Fostering dataset form

The fostering dataset form should be populated with data to the year ending 31 March 2015 and returned to Ofsted by **30 June 2015**. Completed fostering dataset forms should be submitted electronically, as Excel files, to:

socialcaredata@ofsted.gov.uk

Returns will be used by inspectors in our inspections and help improve understanding of the fostering service and its development. They will also form part of Ofsted statistical releases on fostering data.

For any assistance or queries about the form or data required, please contact **0300 013 0020** to speak to a member of the Social Care Data Team.

Fostering dataset form - guidance

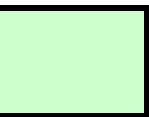This page contains guidance on how to complete the fostering dataset form.

For further assistance, please contact 0300 013 0020 to speak to a member of the Social Care Data Team.

Glossary definitions

Some questions have additional guidance available in the glossary sheet. For ease of reference, this information can also be accessed by double clicking the help icon.
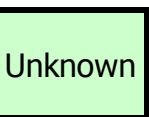
Response cells

Green cells require data entry. The majority will be figures and a few are 'Yes/No' options which are available from a drop down list.

Beige cells will automatically populate totals or responses according to other information that has been entered. You will not be able to click on these cells.
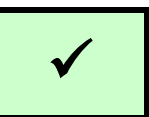
If a response cell turns grey, then this information is not required. Some areas apply only to Local Authorities or Independent Fostering Agencies, indicated by the question header colour (yellow or blue respectively).

If a response cell turns red, potentially figures may be internally inconsistent. Please review the comment and previous data supplied to check and amend as appropriate.

Please input a response into all cells (except only those which have turned grey). If you are not able to supply some information because you do not keep it, please indicate that it is 'unknown'.

If a question number cell turns purple, then a number with a decimal place has been entered in the answer cell. All requested figures should involve counting a particular aspect (children, foster carers, events, recruitment numbers and so forth); therefore we expect all numerical responses to be whole numbers. Please review the method being used to suppy the data.

Completion indicator

On the contents sheet, sections will appear as 'ticked' once all the relevant response cells have been populated. You will not be able to click on these cells, except for the hyperlinks to assist navigation.

Fostering dataset form - contents

This page is designed to assist navigation through the sections of the form. It will also indicate whether each section has been completed.

Information about the service

What is the Unique Reference Number (URN) for the service? (Please select from the drop down list)	SC042630
What is the name of the organisation which provides the service?	London Borough of Brent
What is the name of the service?	London Borough of Brent Childrens Services Placement Fostering Service
What is the email address for the service?	fostering@brent.gov.uk

What date was the assessment completed?	Day	Month	Year
(This is the date you finished the quality assurance and data form)	26	6	2015

What is the name of the person who completed the dataset?	Nigel Chapman
What is the email address of the person who completed the dataset?	nigel.chapman@brent.gov.uk
What is the role/title of the person who completed the dataset?	Head of Service
What is the name of the nominated person (for local authorities) or responsible individual (for independent fostering agencies), if this is different to the person completing the dataset?	N/A

Section A: Information about placements

A1	Information about foster places at 31 March 2015	All foster places, excluding short breaks
A1.1	How many approved foster places (not carers) in total did your fostering service have as at 31 March 2015?	262
	Of the overall total approved places (A1.1) at 31 March 2015:	
A1.2	How many of these places were filled (that is the number of children placed)?	161
A1.3	How many of these places were vacant?	17
A1.4	How many of these places were not available, due to the needs of other children currently in placement?	44
A1.5	How many of these places were not available, due to the personal circumstances of the foster carers?	40

A2	Information about children and young people in foster placements in your service (excluding short breaks) at any point between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	Number of children
A2.1	What was the overall total number of children/young people in placements within your fostering service (excluding short breaks) at any point between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	323
	Of the total number of children/young people (A2.1) at any point between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015:	
A2.2	How many were of compulsory school age (5-16)?	192
A2.3	How many young people were required to participate in education or training, having not yet reached the age of 18 (Raising the Participation Age)?	50
A2.4	How many were disabled?	8
A2.5	How many were subject to concurrent planning?	0

A3	Information about children and young people at risk or subject to child sexual exploitation (CSE)	At any point between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	As at 31 March 2015
A3.1	How many children/young people were considered to be at risk of CSE?	2	2
A3.2	How many children/young people were considered to be subject to CSE?	2	2

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

Information about types of foster care

A4	Please indicate the types of foster care that your service provided	Provided by the service during 2014-15 (Y/N)	Number of places filled at 31 March 2015	
A4.1	Permanent long term foster care	Y	22	?
A4.2	Short term foster care, including pre-adoption and pre-permanence	Y	83	?
A4.3	Emergency foster care	N	0	?
A4.4	Family and friends foster care	Y	52	?
A4.5	Parent and child foster care placements	Y		?
A4.6	Parent and child arrangements that are not foster care	Y		?
A4.7	Multi-dimensional treatment foster care under the Department for Education scheme	N		?
A4.8	Remand foster care	N		?
A4.9	Other (not including short breaks)	Y	4	?
	Total number of filled foster places (A4.1-A4.9):		161	

		Provided by the service during 2014-15 (Y/N)	Number of children between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	
A4.10	Short break foster care	Y	1	?

A5	Local authority fostering services only - regarding all looked after children who were fostered and for whom the local authority is responsible; irrespective of whether they were placed in-house, out of borough or commissioned through independent provision.			?
	Information about brothers and sisters (sibling group placements) for all placements that commenced between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	Number of groups	Number of children	
A5.1	How many brothers and sisters were assessed to be placed together and were placed together?	27	65	
A5.2	How many brothers and sisters were assessed to be placed together and were placed separately?	6	18	
A5.3	How many brothers and sisters were assessed to be placed separately and were placed separately?	0	0	

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

A6	Information about placement endings, for children/young people placed in fostering households in your service (this information is not required for children using short break services)	Number of placements	?
	How many unplanned endings of placements, where the original assessed duration of the placement plan could not be fulfilled, occurred between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015:		
A6.1	Number which occurred at the request of the foster carer	16	
A6.2	Number which occurred for another reason (please exemplify in comments)	21	
	Total number of unplanned endings (A6.1+A6.2):	37	
A6.3	Of the total unplanned endings, how many placement moves occurred within 24 hours?	1	

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

There were a number of factors that support the data in section A6.2: Child protection and care standard concerns; child refusing to return to the placement; in one case the death of foster carer; carer becoming hospitalised and unable to continue to provide care within her network; child continuing to return home without permission; foster carer receiving threats from parent after address disclosed - service made the decision to end the placement.

A7	Information about exemptions at any point between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	Number

A7.1	How many exemptions to the usual fostering limit were in place in fostering households in your service?	5

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

A8	Information about young people aged 18 and over	Number of young people
A8.1	How many young people in foster care turned 18 between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 ?	27
A8.2	Of the young people who had an 18th birthday in the year, (A8.1), how many remained living with their former foster carer beyond their 18th birthday, under a 'staying put' arrangement supported by the local authority?	14
A8.3	How many young people in foster care turned 19 and remained living with their former foster carer between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	7
A8.4	How many young people in foster care turned 20 and remained living with their former foster carer between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	2
A8.5	How many young people in foster care turned 21 and remained living with their former foster carer between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	0

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

Section B: Information about the ethnicity of foster carers and children

B1	Number of approved/registered foster carers as at 31 March 2015	Number
B1.1	How many approved foster carers (not households) did your service have? (Please exclude carers who are counted in B1.2 and B1.3 below: family and friends and short breaks)	173
B1.2	How many approved foster carers (not households) did your service have who were family and friends foster carers?	56
B1.3	How many approved foster carers (not households) did your service have who were exclusively short breaks foster carers?	1
	Total number of foster carers (B1):	230

B2	Ethnicity – Information about ethnicity of children in fostering placements and all approved foster carers as at 31 March 2015 **Please provide the ethnicity of children who were in a foster care placement with your service as at 31 March 2015 (excluding short breaks).** **Please provide the ethnicity of each approved individual foster carer who was registered with your service as at 31 March 2015.**		
	Ethnic Group	Number of children placed	Number of approved foster carers
	White		
B2.1	British	18	28
B2.2	Irish	4	4
B2.3	Traveller of Irish Heritage		
B2.4	Gypsy/Roma		
B2.5	Any other White background	20	11
	Mixed		
B2.6	White and Black Caribbean	16	2
B2.7	White and Black African		
B2.8	White and Asian	2	1

B2.9	Any other mixed background	10	7
	Asian or Asian British		
B2.10	Indian	1	11
B2.11	Pakistani	5	13
B2.12	Bangladeshi	1	3
B2.13	Any other Asian background	28	10
	Black or Black British		
B2.14	Black Caribbean	13	81
B2.15	Black African	25	35
B2.16	Any other Black background	9	2
	Any other ethnic group		
B2.17	Chinese	1	
B2.18	Any other ethnic group	4	4
	Other		
B2.19	Refused		
B2.20	Information not yet available	4	18
	Total number of children and foster carers (B2):	161	230

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

Section C: Information about foster carers and households

C1	Information about fostering households as at 31 March 2015	Number	
C1.1	How many fostering households did you have? (Please exclude family and friends households and short breaks)	120	?
C1.2	How many family and friends households did you have? (This does not include those family and friends who had children placed with them under Regulation 24 of The Care Planning Regulations 2010)	28	?
C1.3	How many 'connected person' households did you have? (Family and friends who had children placed with them under Regulation 24 of The Care Planning Regulations 2010)	11	
C1.4	How many fostering households did you have that were exclusively approved for short breaks?	1	
	Total number of fostering households (C1.1 to C1.4):	160	
	Of the approved fostering households in C1.1, as at 31 March 2015, how many households were:		
C1.5	Approved for one child/young person?	43	?
C1.6	Approved for two children/young people?	64	
C1.7	Approved for three children/young people?	13	
C1.8	Approved for more than three children/young people?	0	

C2	Information about family and friends households between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	Number
C2.1	How many family and friends or connected person fostering households did you approve?	18

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

C3	Information about recruitment/retention of fostering households (excluding Family and Friends and Short Breaks only households)	Number
C3.1	How many initial enquiries did you receive from new prospective fostering households between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	203
C3.2	How many applications from new prospective fostering households did you receive between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015? (Do not count initial enquiries or applications where the 'offer' is not in line with your service's recruitment objectives).	15
C3.3	How many applications from prospective fostering households, received prior to 1 April 2014, were not decided by that date?	2
	Total number of applications received or brought forward (C3.2 + C3.3):	17
C3.4	How many approved fostering households were de-registered between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	14
	Of the de-registered households (C3.4) between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015:	
C3.5	How many were to facilitate a transfer to a different fostering service?	1
C3.6	How many were initiated by the fostering service?	3
C3.7	How many were initiated by the foster carer? For instance: retirement/ career change/ leaving fostering for other reasons. (Do not include transfers that are counted in C3.5 above).	10

C4	Status of applications (excluding Family and Friends and Short Breaks only households) This section includes outcomes of all applications which were concluded (or in progress) during the year ending 31 March 2015 - irrespective of when applications were received (i.e. this may include applications received before 1 April 2014).	Number
C4.1	How many applications from prospective fostering households did you approve between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	6
C4.2	How many applications to register as a fostering household were withdrawn by applicants between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	1
C4.3	How many applications to register as a fostering household were withdrawn by the service between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	4
C4.4	How many applications to register as a fostering household were rejected after being presented to panel between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015?	0
C4.5	How many applications to register as a fostering household remained in progress as at 31 March 2015?	6
	Total number of applications concluded or in progress (C4):	17

C5	New two stage recruitment activity for fostering households (excluding Family and Friends and Short Breaks only households) between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015: Please indicate the number of potential and prospective families, by outcome or progress through the new recruitment process.					
	Recruitment phase	Total number of potential or prospective fostering households at any point between 1 April 2014 until 31 March 2015, by stage of process	Households who completed recruitment process(es) Number completed	Households still in progress Number not completed - still in progress (at 31 March 2015)	Households who ceased the process	
					Number not completed - application ceased - agency decision	Number not completed - application ceased - fostering household withdrew
C5.1	Entry and information	203	184	10	0	9
C5.2	Stage 1	17	8	4	4	1
C5.3	Stage 2	9	9	0	0	0

C6	Information about referrals to the independent review mechanism (IRM) between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	Number
C6.1	How many applications were made for a review to the IRM?	1
C6.2	Of the applications made to the IRM (C5.2), how many resulted in a recommendation being made to your service to review your decision?	1
	Please enter the recommendation(s) and what action was taken in the comments box below.	

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

The IRM Panel determined that the individual's approval as a foster carer should continue. This recommendation was reconsidered by the Agency Decision Maker (ADM). The ADM did not accept the recommendation of the IRM as he considered that the IRM failed to give proper weight to the evidence before it, particularly why the outcome of a child protection investigation should have been discounted.

C7	Information about training and development for all approved foster carers (at 31 March 2015)		Number	
C7.1	How many of your individual foster carers in total had successfully evidenced meeting the Department for Education's Training, Support and Development (TSD) Standards, as at the 31 March 2015?	TSD for foster carers	92	
C7.2		TSD for family and friends foster carers	32	
C7.3		TSD for short break foster carers	1	
	Total number of foster carers with completed TSD workbooks (C7):		125	

Section D: Information about the quality of care

D1	Information about allegations received between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. For all allegations during the period, please provide:	Number	
	Number of allegations		
D1.1	The number of allegations against foster carers made by fostered children	9	
D1.2	The number of allegations against foster carers made by other sources	2	?
	Total number of allegations made (D1.1 + D1.2):	11	
D1.3	The number of children who have made allegations against their foster carers	9	
D1.4	The number of foster carers who have been subject to allegations	11	
	Information about the categories of alleged abuse		
D1.5	Physical abuse	10	?
D1.6	Sexual abuse	1	
D1.7	Neglect	0	
D1.8	Emotional abuse	0	
	Information about the actions resulting from allegations against foster carers		
D1.9	How many referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) did you make?	0	
D1.10	How many referrals to the local authority child protection team were made?	11	
D1.11	How many Section 47 enquiries were made?	7	?
	Information about the outcome of investigations of allegations		
D1.12	Concern(s) resolved - no further action	8	?
D1.13	Continued monitoring for an agreed period	1	
D1.14	Concern remained, referred to fostering panel to review foster carer approval	2	
	Information about the timescales for investigations of allegations		
D1.15	less than 21 working days	5	
D1.16	22-30 working days (4 - 6 weeks)	3	
D1.17	31-50 working days (6 - 10 weeks)	3	
D1.18	More than 50 working days (> 10 weeks)	0	

D2	Information about restraint that occurred between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 (this information is not required for children using short break services)	Number	
D2.1	How many incidents of physical restraint by foster carers were recorded?	1	?
D2.2	How many children/young people were subject to restraint?	1	
D2.3	How many foster carers restrained children/young people?	1	

D3	Information about children/young people who went missing between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 Please calculate this as the total number of occasions children went missing i.e. where one child went missing on three separate occasions, this counts as three events in D7.1. (this information is not required for children using short break services)		
D3.1	How many times did children/young people go 'missing' whilst living with foster carers?	70	
D3.2	How many children/young people does your answer in D3.1 refer to?	21	

D4	Information about the period of time a child/young person went or is missing between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	Number of children				
		Less than 24 hours	1 to 6 days	One week to 28 days	Longer than 28 days	
D4.1	How many children/young people in D3.2 went missing for....? (Please make your answer an aggregate for each child/young person between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. For children who were still missing as at 31 March 2015, please count the number of days that they were missing up to this point in time).	6	11	3	1	
	Total number of children (D4.1):				21	
D4.2	How many children were still missing as at 31 March 2015?	1				

D5	Information about the reasons why children/young people went missing between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 (this information is not required for children using short break services) Please indicate a total number of occasions that children/young people went missing, by reason for going missing. Please use the most prominent reason that children/young people went missing and assign a reason for each episode.	Number of occasions missing
D5.1	bullying	0
D5.2	involvement in offending behaviour	8
D5.3	substance misuse	4
D5.4	contact with family or friends including where a child/young person goes missing in order to have contact with their family or friends, go missing in order to avoid contact with family or friends or as a result of having contact with family or friends	47
D5.5	alleged abuse within the foster home	0
D5.6	they are an asylum seeker, for instance, including those who may have been refused leave to remain	0
D5.7	suspected to be at risk of sexual exploitation	1
D5.8	any other known reason (please state reason)	2
D5.9	reason unknown	8

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

D6	*Independent fostering agencies only*	
	School registration	Yes/No
D6.1	Is your fostering agency also registered as a school?	
D6.2	If you answered 'yes' to question D10.1, what is the school's Department for Education unique reference number (URN)?	URN

D7	Information about children and young people's education, for children who were in placements with your fostering service at any point between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 (this information is not required for children using short break services)	Number	
D7.1	How many children/young people have changed educational placement or school because of a foster placement change?	11	
D7.2	How many children/young people in foster care attended alternative educational provision?	14	

D7.3	How many children/young people in foster care had no educational arrangements?	15	
D7.4	How many children/young people in foster care had persistent absence from school?	17	

Comments:
Please leave blank unless you wish to explain the data above

Section E: Complaints and concerns about the fostering service

E1	Information about complaints made about the fostering agency or service (including foster carers) between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015	How many complaints did you receive?	How many of these were not upheld?	
	From:	Number	Number	
E1.1	children/young people	0	0	
E1.2	foster carers	2	1	
E1.3	children and young people's social workers	0	0	
E1.4	other professionals	0	0	
E1.5	children and young people's parents	0	0	
E1.6	others	0	0	

Fostering dataset form - glossary and definitions

This page contains guidance for calculations and definitions of terms utilised within the fostering dataset form.

For further assistance, please contact 0300 013 0020 to speak to a member of the Social Care Data Team.

Information about the service

Name of the organisation and name of the service	Once you select the Unique Reference Number (URN) from the drop down list, these fields will automatically populate according to the information on our system (at 31 March 2015). If the name of your service has changed, please contact **enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk** to correct these details. If you belong to an organisation with a network of branches, please ensure that each branch completes the dataset form and selects the URN which is specific to the branch.

Section A: Information about types of foster care, foster places and placements of children and young people

A1.1	Approved foster places	This is the total number of places that foster carers are approved to provide, whether occupied or not. Please include the places available for foster carers who are identified for concurrent planning.
A1.2 & A4	Filled foster places	This is the total number of places that are occupied at the 31 March 2015 and will equal the number of children placed within the service on that date. Please count according to the type of foster care which best describes the placement type - so in A4 an individual filled place for Child A may not be counted under multiple care type headings.
A2.1	Children in foster care	This is an overall total number of children at any point during the year ending 31 March 2015. Please count the total number of individual children, not the number of fostering placement episodes. The A2.1 total would include children who may have left by 31 March 2015. For instance, if Child A was placed with your service from 1 June 2014 until 30 September 2014 they would be counted within this group. The A2.1 total would also include children who were still in placement on 31 March 2015, whether they commenced before or after 1 April 2014. For instance, if Child C was placed with your service on 12 December 2014 and was still in placement as at 31 March 2015 then they would be counted within this group. The A2.1 total may also include children whose placements commenced earlier than 1 April 2014; there is no stipulation regarding start dates or duration of placements, so all children who were in placements at any point in the year should be counted. For instance, if Child B was placed with your service from 01 October 2010 and was still in placement as at 31 March 2015 then they would be counted within this group. Please include all children in foster care even if subject to concurrent planning (unless the panel has made the recommendation that the child should be adopted by the foster carer).
A2.2	Children of compulsory school age	This is an overall total number of children who were fostered at any point during the year 2014-15 and, at that time, were of compulsory school age. This total would include those children who may have left by 31 March 2015. So, if Child A was placed with your service from 1 October 2014 until 28 February 2015 and were of compulsory school age they would be counted within this group.

A2.3	Raising the Participation Age (RPA)	The age to which all young people in England are required, by law, to continue in education or training has increased. If a young person left year 11 in summer 2014, they must stay in some form of education or training until their 18th birthday. For the purposes of this data collection, please count young people who were in the RPA cohort at the time they were placed with your fostering service at any point during the year ending 31 March 2015. **www.gov.uk/government/publications/participation-of-young-people-education-employment-and-training**
A2.4	Disabled	The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Part 1 defines a disabled person as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities'. Examples include cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and heart conditions; hearing or sight impairments; a significant mobility difficulty; and mental health conditions or learning difficulties.
A2.5	Concurrent planning	Concurrent planning is where a looked after child is placed with approved foster carers who are also approved as adopters. If rehabilitation with parents is not successful, the child is placed for adoption, and remains with the family ensuring a continuity of attachment.
A3	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	The DfE uses the following definition of CSE: Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability. Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation, DfE 2009, www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance, (p.9)
A3.1	Children considered to be at risk of CSE	Count any children or young people whom your service considered to be at risk of CSE, either between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015, or on 31 March 2015, depending on the question column; this does not have to have been confirmed by other professionals e.g. the police. Please only count children or young people who were considered to be at risk of CSE during the time period; do not count those who ceased to be at risk prior to 1 April 2014, even if that was the reason for them being fostered by your service. Children counted as at risk of CSE should not also be counted as subject to CSE.
A3.2	Children considered to be subject to CSE	Count any children or young people whom your service considered to be subject to CSE, either between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015, or on 31 March 2015, depending on the question column; this does not have to have been confirmed by other professionals e.g. the police. Please only count children or young people who were considered to be subject to CSE during the time period; do not count those who ceased to be subject to CSE prior to 1 April 2014, even if that was the reason for them being fostered by your service. Children counted as subject to CSE should not also be counted as at risk of CSE.
A4.1	Permanent long term foster care	Long term foster care is of an indefinite duration; where the long term plan for a child's upbringing is fostering. Permanent care is long term foster care, which envisages the child remains with the same foster carer until they cease to be looked after or reach the upper age limit for being looked after (and possibly beyond).
A4.2	Short term foster care, including pre-adoption and pre-permanence	Foster care for a limited period of time, often while parent(s) or regular carer(s) recover from some temporary disruption, incapacity or illness. This includes preparation for pre-adoption and pre-permanence placements.
A4.3	Emergency foster care	Foster care provided, usually for a period not exceeding 24 hours, when it is essential to remove a child immediately from a particular situation of neglect or danger and a foster carer must be available at any time to provide accommodation.
A4.4	Family and friends foster care	Foster care provided for a looked after child(ren) by a connected person, relative or friend who is approved by a fostering service to foster that particular child(ren). (Kinship care; relative care)
A4.5	Parent and child foster care placements	Foster care provided with approved foster carers in a family setting for a parent together with her/his child where at least one of them is looked after.

A4.6	Parent and child arrangements that are not foster care	Those parent and child arrangements which do not fit the definition in A3.5
A4.7	Multi-dimensional treatment foster care under the Department for Education scheme	MTFC is a highly structured behavioural programme, providing wraparound multi-professional support and including daily communication between carers, the team and school. The key elements of the intervention are: the provision of a consistent reinforcing environment in which young people are mentored and encouraged; provision of clearly specified boundaries to behaviour and specified consequences that can be delivered in a teaching-oriented manner; close supervision of young people's activities and whereabouts; diversion from anti-social peers and help to develop positive social skills that will help young people form relationships with a positive peer group. **http://evidencebasedinterventions.org.uk/**
A4.8	Remand foster care	Foster care provided for children on remand, or committed for trial or sentence under CYPA or CDA, or detained in local authority accommodation under PACE, or subject to a supervision order with residence requirement.
A4.10	Short break foster care	Used to provide a recurring break or respite for the parent(s) or carer(s) of a child, often on the basis of weekends or several days a month. The care is provided in the home of an approved foster carer and includes one or more overnight stays. <u>The child's main place of residence and parental responsibility remain with the parent(s) or carer(s).</u> Short-break care is sometimes called shared care because care is shared between the parents and a foster carer. There are two main types, for disabled and for non-disabled children. For disabled children there is often an agreement 'family link' for a foster carer to provide short break care on a continuing basis for a particular child. One foster carer may be linked in this way to several children, providing short break care for them either together or at different times. (Family link; shared care; salaried care; professional care; specialist fostering; support care; crisis care). For non-disabled children short-break care is sometimes described as support care or crisis care. If your service has children who are fostered, either permanently or short term, who also receive short break care please do not count them in both categories. Therefore children who are counted in this category have short breaks but normally live with parents/ adults with parental responsibility.
A5.1-5.3	Sibling groups	The definition of siblings includes children who are · full siblings, · half siblings, · step siblings who have usually been living together or where there is a connection · children of a partner or former partner of a child's parent where the children have grown up together and consider themselves to be siblings. There are three possible scenarios to describe whether siblings were placed together or apart, according to how the placement arrangement compared to the assessment for being together/apart. Please only count children who are looked after. All siblings who are looked after must be living in the same fostering household in order to be counted as being placed together. If a sibling group was very large and, for instance, was assessed to be placed in pairs, then this would be counted as assessed and placed separately. Please make sure that the numbers reported for a particular question reflect all children within the groups. For instance, it is not possible to 'split' groups and report on multiple rows of the table. Children A,B and C consider themselves to be siblings. Child A is on the child protection register and remains living with their mother. Children B and C are looked after and are placed together in a fostering household. This scenario would count as one group of two children who are placed together (Child A is not looked after and therefore is not counted). Children D,E and F are all looked after and consider themselves to be siblings. The assessment was for Child D to be placed in a residential special school (registered as a children's home) and children E and F to be placed in fostering provision. This scenario would count as one group of three children who were assessed to be placed separately and were placed separately. If you feel that the numbers reported in the table, using this method, do not fully reflect the placement arrangements that have been achieved, please feel free to exemplify in comments.

A6.1	Unplanned endings	An unplanned ending to a foster placement is defined as a 'placement ending that was not included in the social work plan either in the ending itself or the timing of the termination' (p 12). [Berridge D and Cleaver H, Foster Home Breakdown, Oxford: Blackwell, 1987] An unplanned ending includes a placement which ended earlier than the original planned end date (for example, because the foster carer gave notice to terminate the placement) even if a new plan was in place when the child moved placement. For instance, Child K's placement with Carer L is planned to end on 31 December 2014. Carer L gives notice that she would like to terminate the placement at the end of October instead. There is a new plan for Child K to be placed with Carer Z made in the middle of October, but because the original end date was 31 December, this should still be counted as an unplanned ending. For each placement ending, please count in terms of the number of individual children subject to the unplanned ending. If there were multiple unplanned endings of placements in the year, the total also needs to reflect each occasion. Therefore, if Child A had two episodes of fostering placements which had unplanned endings, for instance, in May 2014 and then again in September 2014, then this would count as two occasions of an unplanned ending.
A7.1	Exemptions	An 'exemption' is required in the specific situation in which a foster carer is asked to look after more than three children who are not all part of a sibling group, under Section 63(12) and Schedule 7(2) of the Children Act 1989.

Section B: Information about the ethnicity of foster carers and children

B1.1	Approved foster carers (who are not short breaks or family and friends foster carers)	Individual foster carers who are currently approved by your service as at 31 March 2015. If there are two adult carers who make up the household, please count each individually and provide data relating to each individual.
B1.3	Approved 'short breaks' foster carers	Individual foster carers who are currently approved by your service as at 31 March 2015 for short breaks placements only. Please exclude carers who are counted above, in B1.1, in cases where carers are approved for full foster places as well as short breaks.

Section C: Information about foster carers and fostering households

C1.1	Fostering households	Please count each household once, regardless of how many foster carers live at that household. For example, if Husband A and Wife A are both approved foster carers, count this as one fostering household.
C1.2	Family and friends approved households	Family and friends fostering households are only approved to care for a particular child/young person. This will apply mostly to Local Authorities. Example of family and friends fostering: Mum A has two children, Son B and Daughter C. The LA has decided to place these two children into care. Mum's sister, Aunty D, is asked by the LA to be a foster carer for B and C, is assessed, and is approved to care only for B and C. Aunty D is not approved to care for any other looked after children. She would therefore be counted as a family and friends foster carer. Family and friends fostering is not the same as shared care/short breaks/respite/family links care. All of these should be counted under short breaks. Two examples of short breaks fostering: Family E have respite care for their autistic child, F, for one weekend a month, always with Carer G. This would be counted under short breaks. Carer H and his partner Carer J have 10 days a year of respite care as part of their agreement with a fostering agency. During this time, the child fostered with them, K, stays with a Carer L. Again, this would be counted under short breaks. Please see the definition for short breaks, including family links and shared care, in this glossary for question A4.10

C1.5	Number of places and approved households	Please enter the number of households approved to provide each number of places, not the number of available places. The capacity (total approved places) is then calculated as set out in the example below: 5 homes approved for 1 place each = 5x1 = 5 places 2 homes approved for 2 places each = 2x2 = 4 places 2 homes approved for 3 places each = 2x3 = 6 places 3 homes approved for more than 3 places = 3x4 = at least 12 places Total approved places = 5+4+6+12 = at least 27 places Total households = 5+2+2+3 = 12 households
C3.2	Applications received	Applications should be taken to mean the start of formal approval processes under Regulation 26 of the Fostering Services Regulations 2011. The formal approval process starts as soon as the enquirer indicates that they would like to be considered for approval to foster, so long as your service is currently recruiting and the enquirer's 'offer' is in line with your service's recruitment objectives. Please count all applications as the number of prospective households (not the number of individual applicants). 'New prospective' households means foster care households applying to be approved by your service or agency, whether or not they have been previously approved elsewhere or by your service.
C3.3	Applications 'not decided by this date'	Any applications that were 'in progress' as at 1 April 2014. These applications were all received on any date before 1 April 2014 and therefore 'brought forward' for a decision during 2014-15.
C4.2	Applications withdrawn	Applications which are stopped by the applicant.
C4.4	Applications withdrawn	Applications which are stopped by the service, for instance, including stage 2 brief reports and stage 1 decisions that the applicant is not suitable.
C4.5	Applications which 'remained in progress'	Any applications as at 31 March 2015 which were still progressing through the approval process and had not yet reached the decision stage nor been stopped by the applicant.
C5	Recruitment activity	These questions are intended to capture volumes of all recruitment activity since the introduction of the new two stage approval process on 1 July 2013. Please count each household once e.g. if Husband B and Husband C live together and are both applying to be approved as foster carers, count this as one fostering household. We expect that all families will be counted under each stage that is applicable during the period. For example, Person D completed Entry and Information and Stage 1, and is the middle of Stage 2, so should be counted three times: under Households Completed for Entry and Information, under Households Completed for Stage 1, and under Households In Progress for Stage 2.
C5.1	Recruitment activity: Entry and information	**Entry and information** usually includes anything prior to the household making a formal application to be assessed as a fostering household. Households completed: e.g. household who booked and attended an information session; household supplied with information they requested. Households in progress: e.g. household who booked information session that has not yet happened, household requested home information visit which has not yet happened. household withdrawn: e.g. family booked then cancelled information session or home visit. Service withdrawn: e.g. family booked information session which service cancelled; family requested information on a fostering type not provided by the service.
C5.2	Recruitment activity: Stage 1	**Stage 1** usually includes routine checks including DBS; interviewing personal references; fostering medical. Households completed: e.g. household has completed all three steps listed above. Households in progress: e.g. household has completed some but not all of the steps listed above. household withdrawn: e.g. household has begun the steps above but chosen to terminate their application prior to completion. Service withdrawn: e.g. household has begun the steps above but the service has formally terminated their application prior to completion.

C5.3	Recruitment activity: Stage 2	**Stage 2** usually includes the social worker's assessment of the applicant's suitability, and may include preparation courses prior to the fostering panel taking place. Households completed: e.g. household has completed all steps listed above and is ready to be presented to the fostering panel. Households in progress: e.g. household has completed some but not all of the steps listed above. household withdrawn: e.g. household has begun the steps above but chosen to terminate their application prior to completion. Service withdrawn: e.g. household has begun the steps above but the service has formally terminated their application prior to completion.
C6.2	IRM recommendations	Please only count outcomes for applications to IRM when the application was made between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. Any outcomes which relate to applications made prior to 1 April 2014 should not be counted.
C7.1-7.3	The Department for Education's Training, Support and Development (TSD) Standards	Please count all approved foster carers who have completed this training, irrespective of how long they have been approved and the date on which they completed the training. These figures are therefore total numbers, based on all your approved foster carers as at 31 March 2015. The evidence workbooks, published by the DfE, contain certificates of completion which are signed off by fostering services once foster carers have successfully evidenced meeting all the outcomes in the TDS standards. Details of the TDS standards can be found at: **www.gov.uk/government/publications/training-support-and-development-standards-for-foster-care-evidence-workbook**

Section D: Information about the quality of care

D1.2	Allegations from 'other sources'	Each allegation should be counted in one category only. This should be the category that applies to the person who made the allegation. All allegations made against foster carers during the year should be counted. Any allegation not made by a foster child, including anonymous allegations, should be counted under 'other sources' e.g. family member, teacher, neighbour. The beige total cell (D1.1 + D1.2) should, therefore, reflect the total number of allegations that were received in the year.
D1.5-1.8	Category of Abuse	Each allegation should be counted in one category only. If an allegation contains more than one category of alleged abuse, please count it only once, under the main category of alleged abuse. The category of abuse should be the main category of abuse alleged in the allegation against the foster carer; this is not the category of abuse which resulted in the child becoming looked after.
D1.11	Section 47	Refers to Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and relates to the local authority's duty to investigate child protection concerns.
D1.12-1.14	Outcome of investigations	Each allegation should be counted in one investigation outcome only. This should be the most recent outcome. For example, an investigation outcome might be monitoring for three months, and at the end of the three months, concerns still exist, so there is a referral to panel. In this case, the investigation of the allegation should be counted once, under referral to panel.
D2.1	Physical restraint	'Physical restraint' means stopping a foster child/young person from doing something they appear to want to do by physical means. For example, the foster carer moving the child/young person or blocking their movement to stop them hurting themselves or others or from seriously damaging property.

D3 & D4	Missing children/young people	Includes 'missing' and also 'away from placement without authorisation': 'Missing' in this context refer to children and young people up to the age of 18 who have run away from their foster placement, have been abducted, or whose whereabouts are unknown. Please include these children and young people. Child abduction includes where a child has been abducted or forcibly removed from their place of residence. Please include these instances under 'missing' in D4 and D5. 'Away from placement without authorisation' refers to a looked after child whose whereabouts is known but who is not at their placement or place they are expected to be and the carer has concerns or the incident has been notified to the local authority or the police.
D3.1	Number of times missing	Please count each instance that the same child went missing. For example, if Child C went missing four times between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015, please count this as 4 for the purpose of this question.
D4.1	Length of time missing	Please include the total amount of time that each child went missing for over the year. For example, if Child D went missing for 2 days in May and 6 days in September, that would equal a total missing time of 8 days over the year and count as one child in the 'One week to 28 days' box.
D7.1	Educational placement or school	Refers to mainstream schools and special schools. The data needs to cover the financial year April-March (not the academic year) and is only applicable whilst the child/young person is in a foster placement.
D7.2	Alternative educational provision	Includes provisions outside of mainstream and special schools. This includes: provision directly managed by a local authority; pupil referral units; hospital schools; hospital and home teaching services; tuition centres; e-learning centres; and provision that is brokered or arranged by a local authority, school or group of schools, such as placements in FE colleges, extended work experience, projects provided by the voluntary or private sector or multi-agency initiatives. The data needs to cover the financial year April-March (not the academic year) and is only applicable whilst the child/young person is in a foster placement.
D7.3	No educational arrangements	This refers to children in foster care who have no mainstream, special school or alternative educational provision. The data needs to cover the financial year April-March (not the academic year) and is only applicable whilst the child/young person is in a foster placement.
D7.4	Persistent absence	'Persistent absence' from school is defined by the Department for Education. Persistent absentees are defined as having an overall absence rate of around 15 per cent or more. As an example, this would equate to 46 or more sessions (23 days) of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the first five half terms of the academic year. Table 12: **www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/299801/SFR50_2013_TablesA.xlsx** The data needs to cover the financial year April-March (not the academic year) and is only applicable whilst the child/young person is in a foster placement.

Section E: Complaints and concerns about the fostering service

E1	Complaints 'not upheld'	Includes only those complaints where no action on any aspect was necessary.