



Corporate Parenting Committee

12 October 2026

Report from the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Community Development

**Lead Cabinet Member for Children's
Services, Employment and Climate
Action - Cllr Jake Rubin**

Brent Fostering Service 6-monthly Monitoring Report: 01 April 2026 to 30 September 2026

Wards Affected:	ALL
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the meeting, on the grounds that the attendance of representatives from the council's Children in Care council, necessitated the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2, Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, of the Act, namely: Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
List of Appendices:	N/A
Background Papers:	N/A
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1.0 Executive 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. It includes relevant data on the service's performance and activities, as well as updates on the functioning and progress of the Fostering Panel.

Additionally, the report outlines the developments that have taken place in the Service throughout the year, as well as any planned initiatives for the upcoming period. This is in accordance with standard 25.7 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards (2011).

- 1.2 Brent Fostering Service operates in accordance with the Fostering National Minimum Standards, the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. These regulations are the foundation of the regulatory framework for fostering services under the Care Standards Act 2000. This report details the activity of Brent's fostering service from the 1 April to 30 September 2026.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting Committee is requested to review and comment on 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 Brent's Children in Care.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 This report sets out the management of the Local Authority's in-house fostering service and the developments that have taken place in the reporting period. The work of the fostering service contributes to the following borough priorities:

- **The Best Start in Life**
- **Prosperity and Stability**
- **A Healthier Brent**
- **Thriving Communities**

In order for care experienced young people to have the best start in life, prosperity and stability, safety, and good health they need safe, stable homes with primary carers who love them and who are able to meet their holistic needs. The fostering service contributes to these priorities by recruiting, assessing, and supporting foster carers and connected person carers for Brent children and young people. Providing safe, stable, loving homes for children and young people when they are unable to remain with their birth parent/s, means that they will have the best life chances.

4.0 Background

4.1 Service Priorities

- 4.1.1 The in-house fostering function, located within the Looked After Children and Permanency Service (LACP) in the Children, Young People and Community Development Directorate set the following service priorities for 2026/2027:

- To maintain a strong focus on recruitment, assessment and approval of new foster carers, in partnership with Foster with West London (FwWL), keeping our target of **10** new carers by the end of the financial year.
- To enhance the support offered to Brent's foster carers and kinship carers, by rolling out the new fostering offer and deliver existing and new therapeutic support to increase placement stability and develop carers' ability and resilience in managing more complex and challenging placements.
- To improve the outcomes for the children in care by providing local and in-house placement options, minimising change of social workers and placements and keeping children connected to their networks.
- To promote and improve the take up of learning opportunities for new and experienced foster carers and connected persons using different delivery methods comprising of face-to-face, online/virtual and E-Learning.
- To recruit, train and retain foster carers that can offer emergency and respite placements to children and young people who come into care in unplanned circumstances.
- To continue to develop and transform the service in consultation and collaboration with care experienced young people and foster carers through regular feedback and co-designed training and steering groups.
- To ensure that the foster carers feel supported and valued by providing regular service updates, promoting a sense of belonging to a wider fostering community and celebrating the carers achievements and commitment to their role.

4.1.2 Progress against these priorities in this reporting period include:

- The service has recruited 3 carers this period. There are 6 assessments in progress as well as 3 potential carers who are at the initial visit stage considering progressing to an assessment. 0 foster carers have resigned in this period, and 0 foster carers were deregistered by the service. The net increase for this financial year so far is 3.
- Brent's fostering offer is competitive and is well received by Brent foster carers. In this period the department undertook a market evaluation exercise and increased Brent fostering fees by 3% (1.5% on the carer's element, 1.5% on the child's fees). No carers have transferred from Brent to other local authorities or Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs). However, foster carers do feedback they would like more benefits including council tax reductions/reimbursements, financial contributions to utility bills, improved communication around financial payments as well as other benefits including better parking options in the London Borough of Brent.
- Brent's first Mockingbird Constellation continues to progress well. The foster carers in this programme have fed back they are thankful for the support of this programme and enjoy the community that is being developed. The department is considering whether a second Mockingbird Constellation can be implemented in Brent to build on the positive progress made by the first constellation.
- Placement stability is good, with short term stability currently at 11.8% in line with national and statistical neighbours. Brent "long term" stability is currently 63.2% which is slightly lower (approx. 5% lower) than national and statistical neighbours. The primary reason for this is due to Brent older

cohort of children entering care.

- Vacancies with in-house carers are being fully utilised, meaning if a carer is free to foster a child, then a child is placed with them swiftly, after careful planning, risk assessment and matching.
- The completion of mandatory training for approved foster carers was highlighted as an area requiring improvement in the 2026 Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS), and significant progress has been made to date in relation to the recording and monitoring of mandatory training, improved uptake of mandatory training by foster carers in this reporting period. The current training catalogue is robust, and additional training courses are added promptly on specific topics when requested by foster carers.
- Brent, and 7 other neighbouring West London Local Authorities (Ealing, Harrow, Hounslow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Hillingdon) share a regional fostering hub; FwWL. The Department for Education has asked all Local Authorities to expand the remit of regional fostering hubs to undertake 'end to end' recruitment, which will include assessments of new foster carers. This is due to go live on 1 October 2026.
- A lead fostering social worker works closely with Brent's participation service, creating a link between foster carers, children in placements and the participation offer
- The service has also identified a fostering family as "lead foster carers" for the foster carer support groups and forums. Foster carers utilise support and advice from the lead foster carers; and the lead carers feedback to the service on behalf of carers and supports the service to plan developments for the service.

4.2 Staffing Arrangements

- 4.2.1 The organisational structure of the Fostering Service has undergone a minor change since the last report. The dedicated 0.5 FTE Fostering Recruitment Officer and 0.5 FTE Mockingbird Liaison Officer posts are no longer filled. The Fostering Recruitment Officer post has been held vacant due to expected changes with FwWL and the funding for the Mockingbird Liaison Officer ended. The responsibilities previously undertaken through these roles have been absorbed within the existing team structure, ensuring continuity of service delivery and maintaining the service's recruitment, support and Mockingbird programme functions whilst development with FwWL continues.
- 4.2.2 The Fostering Support and Assessment Team now consists of 8 Supervising Social Workers and one Team Manager. The service continues to be overseen by a Service Manager.
- 4.2.3 The Kinship Care Team consists of 8 social workers and one Team Manager. One social worker left the department in January 2026, after a successful round of recruitment the vacancy was filled by an external candidate in September 2026.

4.2.4 The workload in the fostering team continues to be at manageable levels, whilst the Kinship Team has experienced an increased number of requests for assessments to be completed by private care proceedings in the family court.

4.3 Placement Activity

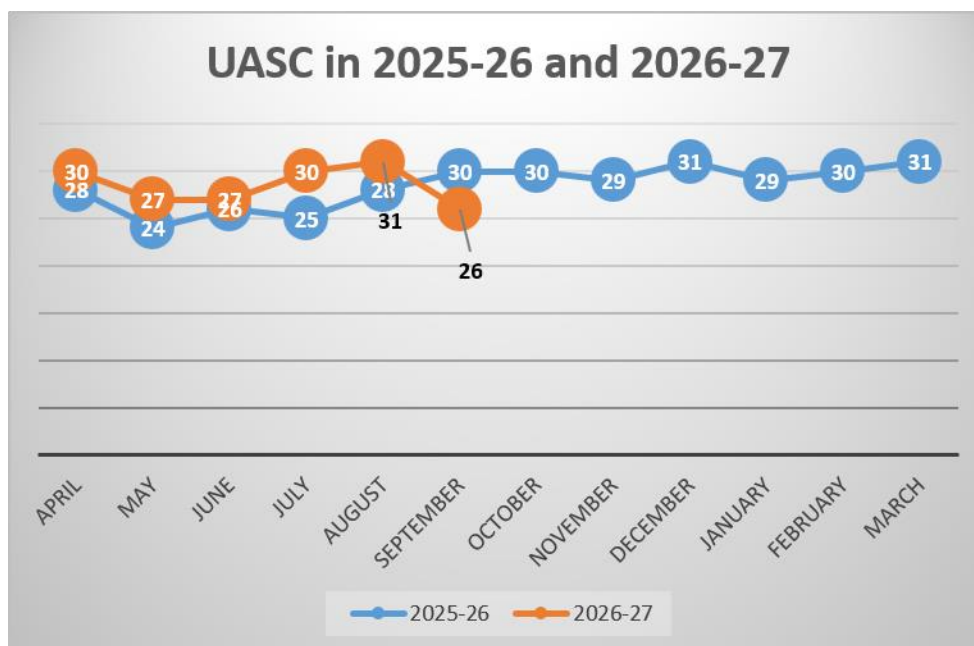
4.3.1 The total number of children in care as of 30/09/2026 was 291, a decrease of 4 children from 295 on 31/03/2026.

4.3.2 The corporate performance targets for 2026-27 are as follows:

- Percentage of children in care placed with in-house (Brent) foster carers as of 30 September 2026 was 17%, same as 31 March 2026. However, this remains below the annual target of 25%
- Percentage of children in care placed with a relative or family friend as of 30 September 2026 was 16.5%, an increase of 6 children (48), _ below the annual target of 20%
- Percentage of children in care placed with independent fostering agencies as of 30 September 2026 was 30% (86 children), same as 31 March 2026
- Percentage of children in care within foster placements as of 30 September 2026 was 62.5% (182 children), an increase of 1.5% from 31 March 2026
- There were 42 children in care placed in registered supported accommodation as of 30 September 2026, same as 31 March 2026. 42 children represent 14.4% of all looked after children placed in registered supported accommodation.

4.3.3 There were 26 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) as of 30 September 2026, a decrease of 4 UASC from 31 March 2026 (30 UASC).

4.3.4 The number of UASC placed in registered supported accommodation as of 30 September 2026 was 13, 6 fewer UASC as of 31 March 2026, none in residential children's homes and 13 UASC placed in foster placements.



4.3.5 As at 30 September 2026 there are 3 children in 2 unregulated kinship foster placements. Details provided in section 4.6.

4.3.6 9 children were made subject to Special Guardianship orders in this reporting period.

4.4 Recruitment and Assessment of new foster carers

Recruitment

4.4.1 During this reporting period, the Brent fostering monthly information evenings have continued virtually on MS Teams. The service attended both face-to-face and online recruitment events targeted at communities in various parts of the borough. The recruitment activity continues to have a broad focus, to capture as much interest as possible. FwWL offer regular information evenings run by the foster carer ambassadors that potential Brent carers can also utilise.

Any potential enquiries that come to Brent are redirected swiftly to FwWL to ensure the regional hub are capturing all potential enquiries. All Brent fostering campaigns complement the campaigns by FwWL to ensure services are not competing with each other. Ideas, resources and best practice are shared across the West London region. Brent marketing material and information make clear the working relationship between Brent and FwWL. Brent and FwWL work together to establish as many potential enquiries as far as possible.

Outreach Work:

4.4.2 The fostering service remained focussed on raising awareness of fostering across Brent, helping to build engagement and understanding despite ongoing recruitment challenges. The service has undertaken outreach in key areas across Brent.

Libraries Outreach – The service continues to have a presence at libraries across the borough. The service is updated about library campaigns/events to ensure our fostering outreach target the libraries during key times/events.

Community and Faith Outreach - In July 2026 and September 2026, the service attended the Brent Multi-Faith Forum, nurturing valuable links with faith networks. In May 2026 the service attended at an event at Victory Community Church encouraging members of the Christian community in Brent to consider fostering. In June 2026 the service held a stall at Wembley Mosque encouraging members of the Muslim community in Brent to consider fostering. In the next reporting period the service plans to confirm dates with other places of worship across Brent.

Civic Centre Engagement - Throughout this reporting period, the fostering service maintained a physical presence at Brent Civic Centre through information tables. These engagements provided opportunities for staff, visitors and residents to speak directly with fostering officers, increasing awareness across the council and the wider public. One potential fostering family currently now in assessment made clear it was this fostering stall at Brent Civic Centre that encouraged her to take steps to be assessed by Brent.

Foster Care Fortnight Campaign - Foster Care Fortnight is a national campaign that runs for 2 weeks every year in May. The purpose of Foster Care Fortnight is to celebrate our existing fostering community, to raise awareness about fostering and to encourage more families to foster. During Foster Care Fortnight 2026 an extensive social media campaign (11-24 May) was delivered by Brent, supported by a news story and local press release, advertising in the Civic Centre Atrium and libraries, and in-person engagement events.

The social media campaign featured four videos (three showcasing current foster carers sharing their experiences and one outlining the support available for foster carers in Brent), alongside one still image quoting a foster carer and directing audiences to an in-depth interview (79 views) about their experience fostering with Brent. Content was shared across LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

Combined performance of social media posts across all platforms:

- LinkedIn: 4,034 views/impressions, 70 reactions and 247 clicks
- Facebook: 8,806 views, 26 reactions
- Instagram: 4,447 views, 47 reactions

Notably, LinkedIn generated the highest level of engagement with 70 reactions and 247 clicks through to www.brent.gov.uk/fostering.

During Foster Care Fortnight, on 13th May 2026 a 'Community Brew' event took place at Harmony Kitchen in Brent Civic Centre. The event was open to Brent staff, external professionals and all fostering families. The session provided an opportunity for rich discussions to take place, celebrating fostering stories, as

well as allowing members of the public to hear real life fostering stories from current Brent foster carers.



Queen's Park Day Outreach - The Brent Fostering Team attended Queen's Park Day on 13 September 2026, a free family-friendly community event organised by the Queen's Park Area Residents Association. The fostering outreach stall attracted significant interest throughout the day, providing an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of fostering and promote the need for more foster carers for Brent children. The team engaged with members of the public, answered questions about fostering, shared information on the different fostering options available, and encouraged residents to consider how they could make a positive difference in a child's life.

The event enabled the team to connect with a diverse range of local families and community members, helping to increase understanding of fostering and the vital role foster carers play in supporting vulnerable children and young people. Many visitors stopped by the stall to learn more about the fostering journey and the support available to foster carers.

A highlight of the day was a visit from the Mayor of Brent, Councillor Amer Agha, who took the time to speak with the team about their recruitment efforts and show support for fostering in Brent.



Wembley Jobs Fair Outreach – On 15 September 2026 the fostering service held a stall at the Wembley Jobs Fair at Wembley Stadium. This highly publicised event is well attended by various communities across Brent. At this event the service spoke to members of the public as well as other providers regarding the benefits, flexibility and significant impact fostering has.



Link with Wembley Football Club – One of our Brent fostering families is connected with Wembley Football Club. Through this link the Football Club has offered free promotion of Brent fostering. The service provided ‘warm-up’ T shirts for the players as well as banners for the stadium. Brent fostering is also promoted at key games and events.



In this reporting period the outreach events were organised and undertaken by supervising social workers in the service as the service no longer has a fostering marketing and recruitment officer. From 1 October 2026 Foster with West London (FwWL) will have a FTE dedicated Events and Engagement Officer (EEO) to be shared across all 8 Local Authorities. FwWL have made clear that the Brent fostering service are expected to continue to organise and undertake outreach events but FwWL will also undertake outreach on behalf of Brent. Brent fostering will share local links, local knowledge and other key information to allow the EEO at FwWL to participate in outreach events on behalf of Brent. FwWL have committed to undertaking outreach in Brent once per fortnight under the new end-to-end regional model approach that goes live from 1 October 2026.

Finding Foster Carers using advanced digital marketing:

- 4.4.3 In the last reporting period the service engaged in a 6-month recruitment campaign with CAN Digital between late November 2025 and the end of May 2026. The campaign significantly improved Brent's search visibility in a highly competitive fostering landscape, and enquiry numbers in the first 3 months of the campaign increased significantly, i.e. 3 or 4 times this number prior to the campaign. Unfortunately, despite this increase in enquiries, this did not translate into increased referrals and Initial Visits.

After the first 3-month period the campaign was extended for a further 3 months to properly test this resource, however we saw similar results in the second 3 month period with no translation from enquiry to referral/assessment, and therefore a decision was made to not continue.

Finding Foster Carers using other digital approaches:

- 4.4.4 Since July 2025 a Brent Foster Carer 'Job Advert' has been placed on the Brent Job section web page. Whilst the Brent Fostering pages are up-to-date on the Brent Website, this job advert aims to target individuals who may be looking for work or additional income, to consider fostering. In this reporting period 12 enquiries came to FwWL from individuals who saw this job advert on the Brent website.

FwWL previously launched an App called 'Care Friends', which has had success in Wales, the app gives points (that can be converted into cash prizes)

for every friend/associate in your network who applies to be a foster carer. It works on the principle that current carers know other potential carers and pays current carers to refer their network to Brent. This further incentivises and digitises our existing 'refer a friend' offer in Brent. Brent foster carers continue to use this App. A FwWL competition took place during Foster Care Fortnight (May 2026); those who downloaded the app were entered into a draw to win £100. One of our Brent foster carers was a lucky winner which helped promote the app in Brent.

Regional Fostering Hub (FwWL)

- 4.4.5 Brent have been part of a regional fostering hub (FwWL) since late 2024. As outlined in the Cabinet Report dated 27 July 2026 (background paper attached) FwWL is expanding to an end-to-end model from 01 October 2026. The Brent Fostering Service has made a substantial contribution to the development of the expanded regional fostering hub, investing significant time and resources through attendance at multiple planning meetings and design forums, providing detailed data and evidence, and sharing local knowledge and expertise. This collaborative approach has helped ensure the hub reflects the needs of Brent's communities and strengthens opportunities to increase the number of fostering households. Brent fostering service will closely monitor the progress of the regional fostering hub to ensure it meets the needs of Brent families.

On 4 February 2026 the Department for Education (DfE) published the paper 'Renewing Fostering: Homes for 10,000 More Children' which outlines reforms to the fostering system in England. As Brent is continuing in our regional fostering hub, the DfE have confirmed that from September 2026 Brent local authority has access to further support from the DfE, including:

- Funding for set-up of a potential new Mockingbird Constellation in Brent. This funding cannot be used to fund the current Brent Mockingbird Constellation. The funding is for financial year 2026/2027 therefore the fostering service is currently evaluating/planning a new constellation.
- Funding, under the Room Makers scheme, to support approximately 3 fostering households with home improvements to create more fostering space/bedrooms. This funding is limited and cannot be used for loft extensions. The service is currently exploring options to possibly utilise this funding.
- Funding to work with charitable organisation Now Foster to recruit 'Weekender' foster carers. These are foster carers who are fully assessed and then after careful matching, commit to caring for a child one weekend per month on a long-term basis. The service is identifying children in the service who may benefit from this resource.

During this reporting period the Brent Fostering Team Manager supported FwWL with shortlisting and interviews for the new assessing social worker posts, to ensure the right candidates were selected for our regional hub.

FwWL also created 2 roles for foster carers and/or care experienced young people to consider and apply for, that can be undertaken alongside fostering. These roles are:

- Fostering Ambassador and Enquiry Officer (part time)
- Fostering Communications and Events Officer (full time available, open to part time or job share)

These roles were shared with Brent care experienced young people and Brent foster carers. A number of Brent foster carers applied for these roles and are waiting to hear a response regarding their applications. They can continue to foster with Brent whilst undertaking these roles (if successful).

Assessments by Brent:

- 4.4.6 Following feedback from a previous Committee discussion, a table has been included below depicting the 'fostering journey pipeline' to highlight where potential fostering families left the pipeline during this reporting period. As a reminder, if any prospective carer presents directly to Brent asking to become a carer, the individual is processed via FwWL, to ensure we capture all our enquiries via our FwWL hub.

Contacts made to FwWL specifically for Brent	Applicant progressed to referral stage (the applicant completed their application form)	Initial Visits to be undertaken by FwWL on behalf of Brent	Stage 1 of Fostering Assessment	Stage 2 of Fostering Assessment	Approved by Brent Fostering Panel and ADM
278 contacts made to FwWL for Brent this reporting period.	25 Referrals created and recorded as progressing.	18 Initial Visits were undertaken	4 currently in Stage 1	2 currently in Stage 2	3 in this reporting period
	4 candidates have not yet progressed to an Initial Visit, they continue to be encouraged to have an Initial Visit.	7 candidates were rejected by FwWL following the Initial Visit.			There has been 0 formal resignations and 0 terminations
	3 candidates are due to have Initial Visits undertaken by FwWL soon.	4 candidates progressed to Stage 1 assessment with Brent.			
		7 candidates withdrew after having an Initial home Visit.			

At present FwWL process enquiries and undertake Initial Home Visits on behalf of Brent. FwWL create a 'referral' for Brent at the Initial Home Visit (IV) stage. From 1 October 2026, FwWL will complete all the marketing, enquiries, assessments and training of new fostering families on behalf of Brent and will

pass families to Brent following their assessment and presentation at fostering panel. There is more information in the 27 July 2026 cabinet paper regarding the expansion of the FwWL regional model.

- 4.4.7 As highlighted in previous reports, it is common at the initial visit stage for applicants to put off their initial home visit for some time. The assessing social workers are patient, supportive and understanding at this stage to ensure all potential fostering families feel that their fostering journey takes place at their pace. This can mean that applicants look as though they remain at the enquiries stage and initial visit stage longer than necessary however this is usually at the request of the applicant.
- 4.4.8 To review if there are any potential difficulties for applicants to move from enquiry to referral, the service manager in Brent undertakes 'secret shopper' exercises. Feedback is provided to FwWL highlighting where the service from FwWL could improve but overall, it was felt that FwWL dealt with the enquiries appropriately, worked at the pace of the applicant and passed the details to Brent in a timely way. The service manager also undertakes dip sampling of enquiries, referrals and initial visits to ensure that processes and decisions are appropriate, inclusive and helpful for potential fostering families. Further 'secret shopper' exercises will be undertaken as FwWL expands.

4.5 Support from Supervising Social Workers (SSW)

- 4.5.1 The retention of Brent foster carers continues to be one of the fostering service's main priorities. The foster carers continue to report positive relationships with their supervising social workers and the feedback received during their annual reviews and attendance at fostering panel has highlighted the importance of the support received from the highly skilled and experienced supervising social workers. The quality of the relationship they have with the social workers has been cited as the main reason for their commitment to Brent and this continues to be the case. The foster carers report being able to contact their supervising social worker when in need and receive appropriate level of support and guidance during difficult periods. Many of the Brent foster carers have had the same supervising social worker for many years.

One foster carer provided feedback via email to the service on 03 June 2026 stating: *"Jenine thanks for everything you do for me I do really appreciate it there should be more social workers like you but I just wanted to say thanks because I know I don't say it very often"*.

Another foster carer provided feedback via email to the service on 14 Sep 2026 regarding the fostering team manager stating: *"Good morning, Diana, just wanted to say thank you for all your help Monday getting things sorted ASAP. (Child name removed) on the mend doing so great, thank you. Anytime I have to call you for anything you are on the ball 100%."*

- 4.5.2 The fostering team works closely and in partnership with the children's social work teams to ensure that the care plans for children are progressed without delay and the children's needs are met whilst receiving the best care. The supervising social

workers (and team managers when needed) attend placement planning and permanency planning meetings, children in care reviews and all other relevant statutory and non-statutory meetings, supporting their foster carers to build positive relationships with the 'team around the child'.

4.5.3 In addition to the support the carers received from social workers, the foster carers attend monthly support groups organised and facilitated by the fostering service. This is an informal and relaxed event where foster carers new and more established are able to meet and get to know each other. This works well to provide support to newly approved carers. The monthly foster carers' support group continue to be facilitated virtually as this remains the foster carers' preferred option. Minutes of these meetings are taken and shared with the carers. With permission from attendees, guests attend this group at times to meet with the carers.

4.5.4 As part of the commitment to engaging with foster carers and improving the service, we have continued with Foster Care Reference Group feedback sessions previously rebranded previously as "*Coffee with Kelli*." These informal gatherings provide foster carers with a valuable opportunity to discuss their experiences, share feedback, and offer recommendations directly with the Head of Service. 2 sessions were held during this reporting period, on 23 April 2026 and 17 September 2026. Topics raised by the foster carers in these sessions included:

- Challenges of managing contact (family time) in kinship fostering arrangements.
- Positivity around Brent's Mockingbird constellation.
- How foster carers can contribute positively to Life Story Work for children.
- Frustration when overpayments occur, it is difficult to understand how repayments are calculated.
- Mandatory training expectations and how carers can avoid the withholding of fostering fees.
- Celebrations in relation to positive GCSE results and other positive outcomes for children in placement.
- Feedback on foster carer Support Group, what's working well and how could we improve.
- Discussion about the Brent fostering offer and suggestions for improving this i.e. Council Tax exemptions, parking permits (especially for contact)
- Savings for children in care, progress on taking saving from source and also Share Foundation information.

Attendance at 'Coffee with Kelli' has been far better attended when this is held virtually rather than in-person therefore these reference groups will continue virtually. Foster carers have fed back this provides them with greater flexibility. To ensure fostering families still feel a personal touch when required they are offered a home visit by the head of service or service manager if they want to discuss concerns or feedback in person.

4.5.5 The fostering service with the support of the Brent Communication team keeps foster carers engaged and informed by providing a monthly newsletter. Updates are also provided by the Brent fostering service in the WhatsApp community.

- 4.5.6 Tickets for Foster Carers and Children in their Care: As stated in previous reports, Brent's fostering service is linked in with the Wembley Community Club and the Disney Theatre Group to access discounted or free tickets for fostering families. There are a number of different events for children in care and care experienced young people however some young people and their carers have fed back there is a benefit to events being offered to the entire fostering household as it can avoid children in care feeling a stigma or them simply not wanting to be alone. These joint events are also a great opportunity for children to strengthen relationships with their foster carers, their families as well as Brent staff. When possible, the Brent fostering service has also encouraged children's social workers and leaving care personal advisors to attend alongside their young people. This helps to strengthen professional relationships and reduce barriers between young people and the professionals supporting them.

During this reporting period the service has organised several trips/events, outlined below.

Hercules Musical - On 18 May 2026, 30 tickets were allocated to children in care, care leavers, and their foster families to attend the Hercules musical at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. The event provided an enjoyable cultural experience and an opportunity for families and young people to share a memorable outing.



Harry Styles Concert – One Brent child in care and her best friend were allocated tickets to attend the Harry Styles concert at Wembley on 20 June 2026. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which was particularly meaningful as she has been a dedicated One Direction and Harry Styles fan for many years!

Bruno Mars Concert - A kinship family who are based outside of London were allocated tickets to attend the Bruno Mars concert on 18 May 2026. The family reported greatly appreciating the opportunity to attend such a popular event together.

The Weekend Concert - Two care experienced young people and one child in care has been allocated tickets to attend The Weekend concert on 19 August 2026.

England vs Japan and Lionesses vs Spain Football Matches - Twelve tickets were allocated to Brent children in care and their foster families to attend the England vs Japan match. A further ten tickets were provided for Brent children in care and their foster families to attend the Lionesses vs Spain fixture. These opportunities enabled

young people and carers to experience high-profile international sporting events together.

Celebration Events for Brent Foster Carers: As part of Brent's fostering offer the service holds celebration events throughout the year for foster carers, including: an end-of-year festive celebration, a summer day trip and a foster care fortnight celebration. In this reporting period the foster carers opted to visit Great Yarmouth for the summer day trip. The foster carers also had a celebration at a local church hall during Foster Care fortnight. The service is currently planning the end-of-year celebration and will pass on the invite to the committee in due course.

Foster Care Fortnight Celebration, May 2026 - The Foster Care Fortnight celebrations concluded on 20 May 2026 with a celebration event attended by 22 foster carers. The service arranges for beauty therapy students and hairdressing students from City of Westminster College to give our wonderful foster carers a pampering session including massages, nails and new hair styles. The event also included food, a raffle, certificate prize giving, a quiz and sharing of fostering stories.



Summer Trip to Great Yarmouth, August 2026 – Despite it being quite a windy day many of our foster carers and their families boarded our coach to Great Yarmouth for a day of activities. The carers and their families thoroughly enjoyed building sandcastles, going on slides and having lunch.



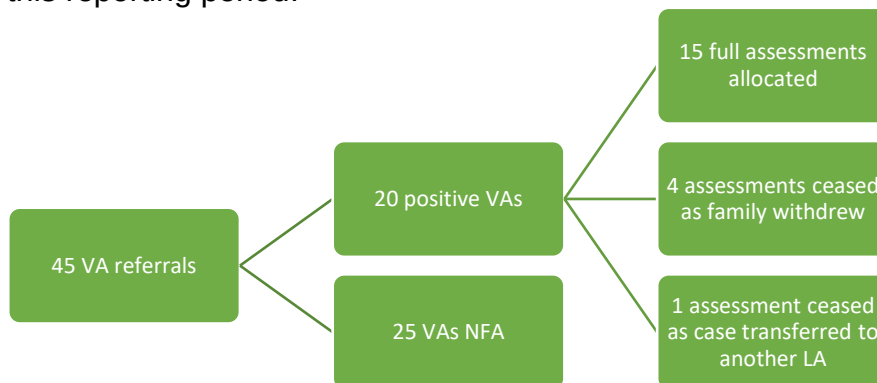
Brent Participation and Brent Fostering – The link supervising social worker meets regularly with Brent’s participation service to discuss, plan, prepare, and support events and activities. A recent event was the Brent Care Journeys (BCJ) Empire Fest summer event in August 2026. This event was attended by several children in care and their carers including those in Brent’s residential children’s home and those with Brent foster carers. The fostering service will continue to work closely with the participation service to ensure feedback from children and young people is fed into our service development.

4.6 The Kinship Care Team

- 4.6.1 The Kinship Care team undertakes both planned and emergency assessments of prospective family members and friends who come forward as alternative carers when it is not possible for a child to remain in the care of their parents. The team provides placement support to the connected persons carers and training during the assessment period.

In this reporting period the Kinship Care team received 45 referrals for viability assessments (VA) of a relative, friend and people connected to the child. Kinship referrals do fluctuate month to month and are demand led.

In this reporting period:



The service has continued to notice an increase in families making their own private applications to family court (private proceedings) for Special Guardianship Orders. In these circumstances the Local Authority are still required to undertake the assessment and create support plans. In this reporting period 3 new private application assessments were undertaken by the team in addition to progressing 6 assessments from the last reporting period.

In this reporting period 24 children were placed in 12 new temporarily approved Connected Persons arrangements (often referred to as Reg 24) between April 2026 and September 2026. 10 of these arrangements ended, 1 child returned home and ceased to be LAC, 1 child was placed with their parent in an alternate provision, 1 child was placed with parent at home, 1 child was placed in an alternate suitable placement (foster care) 1 child was moved to another kinship carer and 5 children were made subject to SGOs.

Children who remain in Reg 24 arrangements beyond 24 weeks, where the carer has not been approved as a Connected Persons carer (following presentation at Fostering Panel and approval from the ADM for Fostering) are considered to be in 'unregulated placements' because the temporary approval under regulation 24 and regulation 25 has expired. As at the end of September 2026, there were 3 children in 2 unregulated placements. One of the carers has been presented to the Fostering panel within timescales and they have been recommended for approval but the ADM decision sheet is awaited. In the case of the second carer, there has been a change in the care plan with the child remaining in placement although there was an initial negative assessment. Most often the reasons for delays in presenting carers to the Brent Fostering Panel are primarily in relation to delayed information being shared by the carer, delayed DBS and medical checks or lack of clarity with the care plan for the child.

When any living arrangement for a Brent child in care becomes unregulated a risk assessment is completed for the unregulated placement which is signed by the Head of Service. There continues to be close monitoring of this unregulated placement through more frequent visits being undertaken by the child's social worker and the supervising social worker, until the arrangement is regulated again - by the carers assessment being presented at the Brent Fostering Panel and the approval being ratified by the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) for the Fostering Service.

4 Connected Persons foster carers were presented to the Brent Fostering Panel for approval as carers between April and September 2026.

9 Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) were granted in this reporting period as an outcome of care proceedings (children being previously children in care). 1 SGO was granted in a private proceeding case where the court application had been made by the prospective Special Guardian and Brent had completed the assessment in support of this application.

Brent's Kinship Local Offer: The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 requires every local authority to publish a clear and accessible kinship local

offer, which sets out the support available to kinship carers and their families. The service launched the Brent Kinship Local Offer in April 2026 following careful planning and consultation with partner agencies, children, young people, birth parents and kinship carers. This document is available on Brent's website and outlines the current kinship carer assessment process, defines the kinship arrangements, outlines support available as well as details agencies/services families can contact if required. The Kinship Local Offer has been sent internally as well as to schools, partner agencies, services and other professionals.

When The Kinship Care Team are initiating new assessments, the team signpost prospective and existing kinship carers to the Kinship Local Offer and encourage them to refer to it for information, guidance, and available support. Families who contact the service seeking information about private Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) are also directed to the website and Kinship Local Offer.

The Kinship Local Offer is further promoted through our Kinship Preparation Training, which is provided to new kinship carers. This training is well received by Brent carers. The service now sells spaces on this training to other local authorities to send their kinship carers to as the training is accessible and well received.

Private Fostering arrangements fall under the umbrella of Kinship Care. The service already held private fostering awareness training with internal teams in CYPCD as well as with external partner/agencies. The service has now expanded this training; it is now called 'raising awareness of children in different kinship care arrangements (including private fostering)'. These training sessions are well received internally and externally. A mailout to all Brent schools has taken place offering them all in-person or virtual Kinship Awareness training.

Post SGO support for Brent families is provided by our Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) Adopt London West (ALW). ALW were consulted when compiling the Brent Kinship Local Offer; ALW have been asked to promote it during coffee mornings and support group meetings. The Brent Kinship Care Team also work with local kinship support group leads to disseminate information and raise awareness of the support available through the Kinship Local Offer.

Every quarter senior managers from across frontline social work teams meet quarterly with CAFCASS (Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) to discuss best practice when supporting families through care proceedings in the family courts. Through this link the Kinship Care Team are attending the CAFCASS service meetings to promote the Brent Kinship Local Offer to allow CAFCASS guardians to signpost families and professionals to this helpful guide.

Supporting Kinship Families beyond the SGO being granted – In February 2026 the DfE released further guidance called 'Improving the Kinship Local Offer and

Approach to Kinship Care' which encourages Local Authorities to continue to check-in with Kinship families and undertake reviews even after SGOs are made and their cases have formally closed. In Brent families are asked to seek post SGO support from our RAA which is ALW should they need advice, support or guidance at all.

Although the post order support for Special Guardians is regionalised and is in the remit of work done by Adopt London West (ALW), the Brent Kinship Team continues to receive regular contact from families requiring advice, guidance, and additional support following the granting of the SGO. Post-order support remains a significant aspect of the Kinship Care Team's work in Brent and we continue to respond to the needs of these families.

Where families request a review of a child's support needs after an SGO has been granted, the Kinship Team undertakes a review to assess how best to support the families to maintain the placement, in line with our local offer and policy. We continue to receive several requests for housing support and continuation of the SGO allowance post the child's 18th birthday due to them being in education and not ready to live independently.

The Kinship Team is also working closely with the Brent Performance Team, which is currently undertaking reviews of the financial support packages for all existing Special Guardians. Where concerns regarding a child's welfare are identified through this process, referrals are made to the Kinship Team, where the SWs in the team then undertake enquiries to ensure that the child is safe and that their needs are being met appropriately.

The Brent Kinship Team adapt to the presenting needs of families however several complex situations are referred to the team even after SGOs are made. The support offered to these families by the Kinship Care Team has impacted workloads and capacity in the service. The service continues to meet with ALW to explore how best these families can be supported. During this reporting period the Kinship Care Team has not commissioned any Independent Social Workers (ISWs) to complete kinship assessments on behalf of Brent however if workloads continue to increase additional assessments will need to be commissioned.

Kinship Celebrations – Similar to our mainstream foster carers, our kinship carers are also celebrated and thanked for their support given to our Brent children. Kinship Care Week (5 to 11 October 2026) is a nationally recognised time to shine a light on the vital role of kinship carers, relatives and friends who step up to raise a child when their parents are unable to. During Kinship Care Week the Brent Kinship Care Team run workshops and training to raise awareness with professionals and members of the public of the different types of kinship arrangements and the support they may need. The service also organises for displays/posts on the Brent Civic Centre Atrium, Brent Library Screens, the internal intranet 'The Loop' as well as in the Brent Magazine.



This year the Brent Kinship Care Team are organising a family fun day celebration for Kinship families at our newly opened Freeman Family Centre on Saturday 10 Oct 2026. The day will include face painting, activities, games, quizzes, celebrations as well as an awards ceremony to thank our Kinship carers to committing to caring for our Brent children.

4.7 Fostering Panel

4.7.1 The Brent Fostering Panel is constituted in accordance with Regulation 23 of the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011. The service maintains a diverse and highly experienced central list of panel members. In March 2026 the elected member Councillor Moeen resigned from the central list; following the elections Councillor Joyce Angela De Souza joined the central list in June 2026.

The current independent fostering panel chair started in September 2025. Appraisals of current panel members took place in March 2026 with the independent panel chair and service manager (panel adviser). The service now has 13 Brent social workers to the central list, to provide more flexibility for the fostering panel.

4.7.2 Most of the external independent panel members have personal experience of the fostering system, including 1 independent panel member who was brought up in a kinship arrangement, 2 members who are experienced foster carers and 5 panel members who are care experienced. The work of the Fostering Panel is supported by the Panel Adviser.

Whilst our fostering panel central list is compliant with the regulations and already diverse the Brent Fostering Service want to continue to improve and develop the service. The service is currently recruiting a representative with a background in health.

4.7.3 Fostering Panels are generally held three times, every two months and extra panels are arranged if there is an increase in demand. Most panels take place virtually; and face to face when the number of cases presented is high or if the nature of the circumstances would benefit from a face-to-face panel.

4.7.4 The functions of the fostering panel are to consider:

- Each application and to recommend whether or not a person is suitable to be a foster carer or Connected Person(s) foster carer and the terms of their approval.
- The first annual review of each approved carer and any other review as requested by the service, including those of a Standards of Care issue and those exploring any allegations made.

- The termination of approval or change of terms of approval of a foster carer.
 - The long-term fostering matches of all children below the age of 12.
- 4.7.5 During this period 1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026: 9 fostering panels were held with 27 fostering households presented, of which:
- 4 carers were recommended for approval as short-term connected persons (kinship carers).
 - 3 carers were recommended for approval as new short-term carers.
 - 7 carers were re-approved as part of their 3 yearly annual review.
 - 5 carers were re-approved as part of their first annual review.
 - 4 fostering approval/status - terminated/resigned (this includes kinship carers who ended being carers as an SGO was granted or the child returned home).
 - 2 carers were presented for Standards of Care, both resulted in additional support/training and continued approval.
 - 5 Brent children (2 fostering households) were presented for Long Term Matches with their IFA foster carers.
- 4.7.6 All the recommendations made by the panel were ratified by the Agency Decision Maker (ADM).
- 4.7.7 The Head of Service for Looked after Children and Permanency acts as the ADM for the Fostering Service. The ADM, upon reviewing the recommendation of the Fostering Panel, decides whether applicants should be approved as foster carers or not. The ADM also has the responsibility of determining the continued suitability of foster carers following completion of annual reviews of foster carers and recommendation from the Fostering Panel. The ADM meets with the Panel Chair several times a year and observes the independent chair at the fostering panel at least once a year. The ADM observed the Chair on 10 April 2026, and the Director of Early Help and Social Care observed the chair on 22 May 2026.
- 4.7.8 Approval of new fostering households is only a small percentage of the work completed by Brent's fostering panel therefore; despite new carers being approved by a regional panel, there is still a need for Brent's fostering panel to continue. The DfE guidance outlines that all Kinship approvals, Kinship reviews, mainstream carer reviews, standards of care, changes of approvals and long-term matches continue at the Local Authority panel. New fostering households will have their first fostering panel at the regional panel but will then come to Brent's fostering panel for all future presentations.

4.8 Training and Development for Foster Carers

- 4.8.1 The Ofsted ILACS inspection in April 2026 identified the need for stronger assurance that all foster carers and kinship carers complete mandatory training, renew their learning within the required timescales, and have their compliance monitored consistently. The service was advised to improve the accuracy and oversight of training records; identify individual learning needs through supervision, annual reviews and Personal Development Plans; and take timely action when requirements are not met.

The findings also reinforced the need for a sufficient, relevant and accessible training offer. This includes targeted support for carers who experience language, digital or other barriers, alongside reflective discussion demonstrating how learning is applied in practice. Progress is being monitored through the Ofsted Improvement Plan, regular performance oversight and a comprehensive audit of fostering training compliance and sufficiency.

4.8.2 During the reporting period, senior managers, supported by the Learning and Development Team, implemented the following measures:

- Issued clear communications to carers setting out expectations for completing mandatory training.
- Introduced proportionate consequences for continued non-compliance, including withholding the carer element of fostering allowances where appropriate.
- Embedded mandatory training requirements in the revised Foster Carer Agreement.
- Promoted engagement with learning from the earliest stages of fostering and kinship assessments.
- Strengthened oversight through regular monitoring of compliance data and discussion at monthly performance meetings.
- Required foster carers to include SMART learning objectives in their Personal Development Plans.
- Updated Annual Review templates to include all mandatory training requirements.
- The Learning and Development Team has begun a comprehensive audit of foster carer training compliance to identify gaps, monitor progress and support targeted follow-up.

4.8.3 The service is also exploring different ways to reduce barriers for carers in respect of accessing training. Some areas include: one to one support with interpreters, materials in multiple languages, multi-lingual trainers, online access for carers to be able to view their own training records and bookings.

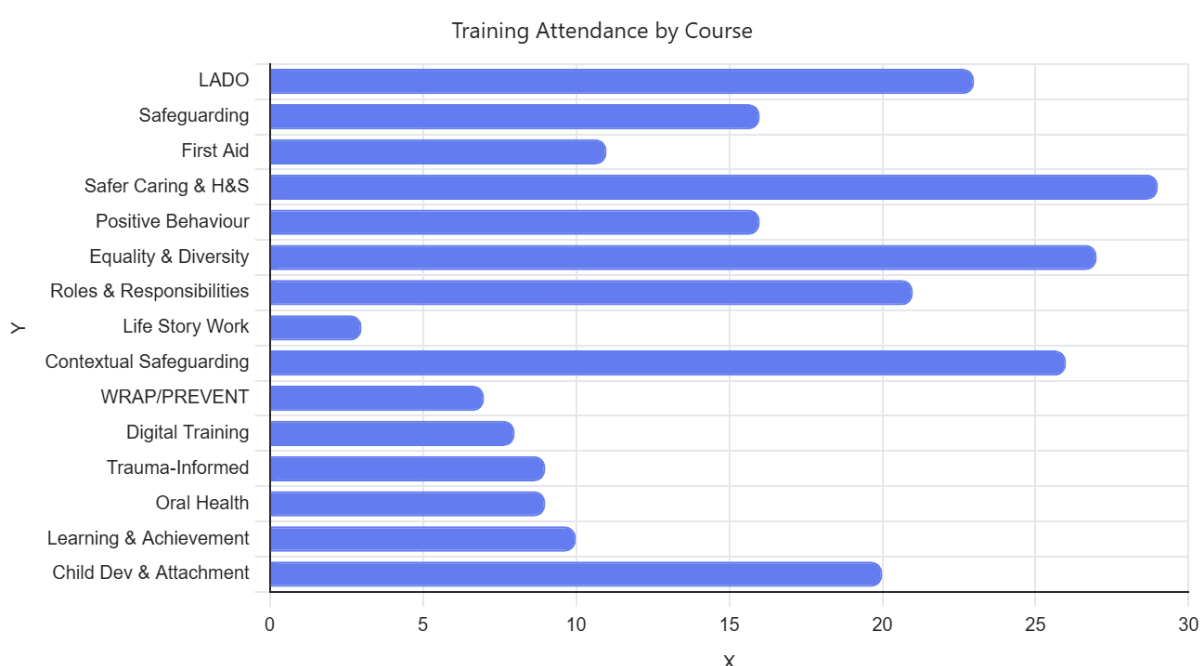
4.8.4 As a result of the above improvement measures, this reporting period shows improved foster carer engagement with training, particularly in relation to mandatory safeguarding and compliance requirements. Stronger oversight, clearer expectations and more accessible delivery methods appear to have contributed to increased participation.

Foster carers are required to complete 14 mandatory training courses within their first year of fostering. The current position is:

- 7 carers have completed all required training.
- 23 carers have fewer than 6 courses outstanding and are close to full compliance.
- The remaining carers have 6 or more courses outstanding. This group includes newly approved carers who still have several months in which to complete their mandatory training.

4.8.5 The Brent CYPCD Learning Academy, part of the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service, continues to provide a comprehensive training programme for foster carers and connected persons carers. Training is delivered through a blended model, including face-to-face, virtual and E-Learning opportunities. E-Learning courses remain accessible at any time and are the carers preferred method of delivery, allowing them to complete learning flexibly around their commitments. Virtual and in-person sessions are offered on weekdays and Saturdays to maximise accessibility. To further support participation, all carers have been provided/offered either a laptop or tablet to access online training and resources.

4.8.6 During the reporting period, carers participated in 15 facilitated training sessions, representing a small increase in attendance compared to the previous period.



4.8.7 The data continues to demonstrate increasing engagement with mandatory safeguarding-related training, which is directly related to the improvement work completed in this period ahead of a mid-September target.

During this period, the Learning Academy piloted the delivery of combined mandatory training sessions where appropriate. This approach was well received by carers and helped them complete mandatory learning requirements more efficiently.

4.8.8 Analysis of E-Learning data also shows increased engagement with online learning, with foster carers completed approximately 175 individual E-Learning courses across 54 different topics through the Learning Academy platform. Several carers completed multiple courses, demonstrating strong commitment to their ongoing development. The most frequently completed courses on the platform were Keeping Data Safe (GDPR), Diversity and Equality, and

Safeguarding and Safer Care, reflecting continued focus on mandatory requirements and key safeguarding responsibilities. This data demonstrates that E-Learning continues to provide a flexible and accessible route to learning, supporting improved training participation and compliance.

- 4.8.9 The increase in engagement has been supported by ongoing communication and monitoring arrangements. The Learning Academy continues to send reminders and targeted communications and ensures that training information and joining links are distributed well in advance. Participation is closely monitored, and feedback is collected following each training session. Feedback remains consistently positive, with carers reporting that training is relevant, accessible and beneficial to their role. During this reporting period, carers particularly valued the Equality and Diversity training, highlighting its relevance to contemporary discussions around identity and the experiences of children and young people in care. Feedback indicated that learning from the course had informed carers' day-to-day practice and strengthened their confidence in supporting children from diverse backgrounds. Attendance at foster carer support groups and staff meetings remain an important mechanism for gathering feedback directly from carers and staff. The Learning Academy will continue to use these forums to understand barriers to engagement and ensure that training remains relevant, responsive and aligned with carers' needs.

Overall, the data shows a significant increase in engagement with the mandatory training programme, particularly across safeguarding, safer caring, professional responsibilities, equality and diversity, and child development. Opportunities remain to further promote specialist and developmental training to broaden carers' knowledge and skills.

4.9 Monitoring – reviews, allegations, complaints

- 4.9.1 During the reporting period, there were no formal allegations made against any Brent foster carer by a child. When an allegation or complaint is made these are promptly investigated and usually result in additional support being put in place and the foster carer being booked onto relevant training.

The Brent fostering service holds Brent foster carers to a high standard ensuring our children receive the best care and support. During this reporting period 2 standards of care investigations have been undertaken in response to these concerns. These standards of care investigations were presented at Brent's fostering panel. 0 fostering households were deregistered. 2 fostering households were given further training and support to continue fostering with close monitoring by the department.

- 4.9.2 The Fostering and Kinship Teams received numerous positive comments from foster carers during assessments, annual reviews and from other colleagues and professionals. The practitioners' achievements and good practice continued to be acknowledged and celebrated at the bi-monthly LAC and Permanency Forums. Additionally, the Fostering Panel provides feedback to practitioners on the quality of the reports and their presentation at panel.

- 4.9.3 All the foster carer annual reviews that were due in this reporting period have been completed. There were **44** annual reviews completed in this reporting period.
- 4.9.4 Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) for fostering conduct all the annual reviews of foster carers, ensuring impartiality and providing a safeguarding mechanism for both the child and the carer. The Fostering Independent Reviewing Officers also complete Serious Concerns and Standards of Care Review meetings, where concerns have been identified regarding carers. This allows a level of independence from the Fostering Service, and the officer will then take these to Fostering Panel where appropriate for fuller discussion and recommendations on continued approval.

Service Development

5.0 Enhanced Support and Resources for Brent Carers

- 5.1 The Fostering Service continues to remain committed to supporting carers and maximising the chances of placement stability/success by providing practical, financial and therapeutic input.
- 5.2 During this reporting period Brent Foster Carers and the children in their care continued to access help from Brent CRS (Children-In-Care Resilience Service) when they are struggling, feeling vulnerable or need to debrief after a difficult incident. The contract with CRS has ended on the 30 September 2026 and alternative services and supports are still being considered.
- 5.2 Children in Brent foster placements are supported to access mental health support via the new pilot Brent Partnership Local Youth Resource and Advice Service (LYRA). LYRA is the single point of access mental health service for children who live in Brent.

6.0 Retention

6.1 Brent's First Mockingbird Constellation

- 6.2 Brent's first Mockingbird constellation has continued to develop strongly during this reporting period, with carers reporting high levels of support, connection and shared problem-solving. The constellation has now established a rhythm of regular activities, peer support structures and training opportunities, which have contributed to increased stability and strengthened relationships within fostering households.

Since October 2025, the constellation has held official monthly social gatherings, creating positive shared experiences for fostering families.

As part of ongoing Mockingbird activity, the Mockingbird Alpha family attended a "Roost" event organised by The Fostering Network on 27 May 2026 at London Zoo. This was a fun day for all the families involved in Brent Mockingbird to

spend time together but also meet other Mockingbird communities across London.

The day started with a fun and creative group activity, where families worked together to design an outfit for their Mockingbird mascot, 'Alpha'. This was a fantastic way to bring everyone together, encouraging creativity, teamwork, and a shared sense of identity within the constellation.

- 6.3 Following this, the group travelled around the zoo, enjoying the wide range of animals and attractions. The setting provided a relaxed and engaging environment for both children and carers to connect, build relationships, and share experiences.



The Roost event offered a valuable opportunity for fostering families to come together in an informal space, strengthening peer support networks and reducing isolation. Children were able to socialise, play, and enjoy a memorable day out, while carers benefited from connecting with others who understand the fostering journey.

Events like these are central to the Mockingbird model, helping to nurture a strong sense of belonging and community. The Alpha family thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the day was a great success for everyone involved.

The Alpha hub continues to host monthly coffee mornings and social activity days.

The hub home has been used effectively throughout the period, providing sleepover support, childcare during the day, assisting carers to facilitate family time (contact) arrangements, assisting carers with school runs as well as emotional support for each other. These carers led flexible support structures have strengthened placement stability and provided practical, timely assistance when families needed it most.

New families have joined the constellation during this period and have been warmly welcomed. Mockingbird support is most effective for families with limited wider support as well as with new fostering families. With more fostering households needing to work alongside fostering, Mockingbird provides a valuable resource to allow carers to continue fostering. Feedback from new carers has been positive, and they are integrating well into the community.

7.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 7.1 Stakeholder consultation and engagement take many varied methods within the service, and we are committed to evaluating and developing new and creative ways of hearing from stakeholders.
- 7.2 Carers views are sought through one-to-one discussions with their SSW, Annual Foster Carer Reviews, Support Groups and Foster Carer Reference Groups. Carers are encouraged to provide written feedback on their experiences of assessment and panel process.
- 7.3 Children and young people provide feedback through discussions with their social worker, IRO, or their carers SSW, Child in Care Reviews, written feedback for Annual Foster Carer Reviews, Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings, Care in Action/Participation activities, Brent Care Journeys.

8.0 Financial Considerations

- 8.1 There are no specific financial implications with the report. The cost of implementing the various priorities of the plan will be met within existing resources. The current budget allocation for the Fostering Support and Kinship teams in Brent is £1.23m with a projected break-even position for 2026/27. In addition, a £0.4m contribution is being made to the Adopt London West Partnership in collaboration with neighbouring boroughs. Although there are no pressures in the existing budgets, the planned expansion of the Foster with West London (FwWL) regional fostering hub is expected to generate pressures in 2026/27 and 2027/28, should there be no changes to the existing service structure as per the Cabinet report dated the 27 July 2026. These pressures are expected to be mitigated using the Department for Education transformation grant funding available until March 2029, alongside service redesign and operational efficiencies arising from the regional model.
- 8.2 Increasing and retaining the pool of in-house foster cares is also a priority from a financial perspective as they provide a more cost-effective way of meeting the statutory obligations of the department for children in care. The average weekly cost of an in-house fostering placement is approximately £416 per week, whilst equivalent independent fostering placements are £1,079 per week. Consequently, each additional in-house fostering household has the potential to generate net savings of approximately 35K per year through reduced reliance on external placements.
- 8.3 As mentioned in paragraph 6.0, Recruitment and Retention remain a key priority for the fostering service. After careful consideration and market comparison exercises Brent increased fostering fees in April 2026. The recruitment and retention initiatives outlined within this report, including enhancements to the fostering offer and the increase in fostering fees implemented from April 2026, are funded through growth allocated to the Children, Young People and Community Development (CYPCD) Directorate as part of the Council's approved budget. The associated costs have therefore

been reflected within the Directorate's financial planning and do not represent an additional unfunded budget pressure to the service.

9.0 Legal Considerations

- 9.1 Regulation 35 of the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 provides for a system of monitoring and improving the quality of foster care provided by the fostering agency. These obligations align with the overarching duties of local authorities under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in care.

10.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 10.1 There are currently no Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) considerations arising from this report.

11.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 11.1 There are no climate change or environmental considerations.

12.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

- 12.1 There are no additional human resource or property considerations.

13.0 Communication Considerations

- 13.1 As detailed at section 4.5.6 Brent's fostering service continue to raise awareness around the important role the Brent foster carers undertake as well as the need for more foster carers for Brent children. The fostering service utilises several communication channels to raise awareness and promote Brent's fostering offer.

Related Documents:

Brent Cabinet Report - West London Fostering Recruitment and Retention Programme (Cabinet 27 July 2026)

<https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=8703>

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director of Children, Young People and
Community Development