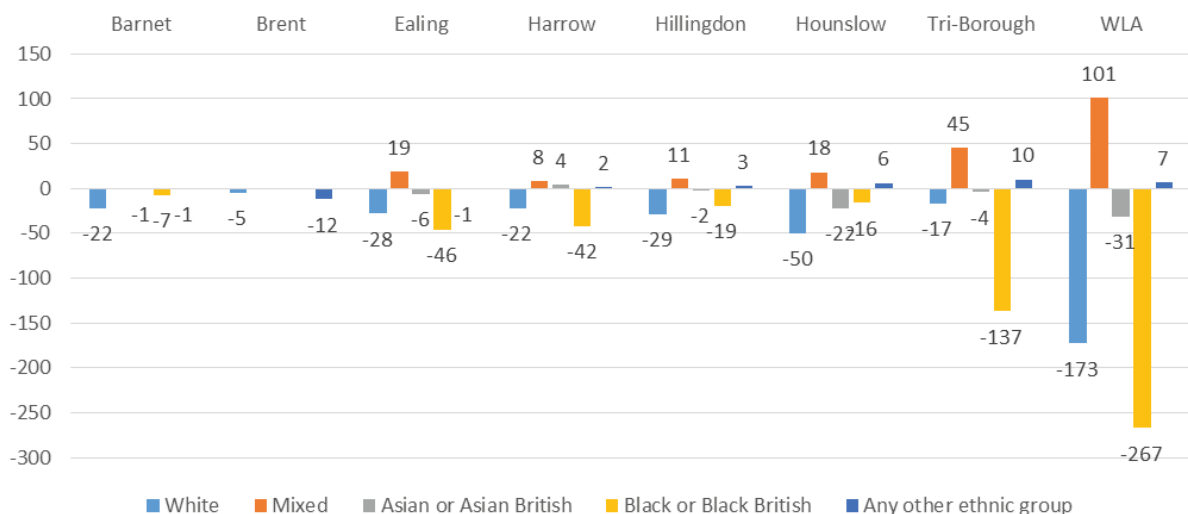
- Across the West London Alliance there is variance in the ethnicity of foster carers. Overall the two biggest ethnic groups are 'Black or British Black' (39.4%) and 'White' (38.1%). The Tri -Borough councils have the highest proportion of 'Black or Black British' foster carers (59.8%). Ealing and Hounslow has the highest proportion of 'Asian or Asian British' foster carers (21.8% and 22.9% respectively). While Brent has the highest proportion of 'Mixed' ethnicity foster carers (28.3%).

Percentage of foster carers by ethnicity as at 31 March 2014



- The following shows the difference between the ethnicity of children in care and foster carers across the WLA. There are 101 children from 'Mixed' ethnic backgrounds compared to the number of foster carers. There were more foster carers than children in the 'White' and 'Black or Black British' ethnic groups (173 and 267 more foster carers respectively). Please note that more than one child could be placed with a foster carer.

The difference between the number of children in care and the number of foster carers across the WLA



- Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 there were 185 incidents of children going missing, which involved 61 children (excluding IFAs). 17.7% (11) of children went missing for less than 24 hours, 33.9% (21) of children went missing for between 1 to 6 days while 16.1% (10) of children

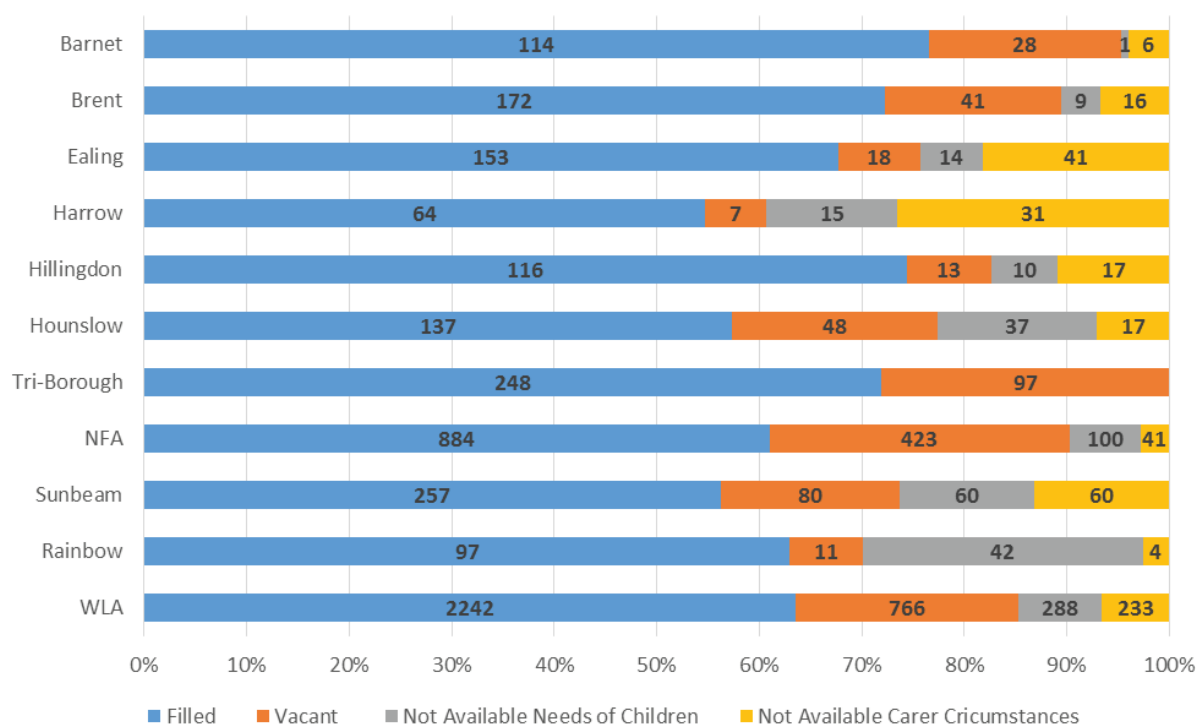
went missing for between seven and 28 days. 32.3% (20) of children went missing for longer than 28 days with 2 children still missing as at 31 March 2014.

- There were 22 (1%) children who, at some point during the financial year 2013-4, had no educational arrangements.

Fostering capacity (places) and placements

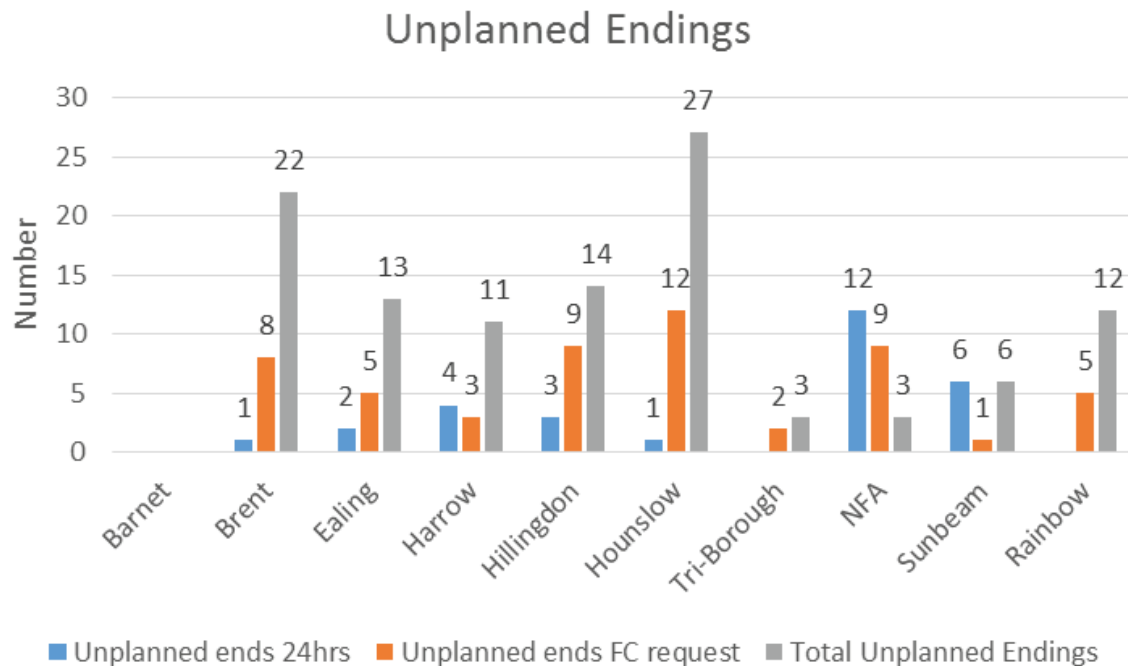
- On 31 March 2014, there were 3,529 approved foster places in West London Alliance: LA provision accounted for 41.7% (2,059) of places while IFA provision accounted for 58.3% (2,059) of places.
- Across the West London Alliance 63.5% (2242) of foster places are filled with 21.7% (766) places vacant. This varies across the WLA with Harrow having the lowest proportion of places which are filled (54.7%) and Barnet having the highest proportion (76.5%). 67.1% (514) of vacant foster care places are available through IFA provision while 32.9% (252) are available through LA provision.

Overview of foster care places



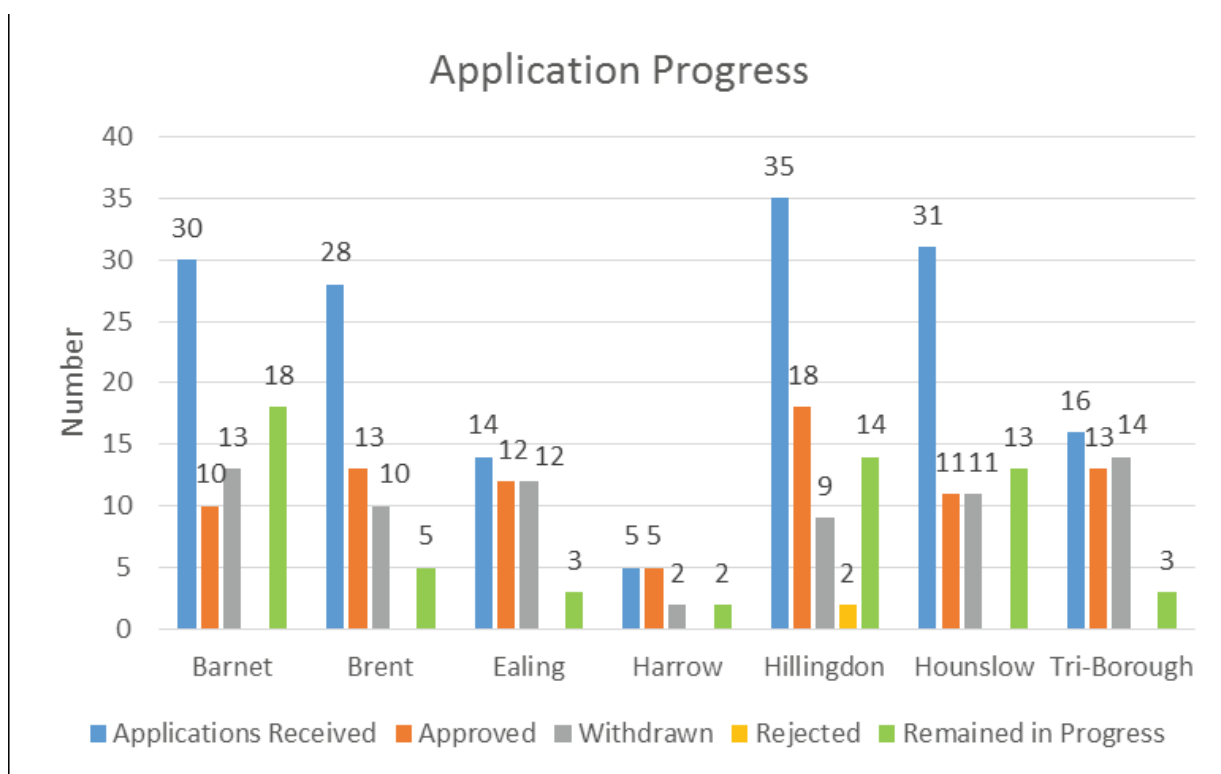
- During 2013-14, of the 205 sibling groups whose placements commenced in the year, 18 (8.8%) were assessed to be placed together, but were placed separately. A large majority (72.2%) of sibling groups, however, were placed together, in line with the assessment. Around one fifth of sibling groups were assessed to be placed separately: 39 groups (19%).

- In total there were 144 unplanned endings of placements between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. 62.5% (90) of these occurred in LA provision compared to 37.5% (54) in IFA provision.



Foster Carers – Recruitment and Retention

- There were a total of 786 LA approved fostering households as at 31 March 2014.
- Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, there were 1,881 initial enquiries made from new prospective fostering households with 8.4% (159) continuing to making application.
- Of the 159 applications from prospective fostering households that were concluded during 2012-13, half were approved, 71 were withdrawn and very few were rejected at panel: 51.6%, 44.7% and 1.3% respectively.
- Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, there were 82 new fostering households approved and 59 were de-registered. This saw a net increase of 23 approved fostering households from last year.



Fostering Newsletter

Winter 2014

Happy New Year!

First of all, let me start by wishing you all a 'Happy New Year!'

It was great to see so many of you at our Foster Carers' ball last month. We had some very positive feedback about the event and I hoped that those of you attended had a lovely evening. It is one of our ways of saying thank you for the hard work you put in on behalf of our children throughout the year. Look out for photos and details of the event in this newsletter.

What is happening in 2015:

Training and development.

We will be making a big effort this year to work more closely with you to support your development as foster carers. Your Supervising Social Worker will be completing a personal development plan that will identify what type of support will best suit you over the coming year. Please ensure that you take advantage of the training offer to foster carers – it has been refreshed by Zak Darwood, our Fostering Development Coordinator, and there are many interesting events to attend. One of these is our first course on social pedagogy for foster carers and we are all keen to see how this can help carers think of new techniques to support our children and young people.

Developing a foster carers' association.

Many of you provide us with valuable feedback, whether through the foster carers' support or focus group. We think the time is now right to help you create a more sustainable organisation where you will have more freedom to run your own events (such as parties and day trips) and also to encourage a stronger link to Council structures. If you would be interested in developing this then please speak to your Supervising Social Worker or to Zak.

Work across other London boroughs.

We are talking to other boroughs in West London about opportunities to share training courses and also about establishing a dedicated out of hours advice line for foster carers – something that will improve our support to you. I expect to see progress in this area in the coming months so look out for more information soon.

As I mentioned at the Foster Carers Ball, I want to personally thank you all for your hard work and dedication. We are constantly working with you to improve the life chances of our children and young people and know that without your hard work, achieving this would be an impossible task.

I hope you have a happy, peaceful and productive New Year.

Nigel Chapman – Head of Placements

Featured in this issue

- End of year ball review
- Referral Reward scheme
- Foster Talk award winners
- Childrens Christmas party

FosterTalk Awards



M said: "We wanted to nominate you for an award because we are so grateful for what you have done for us!"

On Tuesday 21st October, FosterTalk marked their 10th anniversary by hosting their annual Foster Carer Award ceremony in Mayfair, London. The awards celebrate the outstanding commitment of Foster Carers around the UK, who are nominated for their hard work by friends, family and agencies.

This year Lisa Sampson & Aron Rename, two of our Kinship carers were recipients of the Kinship Carer Award.

This is what Lisa had to say...

"When we approached Brent about fostering my sisters, a lot of support had to be put into place and now with the help of Brent we have been fostering for six and a half years.

The support we received and continue to receive has allowed us to put all our efforts into creating a stable family environment that the girls have really needed.

When we first got my two younger half sisters, our mum was very ill. She had no short-term memory, was in recovery from lung cancer and was unable to care for the girls as she was being transferred to an assisted adult placement.

A short time after moving in with us they also lost their dad and Nan to cancer. This happened within a month of each other so as well as settling in to a new school as we lived too far away from their old one, they had to

come to terms with the death of two important people in their lives. Fortunately though, even through what was a very tough time, they have managed to adjust and settle in well.

We've had to go through a range of emotions with the girls, from loss to behavioural problems but knowing they have both Aron and I, has helped them to progress and start to feel like 'normal' free and happy children. When they 'thank' us for helping them, it means the world to us.

They've managed to achieve things; they otherwise wouldn't have if we hadn't stepped in. It's very rewarding to watch, especially to see their smiley faces. It makes it all worthwhile.

This journey hasn't be an easy one so it was lovely to find out that we had been nominated by the children for a kinship award. It was even more rewarding to win and be recognised for all the work we have done.

We wouldn't change a thing about our experience, even all the real challenging times because each day brings us all happiness, and the times we share are so precious.

Tears, laughter, happiness, sadness and love all make a family.

When we are challenged in life with things that are unexpected it can be scary and stressful at the thought of change. Sometimes it is hard to

see past those thoughts which can sometimes hold us back. Unless you try you will never know what the real outcome can be and what you really can achieve.

When you think about sharing your life with a child that may or not be a part of your family, imagine how you would feel and the thoughts that would cross your mind? Now imagine the thoughts and feelings of the child/children? The result - A journey of discovery, that's scary and exciting at the same time.

Sharing a family with the kids is so important to us. Sharing special memories and moments is so precious.

As they say; there has to be a little rain before a rainbow! "

Lisa Sampson

T said: "I don't know what would have happened to us if you didn't look after us. We probably would have been separated. Thank you so much!"

Support group dates

Held at Brent Civic Centre in first floor training suite area

Tuesday 10 February 2014
Tuesday 10 March 2014

(pm)
(am)

Message from Fostering, Duty Support

As we embark on a New Year, I would like to say 'Thank You' to you, the foster carers who look after our children. Fostering is a 24 hour job; you're always on call and have to deal with a variety of situations and for that in itself you deserve the utmost thanks.

During the course of 2014, we did lose some fantastic foster carers that decided it was their time to retire or pursue other ventures. However, we hope that you will continue to work together with us to make better futures for the children we support and care for.

Thank you and Happy New Year

Team Manager, Cecilia Gabriel

Students

Here in the Placements department, we provide several opportunities for students to gain real life experience in social work as part of their degree courses.

Asha and Charlotte are two of our latest students, who'll be with us for the next 4 months and will meet some of you on visits, training and at the support group. We know you'll make them feel welcome.

Asha Mehta



Hello! I'm Asha. A Student Social Worker in the final year of a Masters degree at Goldsmiths College, University of London so I will (hopefully!) be qualifying in November.

I am currently in the Fostering Support Team, excited about meeting all Brent Foster carers whilst I am here. I've had a great time so far meeting some of you at the Foster Carers Ball, and hope to learn all I can from the foster carers and social workers whilst I'm here.

I look forward to supporting the team and the foster carers, and hope I can offer a positive experience to those I work with.

I hope to gain transferable skills which I can implement help me progress into my professional career.

If you see me around give me a wave!

Charlotte Alldridge



Hi, my name is Charlotte and I'm a Student Social Worker in my final year at Goldsmiths University. My background is in Early Years and Youth Work so the world of fostering is almost completely new to me! Having joined the Fostering Support Team in October of last year, I have been made to feel very welcome by both the team members, you – the foster carers and the young people.

It was lovely to meet so many of you at the Foster Carer's Ball; such fun and a real insight into all the fantastic work you all do. I've found I am learning something from each person I meet and feel honoured to be apart of such a fantastic team. Myself and the other students in the team will be facilitating the next support group on 10th February 2015-so I look forward to seeing you all there!



Care in action update

Corporate Parenting Committee

The Chair and Vice-Chair of Care in Action (CIA) attended the Corporate Parenting Committee in October where they met with the Strategic Director and Lead Member for Children and Young People, senior managers and elected members. The young people gave a presentation on their work in the development of new forms and leaflets for children and young people in care, as well as providing feedback on events and trips both Care in Action and Junior Care in Action had been involved in during the summer.

In December, the Vice-Chair and a member of Care in Action attended another Committee meeting to present their feedback on the Chance 2 Ask! event hosted in October half term, young people's attendance at the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for children and young people in care and the annual Celebration of Achievement Awards. Young people also informed the Committee about the new care leavers group due to start at the end of January.

APPG meetings

In October and December, members of Junior Care in Action and Care in Action represented Brent at the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

Children and young people had the opportunity to meet with others in care from in and outside London and to pose their questions to cabinet ministers on the services and support they receive. The key topics and themes discussed at these meetings were support for children in care who have special educational needs and what improvements have been made since the publication of the Entitlements Inquiry report in 2013, which members of Junior Care in Action contributed to.

Chance 2 Ask! Event

During October half term, Care in Action hosted 'Chance 2 Ask!', their third question time style event for children and young people in care. The event was held at the Learning Zone at Wembley Stadium and those who attended had the chance to take part in a mini tour of the stadium and receive goodie bags. Children and young people then met with Heads of Service, social workers and key professionals from education, Independent Reviews Manager and the contact services to ask important questions they and other children and young people had about the services and support they receive. The Strategic Director for Children and Young People was also in attendance to hear children and young people's views and issues. The event was a great success with 17 children and young people attending BUT we would like more children and young people to take

part in this great opportunity. Care in Action will be hosting 'Chance 2 Ask!' events throughout the year, so keep a look out for our next invite!

Drama Workshop

In December, members of Junior Care in Action took part in a drama workshop called 'The Story in the Story' with an independent Drama therapist. The children participated in games and different activities that looked at the children's past, present and future and worked together to give a short performance to staff members.

Care in Action Christmas Meal

As the last group meeting in December for 2014, members of Care in Action and staff had a group meal out at Frankie and Benny's. The meal was to reward and celebrate all the young people's hard work throughout the year as members of Care in Action.

Metropolitan Police Christmas tree Project

Members of Care in Action and Junior Care in Action, as well as other children and young people in Brent care, were nominated to receive a Christmas gift as part of the Metropolitan Police Christmas Tree Project.

Half term activities - February

**Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre, Harrow Road
London, NW10 0RG
020 8937 3730**

Mon 16 – Fri 20 February 2015

Play Scheme for 8 – 13 year olds
Book onto our Play Scheme Monday to Friday from 9am - 5.30pm for
£10.80 per day / £6.10 half day.

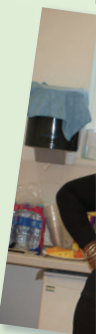
Activities include dodgeball, football, badminton, table tennis, themed arts and crafts and much more!

Drop in Activities

Multi sports sessions for 5 – 7 year olds Monday to Friday from 10am - 11.30am for £3.70 per session or book the full week for only £15!
Activities will include dance, indoor

athletics, basketball, space hoppers and much more!

Under 5's are also welcome to our parent and toddler bouncy castle fun sessions, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Friday from 10am-11am. £1.50 per child



Childrens Christmas party

Date: Saturday 6 December
Time: 12pm – 4pm
Venue: Roundwood Youth Centre, Willesden

On Saturday 6 December a few of the Brent foster carers came together to host the 2014 Christmas party for fostered children at the Roundwood Youth centre.

The children were entertained with classic party games , beading, a talent competition, food, music and gifts from Mrs Claus herself.

A big 'Thank You' to K Fox who provided the music and the foster carers that organised the party and helped on the day.

Care Leavers Group

We will also be starting a new Care Leavers group for young people aged 16 plus on the last Tuesday of each month. The first group meeting will be on Tuesday 27th January, 6-8pm at Poplar Grove Youth Centre. If you have a foster child who is 16 plus and who would benefit from and be interested in attending the group, please contact Shirley Ricketts on 020 8937 3695.

The project has been running for the past two years and has benefited children in care across London boroughs. This year Brent was involved in the project. The scheme involves placing a Christmas tree outside a police station attached to which are tags with the first names of children in care. Members of the public are invited to take a tag and provide a gift for the named child. Gifts were given out to children and young people by their social workers just before the Christmas holidays.

Celebration of Achievement

For their hard work both in and outside group meetings throughout 2014, members of Care in Action and Junior Care in Action were nominated and received a certificate at the annual Celebration of Achievement Awards. Young people also helped staff host a Care in Action stall to promote the two groups and share the work they do to improve services and support for children and young people in Brent care and care leavers.

Coming up! Newsletters

Look out for the Care in Action and Junior Care in Action newsletters which we send out to all children and young people in Brent care every few months along with a copy of the Who Cares? Trust magazines for children and young people in care.



We need long term foster parents... can you help?

In Brent we have several children in need of long term placements. We need families who can provide long term stability and commitment. I'm Tanika Buchanan and as the family finder for Brent's looked after children I'm currently family finding for two sibling groups who are urgently in need of long term foster families. If you would like to discuss the profiles or have any questions please contact me on **07788389531** or email - **Tanika.buchanan@brent.gov.uk**

Mustafa and Mohammed

Alex was placed with his current carers in October 2012. This placement has been progressing very well, especially since he started school. Alex had previously missed out on a lot of school and isn't currently at the academic level he should be, however his carer's and school teacher have reported that he is generally very enthusiastic about school, eager to learn, always smiling and very friendly. Alex suffered from emotional and physical neglect whilst in the care of his mother and his behaviour can at times be challenging as he struggles to manage his emotions. Alex needs clear, consistent boundaries and support to ensure his overall developmental needs are met enabling him to reach his full potential. Alex would benefit from a family who are patient, energetic and are able to provide a nurturing stable and safe home.

Clare

Clare is a 12 year old confident, articulate and expressive child. Claire came into care as a result of child neglect. Claire engages well with adults and she has established positive relationships. Claire enjoys going out shopping and visiting friends and family. Claire's current carer reports that Claire is a joy to look after and generally behaves well. They share a positive relationship.

Claire really enjoys school, she is committed, engaged and aspires to do well. Teachers report that Claire is a pleasure to teach and they have no concerns regarding her schooling. She attends after school homework club and other extra curriculum activities. Claire has been referred for home tuition in maths and English by the Brent Virtual School for Looked After Children. Claire is Christian she requires a placement that can meet her religious needs. Carers are to be warm, understanding of her past and current needs. Carers are to offer her quality time and allow for a quality bond with her to be built up. Claire's placement will have to be able to support and promote contact with her family and provide her with stability and permanence.

Carl

Carl is a 7 year old boy of Black Caribbean heritage. He has been placed in the care of the local authority since 2012 due to parental substance misuse,

Carl is a lively, inquisitive and chatty little boy. He has an infectious personality, with those around him loving to share his company. He is playful and can be boisterous at times with his peers. Carl will fully

engage in conversation once he feels comfortable enough to do so. Carl is a healthy young boy, who enjoys attending school.

Carl is to be placed in a two parent placement with a consistent male role model who is able to provide Carl with guidance and boundaries around socially acceptable behaviour, regulating his emotions and practical tasks such as engaging in physical activities, haircuts etc.

Carers must implement clear instructions that he is able to follow as Carl benefits from being told what he is doing wrong any why he should not do it.

Carl has been in two foster placements since being looked after by Brent, in which his new carers must be willing to care for him long term.



End of year foster carers ball

Date: Saturday 13 December

Time: 6pm – 12.15pm

Venue: Sattivas Patidar Centre,
Wembley

On Saturday 13 December, the Brent fostering team held their annual foster carers' end of year ball.

The event was well attended with more foster carers and their guests attending this year's event.

The night was hosted by our resident compare 'Mr Cee', who provided lots of laughter with his fun and jokes. A lovely buffet dinner was provided by Brown Sugar Catering who delighted us with an array of dishes.

Awards were presented to a number of foster carers for their efforts. The theme for 2014 was 'Going the Extra mile' and carers were acknowledged for their tireless commitment to the fostering role. Whilst we do acknowledge the great job that all foster carers do, we wanted to celebrate foster carers who during the course of the last year had gone that extra, extra mile and we wanted to let them know how much the children they foster have benefited from their care, support and stability. For example: Three couples, who were awarded, were all approved and matched to siblings on a long term basis.

Winners were presented with an engraved crystal award, certificate and flowers.

We were then entertained by both St Michaels Steel Pan Orchestra and Ann-Marie Latille, with her renditions of some soulful songs. The night concluded with a raffle and of course dancing. The photo booth provided by Camarose Photography went down a treat with many taking advantage of the props available to really express themselves and take home a keep sake print.

We'd like to thank everyone that attended and hope to see even more of you in 2015!



Training

Well doesn't time fly when your having fun, having realised I've been in post for six months now I thought it would be a good time to review some of the new programmes we've introduced and look towards the next 6 months.

Looking back we have introduced a range of new courses, new trainers and new approaches to working in partnership with different teams to increase the training offer that you're able to access. Some of the more successful examples include closer working with the Local Safeguarding Board who provide an intensive training programme that all carers can access including online learning, the development of the Social Pedagogy Training Programme which starts late January and bringing in new training providers to compliment those that Brent were already using.

All carers should have received a Training Log recently that details the training that our records show has been completed, this also informs you which courses require renewal and how frequent this is required. Please update this as you attend training. All carers should also have a Personal Development Plan therefore if you haven't got one please speak to your supervising social worker.

We still have a journey to travel, and this really is a journey we are on together. Social Care is changing on a daily basis and Brent Placements Service is committed to ensuring

all our carers have the right skills to support children who are looked after to maintain successful placements and achieve positive outcomes.

Our training and support programmes only work well when there is a good level of attendance and participation from all carers; unfortunately we have had to cancel a number of courses due to a low number of bookings and recently had a course where only 1 carer turned up!

As a Service we are looking at ways in which we can support carers in accessing Learning Opportunities, what the barriers are and how we can come to agreeable solutions for successful future programmes. However we remind you that each Carer is responsible for their own Learning and Development, and this a record is kept for each carer and not a household record therefore please be mindful that regular attendance at Training is a requirement to maintain your registration as a Foster Carer.

As we look towards the next training programme we want to hear from you about the types of courses that you would like to attend, feedback on the current courses offered and what we can do to support you as Foster Carers. We also want you to be involved in running your own services and programmes; therefore if you would like to be involved in delivery of training or support services, have ideas for something new that we could be doing or have any feedback

at all please do get in touch.

Throughout the coming months we will be introducing a number of new initiatives and schemes to support you as Carers therefore please do look out for the emails and get involved. There will be a new training programme and carer guidelines coming out in April 2015, therefore please ensure that you regularly check your email accounts and if you are not a confident internet/email user please book into an IT Session.

Lastly I want to remind you that the current training programme is running until mid March 2015 therefore please do have a look at the calendar previously sent to you and book onto any courses that will support your current placement, your own development or provides you with some of the skills required for future placements you would like to undertake.

Looking forward to working with you all over the coming months to achieve great things

Zak Darwood

Fostering Development Coordinator
Placements Service Development Team

0208 937 5548

0778 833 5717



Referral Reward Scheme

As a Brent foster carer you are eligible to take part in our Referral Reward Scheme.

The Brent Placement Service will pay a "Referral Reward" to any Brent approved foster carer who successfully recommends a friend or family member to the Service. An initial £250 is paid when the referred person is approved at panel and a further £250 following their first placement.

Referrals can be made to our recruitment number **020 8937 4538** or email fostering@brent.gov.uk – quoting 'Referral Reward'.

Terms and Conditions

1: To qualify for the scheme; the prospective applicant must quote the Foster Carers name during the initial enquiry stage on the telephone or first home visit with assessing social worker.

This will be cross referenced to confirm connection.

2: Each 'Referral Reward' is based on one household. Household = A single applicant or joint applicants living in the same household making one application.

3: Payment will be authorised after the referred person has been approved at panel and could take up to 14 days to reach you.

4: Payments will be made by payment card.

5: Foster carers can make as many introductions as they wish. However there is no reward payable for general enquiries. Payments will ONLY be made at the following times; after successful approval of a referred applicant and after placement of first child.

6: The foster carer can receive up to £500 upon the referred person being approved and subsequently taking a placement.

**EARN
£500
IN CASH**



Points of contact

Points of contact

Fostering, Duty Support – new duty number

Tel: 020 8937 3881

Fostering Development Co-ordinator

Zak Darwood

Tel: 020 8937 4458

LAC Nurses

Tel: 020 8795 6342

LAC Participation Officer

Tel: 020 8937 4173

LAC Education Team

Tel: 020 8937 4907

Youth Offending Team

Tel: 020 8937 3832

Brent Sexual Health Advisor

Tel: 020 8937 3083

Brent Youth and Connexions Service

Tel: 020 8937 3680

Wembley Centre for Health and Care

Tel: 020 8795 6000

Make 'n' bake corner

Cotton Bud Snowflakes Craft



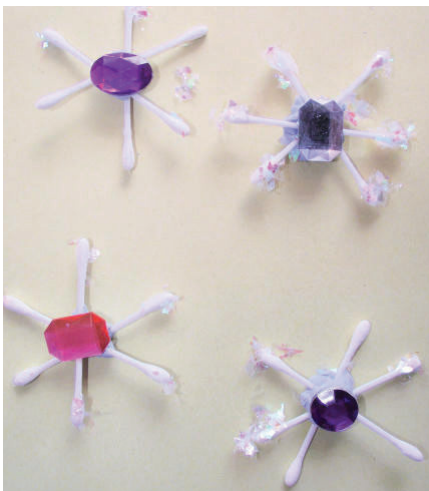
Kids can have a go at this fun cotton bud snowflakes craft during the winter or for Christmas. Glittering the ends of the cotton buds is fun to do, and the sticky tack makes them satisfyingly quick to turn out, so make as many as you have gems! Tack them to the wall, like Sarah and the boys have done, or display in a window.

You will need:

- 3 cotton buds per snowflake
- White or silver glitter
- Glue
- Gem
- Sticky tack or thread to hang

Instructions:

Dip each end of the cotton buds in glue and then into glitter, and let dry. Use sticky tack to join the middle of your cotton buds together so the ends spread out in 6 points. Cover one side of the sticky tack with a large gem, and use the other to stick the snowflake to the wall or window.



Courtesy of www.activityvillage.co.uk

Useful contacts

NHS Brent Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Service



At NHS Brent improving sexual health and providing effective substance misuse services are a huge priority. We want to help you with any questions, worries or problems you may have by offering a range of services that provide personal advice and helpful pointers.

There are many highly trained professionals who are a visit or phone call away. Use our website to find out more about national and regional organisations that offer counselling whenever you need it.

<http://www.sexualhealthbrent.org.uk/>

Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board – launch online training



Brent LSCB is very pleased to announce the launch of their new E Learning zone. Here you will find a range of online courses and learning materials designed to meet your individual needs and priorities.

To get started visit:

<http://brentlscb.learningpool.com/>

Produced February 2015

Placements, 3rd Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 0FJ

020 8937 4538 / fostering@brent.gov.uk

London Borough of Brent Corporate Parenting Scorecard 2014-15

	Year end 2013-14	Apr - Jun 2014 Qtr 1	Jul - Sept 2014 Qtr 2	Oct - Dec 2014 Qtr 3	Jan - Mar 2015 Qtr 4	2014-15 Target	Bench mark 2014	Measure	Status
Children looked after per 10,000.	49.3	48.4	48	47.7		NA	62 SN	Indicative	
% LAC from BME background.	77%	76%	74%	74%		NA	NA	Indicative	
% LAC with an allocated social worker.	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%	NA	Bigger is better	
Stability of placements for LAC – 3 or more placement moves (in 12 months) - cumulative figure	15%	1.4%	7.4%	11.6%		13%	12% SN	Smaller is better	
Adoption of looked after children - Adoptions & SGOs granted during the period - cumulative figure	29 (12%)	11 (4.8%)	23 (6.78%)	31 (13.5%)		35 (13%)	47 SN	Bigger is better	
Number of Adoption orders granted - cumulative figure	11	2	5	8		13	NA	Indicative	
Number of SGOs granted - cumulative figure	18	9	18	23		20	NA	Indicative	
Average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted.	599	396	586	548		550	652 SN	Smaller is better	
% of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training. (Available end July)	69%	50%	48%	46%		70%	52.4% SN	Bigger is better	
Number of Young Parents (LAC & Care Leavers) available end <i>October 14</i> .			9	9		NA	NA	Indicative	
% of LAC & Care Leavers with an up to date Pathway Plan.	85%	85%	65%	64%		95%	NA	Bigger is better	
Timeliness of reviews for children in care.	95%	97%	98%	99%		98%	92% SN	Bigger is better	
Participation of LAC at their reviews.	98%	94%	98%	99%		98%	NA	Bigger is better	
LAC who have been or are in custody during the period (snapshot)	7	5	8	3		0	NA	Smaller is better	
% of LAC attending Brent schools that are judged as being either good or outstanding.	NA	93%	87%	88%		100%	NA	Bigger is better	
The % of permanent social workers and managers in the LAC service	65%	63%	57%	48%		85%	NA	Bigger is better	
% LAC with Brent Foster Carers.	130 (37%)	133 (38.1%)	122 (36%)	111 (33%)		39%	NA	Bigger is better	
% LAC placed with IFA Carers.	97 (28%)	89 (26%)	90 (27%)	86 (25.6%)		26%	NA	Smaller is better	
% LAC placed with relative & friends.	41 (11.7%)	42 (12.3%)	44 (13%)	54 (16.1%)		NA	NA	Indicative	
% LAC placed in Residential Homes.	22 (6.3%)	22 (6.4%)	25 (7%)	26 (7.76%)		7%	NA	Smaller is better	
% LAC placed in other hostels/Semi-Independent Accommodation.	22 (6.3%)	24 (7%)	23 (7%)	29 (8.66%)		6%	NA	Indicative	
% LAC placed for adoption.	6 (1.7%)	7 (2%)	7 (2%)	8 (2.38%)		NA	NA	Indicative	
% LAC placed with parents.	5 (1.4%)	4 (1.1%)	8 (2%)	11 (3.28%)		NA	NA	Indicative	
% LAC placed in borough.	44%	44%	44%	43.5%		NA	NA	Bigger is better	
% LAC placed out of borough.	56%	56%	56%	56.5%		NA	NA	Smaller is better	
% LAC placed within neighbouring boroughs.	25%	25%	25.0%	20.2%		NA	NA	Bigger is better	
% LAC placed outside of neighbouring boroughs.	31%	31%	31.0%	36.3%		NA	NA	Smaller is better	
On Target Less than 10% off target target not met Indicative only									

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Agenda Items for the Corporate Parenting Committee 2015

Forward plan

April 2015	July 2015	October 2015	January 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 monthly adoption report • Q4 Fostering report • Q4 scorecard • YP update • Foster carer review update • Care leavers report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 Fostering report • Q1 scorecard • Q1 scorecard • YP update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 Fostering report • 6 monthly adoption report • Q2 scorecard • YP update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 Fostering report • 6 month adoption report • Q3 scorecard • YP update • Educational attainment for LAC

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