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Title of meeting:	Cabinet meeting
Subject:	Annual Fostering Service Report
Date of meeting:	25 October 2022
Report by:	Jackie Clark - Service Leader, Fostering Service
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

- 1.1 Requested by: Lead Member for Children, Families and Education, Portsmouth City Council in line with The Fostering Service (England) Regulations 2011, Review of Quality of Care Regulation 35 and in accordance with the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Service 2011.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Fostering Service for the period 01/04/21-31/03/22.

3. Information requested

- 3.1 Activity of the Fostering Service contributions to the overall aims of the Corporate Parenting Strategy for the care of Looked After Children.

4. Introduction - Portsmouth Fostering Service

- 4.1 The Fostering Service's primary function is to provide excellent care to children in care in Portsmouth, by recruiting, assessing, training and supporting approved foster carers who can offer sensitive and empathetic alternative family homes to children in care.
- 4.2 This report will describe the work of the service and how it achieves the outcomes that are set, from the moment someone contacts Portsmouth to show interest in fostering. It describes the assessment process, to approval as foster and connected foster carers, the training carers receive and to looking after children. It will describe the route for those children who will leave care

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through a Special Guardianship Order. It will briefly consider Private Fostering, what can be offered to children who reach 18 in a foster family or who need further support in a supported lodgings arrangement. The report will detail the complaints made in respect of carers and it will capture the exciting work of the Mockingbird fostering constellations. Finally, it will provide data about various elements of the work and in conclusion the work for the year ahead.

5. Recruitment and Assessment Team

- 5.1 This team is the front door to the service, through the recruitment of potential foster carers. The team participates in the recruitment campaigns, responds to all potential carer enquiries, undertakes initial home visits and initial statutory training and assessment of potential carers. This team works closely with a fostering marketing officer who supports with development and delivery of annual foster carer recruitment strategy for 'Foster Portsmouth' to reach and increase the numbers of people interested in fostering.
- 5.2 Foster carers are assessed and approved for the number of children for which they have the skills, qualities, experience, and physical space to care. This could be between 1 and 3 children (four if siblings). They are generically approved for the age range 0-18 but the assessment enables the assessing social worker and prospective carers to understand and decide their suitability and preferred age range of children. Foster carers can be approved for different types of care: respite, short term, long term and parent and baby care. They may be approved for one or more types of care according to their preference, skills, and experience. Foster carers offering long term care are encouraged to care for the child beyond the age of 18 to support the child's transition into adulthood. The team also assesses households offering to support a young adult through supported lodgings care to those age 18-24yrs, supporting them with preparation for independent living.
- 5.3 Foster carers' skills and experience are evaluated during their assessment, as such they can be approved as levels one, two or three carers and their approval and skills fees reflect that. The higher level represents those carers with substantial skills and experience of caring for children with particularly complex needs who require a high level of specific care. Those children tend to be children aged 10 and over, having experienced significant trauma through neglect, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and are vulnerable to exploitation. There are also specialist parent and child carers offering homes to parents and babies with complex issues. These carers will contribute to the assessment and support of the parent to determine the parents' capacity to care for the child in the longer term.

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6. Access to Resources and Fostering Support Team

- 6.1 This team comprises two pods: the family finding pod with responsibility for identifying suitable carers for children in care. They are assisted by a commissioning contract officer with responsibility for identifying external care providers for children needing specialist care. This pod works very closely with the Fostering Support Team that has the statutory responsibility for supervising approved foster carers and supporting them to meet the needs of children. This includes accessing a comprehensive training programme and a range of provision from our partners that meet the needs of children, for example Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), and the trauma informed model of care (TIMOC) and Virtual School specialising in helping children with their education.
- 6.2 All carers are required to have an annual review of their approval and this process is undertaken by one higher grade social worker who sits within the Fostering Support Team. The Fostering Support team also provides an out of hours on call service offering advice and guidance to the carers.

7. The Connected Persons Team (including Special Guardianship Support, Private Fostering and Step-Parent Adoption)

- 7.1 This team works very closely with the children's social work teams to identify and assess potential family members as carers for children unable to live with parents. These family members are assessed as formally approved connected persons' carers and receive supervision and support as foster carers, or they are helped to obtain legal responsibility to care for the child via a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) whereby the child can then leave the care of the local authority.
- 7.2 Those family members with an SGO continue to be supported after the Order is made, by the special guardianship support worker in monthly support meetings, individual support, and access to the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) a government grant for funding for specialist therapeutic support to adopted children and those living with special guardians.
- 7.3 Some families may make private arrangements for their child to live with a friend or a distant family member and therefore enter a Private Fostering arrangement. As required by legislation, private foster carers are assessed by a member of the Connected Persons team as are those families seeking Stepparent Adoption. Children who are living in these arrangements are not looked after by the local authority.

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8. The Fostering Panel

- 8.1 To meet legal requirements and quality assure all new carers assessments, prospective and approved carers are scrutinised in terms of their suitability to care by the independent Fostering Panel which meets a minimum of twice per month. The panel consider the assessments of prospective foster carers, the annual review of foster carers, and the review of any carers subject to a safeguarding concern and allegations regarding their care.
- 8.2 Although not a statutory requirement, because it is considered good practice the panel also considers the plans for a child/ren to remain living with their carer on a long-term fostering basis until they can return to their family or move onto independent living as an adult.
- 8.3 The panel considers applications of Staying Put arrangements for those children turning 18 and continuing to live with their foster carers and those offering supported lodgings carers, providing semi-independent homes to young adults in preparation for independent living. (Please see appendix 1: The Annual Fostering Panel Chair Report May 2022).
- 8.4 This report will highlight the activity of the Fostering Service in its contribution and achievements in supporting Portsmouth's children in care for 1st April 2021-31 March 2022.

9. The Fostering Service Activity

- 9.1 Recruitment and Assessment
- 9.2 Foster Carer Recruitment

Year	Enquiries	Initial Home Visits	Enquiry to IHV	Approved	Enquiry to Approved Conversion Rate
2021/2022	216	37	17%	11	5%
2020/2021	274	40	14.6%	29	10.6%
2019/2020	269	60	22.3%	31	11.5%
2018/2019	336	71	21.1%	11	3.3%

- 9.3 A fulltime marketing officer leads on the development and delivery of an annual carer recruitment strategy and focuses on foster carer recruitment.

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- 9.4 The strategy for the 2021/22 included:
- Local radio campaigns with Express Radio, Heart and Hits Radio throughout the year including advertising recruitment events and interviews with carers
 - Radio campaign to promote Foster Care Fortnight in May with foster carer interviews
 - Digital marketing enhanced -ongoing social media -Portsmouth's Facebook, Twitter pages promoting fostering
 - Mockingbird Model of Care promotion - local radio interviews, social media
 - Video interviews of carers uploaded to Foster Portsmouth
 - Carer interviews featured in Portsmouth News and Portsmouth Flagship and other local publications -Education Term Times, the national Fostering Network Magazine
 - Live recruitment events arranged throughout the year, including: The Spinnaker Tower; Hilton Hotel Portsmouth; Love Southsea Market; Portsmouth Pride Festival; Victorious Festival; The Great South Run; Tesco Superstore Fratton
 - New 'Foster Portsmouth' displayed across the city
 - Carers recommend a friend financial award incentive promoted to all existing carers
- 9.5 There were a total number of 216 enquiries received in 2020/21. Those enquiries are followed up by direct contact by a member of the recruitment team and a home visit for those wishing to proceed. The home visit if appropriate, leads to the formal application assessment. Marketing research shows it can take two -three years for a prospective foster carer to make the decision to apply to foster after gathering information from various sources.
- 9.6 Local authority and independent fostering agencies compete for prospective carers. For example, Portsmouth will seek to recruit carers from within the city but also within a twenty-mile radius of Portsmouth to enable children in care to remain in touch with family, their community and to attend school or local education provision.
- 9.7 In terms of recruitment for foster carers the national conversion rates from enquiry to application/assessment is 6%, a marked reduction since 2014-15 when the conversion rate was 12%. The national number of fostering households' applications approved has reduced: from 44% approved in 2015 to 32% approved 2021.

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- 9.8 The table above illustrates for Portsmouth the conversion rate for 2021/2022 was 17% for enquiry to home visit and 30% for home visit to approval (although 5% for enquiry to foster carer approval). The lower conversion rates are due to the number of enquiries being made by people not in a position to foster at the time for example, making tentative enquiries as considering a lifestyle change, not having the bedroom space, not in a financial position to leave employment to become foster carers. (We do not exclude people who work from fostering but some forms of employment, do not give potential carers time to devote to the children in their care).
- 9.9 Fostering assessments are completed in a two-stage process over a total of eight months. The National Minimum Care Standards guide the timescale for foster carer assessment. Stage one is for the safeguarding statutory checks to be completed- DBS, medical report and references and stage two the initial training and home/family assessment. In 2020 Portsmouth implemented a practice standard of a total of six months for an assessment to be completed (up to four months for a carer transferring from another agency). Since this time, the average timescale for assessments completed 2021/22 is 5.2 months.
- 9.10 There were 11 newly approved mainstream foster carers and 19 connected carers which is a total increase of 30 fostering households. During the same period there was a total of 53 deregistration of fostering households, a net loss of 23 households.
- Five of the households were deregistered as they became special guardians to the children in their care, which is a positive outcome
 - Six households deregistered as they were temporarily approved as foster carers before becoming prospective adoptive parents to the child in their care which means positively, we can place children needing adoptive families early with a family who is approved to adopt them
 - 40 carers resigned due to retirement, health issues or change in personal circumstances
 - Two fostering families were deregistered due to a review of their approval and the decision made that they were unsuitable to care.
- 9.11 The number of newly approved carers is a significant reduction on the previous year when there were 29 newly approved mainstream foster carers. This reduction is in line with the national trend. The national fostering data collated by Government published November 2021 refers to fostering households, peaking in 2014 to 2015 with a subsequent slow down. This decrease does not keep pace with the higher rate of children coming into care as it represents

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a 9% increase in fostering households and an 11% increase in the number of children in care.

9.12 In Portsmouth there were 216 enquiries made during 2021/22 resulting in 26 applications being made during that period. Those considering fostering often make enquiries at very early point when they may not be in a position to make an application and are more often gathering information. For example, they need to have a bedroom available for a child, consider their family circumstances including their availability to care for a child, and any financial implications. Of those 26 applications

- 11 went on to be approved
- Seven were still in assessment (applications having been made in the latter part of the year)
- Eight applications were closed. The reasons for those applications (assessments) being closed were due to applicants' significant health issues, personal circumstances relating to private family law, work commitments, a change in applicants' relationship, not being the right time to continue assessment, and not being in a financial position to reduce employment.

9.13 Those 11 fostering households approved comprised four applications from fostering families wishing to transfer from independent fostering agencies having been recommended by current Portsmouth foster carers and one new prospective foster carer recommended by a Portsmouth Foster Carer.

9.14 Feedback from those choosing to become foster carers for Portsmouth refer to Portsmouth Fostering Service feeling like a community with close contact with the team, support and children's social workers. One foster carer was recently asked on social media why they chose to foster for Portsmouth, and they replied: ' Portsmouth is small but mighty!'

10. Numbers of Approved Carers and Beds

10.1 As of 31/03/22 Portsmouth had:

- **220 fostering households**
- Each carer household will be approved for a specific number of children according to bedroom availability, the carer's preferred age range of child, and the skills and experience of carers in meeting children's needs. Those fostering households will also offer variation in terms of short term, long-term and/or respite care.

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- Those households have the potential to provide homes for a total of 471 children at any one time according to the number of children and type of care for which they are approved. 23 of the 220 fostering households were connected carers.
- This means 23 fostering households were approved specifically to care for the child/ren to which they are related and are therefore not "mainstream" foster carers. Six foster carers were approved adoptive families and were temporarily approved as foster carers specifically for the children they were seeking to adopt therefore were also not "mainstream" foster carers.
- The mainstream foster carers can be approved for a maximum of three children, four if siblings. Not all carers will be approved for the maximum number of children according to their skills, experience and wishes.
- Carers may not have the maximum number of children in their care at any one time. For example, a child with very complex needs may need to be the sole focus of the carer.
- Some carers may choose to limit the number of children they look after for a period due to their own personal circumstances.
- Some carers may be on hold for personal reasons or a formal complaint about their care being investigated and not available to look after any children. If a carer is on hold for 12 months, they would have a review of their approval.
- The carers approval status will also impact on their capacity. They will be approved for respite, short term and long-term care. Some may also be approved for parent and baby care. For example, if they are providing parent and baby care, the carers would not be able to care for another child in any of the other categories.

10.2 387 children in care.

- 272 were living with Portsmouth foster carers which is the equivalent of 70% within our own foster placements

10.3 Of the rest:

- 26 children were PCC or external residential children's home,
- 40 children were with independent fostering agency carers (IFAs)
- 38 children with a carer order placed with parents
- 2 in parent and baby residential placements
- 8 in fostering for adoption or adoptive placements
- 5 in residential education, health or secure placement

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10.4 There was a total of 429 referrals for children during 2021/22 (not all these children will come into care)

11. The table below illustrates the age bands of children referred needing care, the type of placement needed and outcome of referral

April 2021 to March 2022	
Age Band	
0 - 4 yrs.	86
5 - 10 yrs.	9
11 - 16 yrs.	155
17+ yrs.	75
Types of placements	
Parent and child	22
Siblings	63
New referral	161
Placement Change	134
Respite referral	137
Outcome	
IFA	26
In House	271
Other*	141

*External residential, PCC children's home, parent/, referral withdrawn were age 11-19.

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12. Children in care placement type 31/03/22

Accom type	Total
Children's Homes subject to Children's Homes Regulations	26
Family centre or mother and baby unit	2
Foster placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	107
Foster placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	143
Foster placement with another foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	7
Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	30
Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	11
Other placements (must be listed on a schedule sent to DH with annual submission)	2
Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	1
Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	38
Placement with another foster carer	3
Placement with another foster carer, arranged through agency (carer lives outside LA boundary)	2
Placement with another foster carer, provided by LA (carer lives inside LA boundary)	6
Placement with another foster carer, provided by LA (carer lives outside LA boundary)	3
Residential accommodation not subject to 'Children's homes regulations'	4
Young Offender Institution or prison	1
Grand Total	386

12.1 The tables below illustrate the number of fostering households has remained consistently above 200 and the vast majority of the children in our care are placed with Portsmouth foster carers.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
No of foster carers households	218	211	214	237	220
No of children in care	417	493	468	381	387
No of children with PCC Carers	258	288	246	242	272
No of children with IFA Carers	67	60	58	31	40
No of children with Residential Carers	21	23	30	24	26
Remainder*	71	122	134	84	49

*Placed at home with parents, placed with prospective adoptive families, education/health/secure placements.

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	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Children leaving care	187	151	198	209	128
No of children leaving care to SGO	22	12	10	12	8
No of children leaving care to adoption	30	15	26	17	18
No of children leaving care to return to parents	35	21	26	22	29
Remainder*	100	103	136	158	73

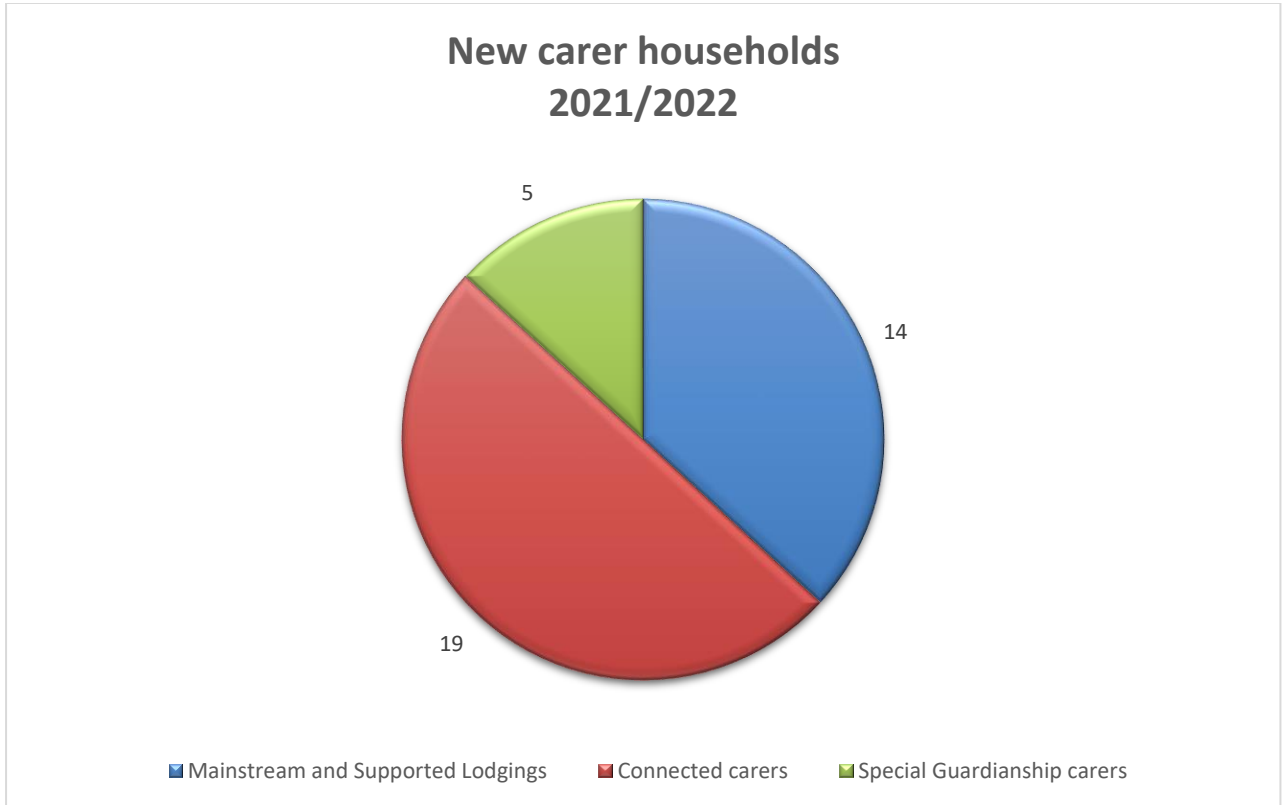
*No longer in care due to 18yrs, transferred to another local authority, deceased.

13. Staying put and supported lodgings

- 13.1 Fostering families with children living with them long term may stay beyond the age of 18 years. There were 17 Staying Put arrangements agreed during 2021/22, this is an increase from 10 the previous year bringing the total to 27. Such arrangements enable children in care to remain with their foster family up to the age of 21 years as they prepare for independence.
- 13.2 Supported lodgings carers offer semi-independent living to young adults between age 18 and 24yrs. There were three households approved for supported lodgings, the equivalent number were approved the previous year 2021/2022.
- 13.3 Therefore, in terms of mainstream carers, including supported lodgings carers there were a total of 14 new carer households approved for children in care for 2021/2022.
- 13.4 The table below illustrates new carer households. This considers the 19 connected carers, the three supported lodgings carers and the 11 fostering families, there was a total of 33 carers approved for Portsmouth children. In addition, there were five special guardianship carers approved by the courts. Therefore, Portsmouth Fostering Service had 38 new caring households for children in the year 2021/2022.

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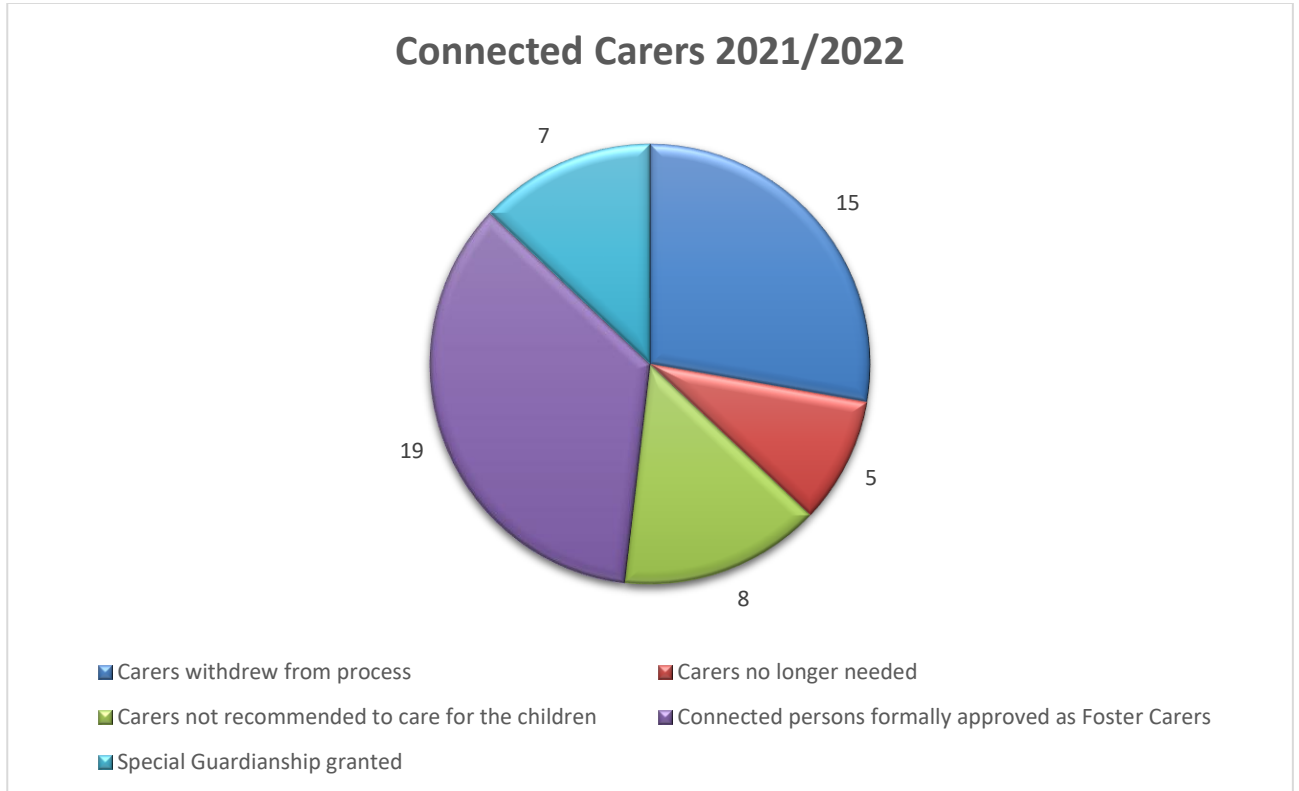


14. Connected Carers

- 14.1 When children come into care, we explore the potential for those children to live within their wider family first in the event of them not being able to return to live with parents.
- 14.2 For the period 2021/2022 a total of 57 assessments were initiated of connected persons. Of those assessments 15 potential carers withdrew from the process, five were not needed and eight were not recommended as suitable to care for the children. There were 19 connected persons formally approved as foster carers for related child/children and seven connected persons assessed and granted special guardianship orders for the children in their care.

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14.3 There were 11 private fostering carers approved. No step-parent adoption applications made. Stepparent adoption may not be the preferred legal option for those families as there are now a greater range of legal orders they can choose

15. Concerns/Complaints/Allegations against carers

15.1 Complaints against carers can range from care standards not being met to allegations of abuse of a child

15.2 There were 10 complaints made against carers regarding their care of children that resulted in a review of their approval. Of those:

- Two fostering families were deregistered due concerns regarding their standards of care.
- One household submitted an appeal to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM), however the IRM upheld the recommendation to deregister them as foster carers. The IRM is a review process which prospective or existing foster carers can use when they do not agree with a decision made in respect of their approval as foster carers.
- The number of complaints/allegations increased from six to 10 for the year 2020/2021. (The increase in allegations referred for a fostering

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household review reflects an increase in complaints and allegations nationally: 26% 2019 to 31% in 2021).

- The number of concerns and complaints regarding carers has increased over the course of this year and it may be reflective of the uncertainty, stress, and pressures of the significant changes in living arrangements, relationships, employment and health and loss on the population in general due to the Covid pandemic.

16. Foster carer support and retention

Year	2018	2019	2021	2022
Foster carer households	218	211	236	220

16.1 The fostering support team is responsible for the supervision and support of all foster carers with a full-time social worker supervising 20 fostering households. Carers have their own allocated supervising social worker foster carer visiting at least monthly to support the carer (Government timescales six weekly), and ensure they are meeting the child's needs. They will also undertake a minimum of one unannounced visit per year. In partnership with the carer, their social worker supports them to complete their statutory Training, Support and Development Standards (TSDs), and identify appropriate enhanced training and additional support they may need to enable them to meet children's needs. Supervising social workers will identify any particular issues relating to the carer that may impact on placement stability and increase their support and arrange placement support meetings.

16.2 An area of challenge at present, as identified in government data, is that carers are increasingly caring for more children than they are approved for which is impacting on the carers available to be suitably matched with children, particularly children with complex needs. This in turn means some carers are not able to provide the level of care needed and children are moved to alternative carers.

16.3 All carers are required to have an annual review of their approval comprising an appraisal of their fostering skills, learning and capacity to meet children's needs in line with the national Minimum Care Standards. Children's social workers, their independent reviewing officers and children contribute the foster carers review. If there is a significant change in the fostering household or serious concerns or allegation made against a foster carer, then a review of

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their approval will also be held. Of the fostering households reviewed two were deregistered due to concerns regarding their care.

16.4 Those outside of timescales in terms of supervision and annual review were due to supervisions delayed due to carer illness/personal reason or staff absence. All foster carers are required to have enhanced DBS checks and a fostering medical before they are approved. Portsmouth renew DBS checks and medicals every three years. If medicals and DBS expire during the updating process, a risk assessment is in place to ensure no adverse impact on the child in their care. Delays to the completion of medicals have been caused over the past year due to GP surgery's being unable to prioritise fostering medicals due to the impact of covid. DBS checks can be delayed during the process. To mitigate this, the service now instigates DBS checks three months prior it's due date.

16.5 The table below illustrates the percentage of fostering households at 31/03/22 who were up to date in terms of the service meeting the statutory timescales.

Supervision	88.74%
Unannounced visit	94.59%
DBS	95.95%
Medical	90.99%
Annual Review	91.44%

16.6 The most recent Government data 2021 highlights the slowing increase in foster carer recruitment. Whilst there was a high number of foster carers leaving the service in 2021/22 Portsmouth continues to retain more than 200 fostering households. The majority of those who left fostering was due to personal circumstances, only two fostering households left to transfer to other agencies

16.7 Feedback by foster carers in Feedback February 2022 87% carers think Portsmouth Fostering is Excellent or Good, 13% think it is OK. The strengths of the fostering service identified in the feedback is very clearly the support the team provides to the carers followed by support provided by our virtual school, health and CAMHS partners. All our carers are supported through the offer of a comprehensive training calendar including support with the statutory TSDS for carers and learning opportunities developed with our partners. For example, our CAMHS partners deliver the Trauma Informed Model of Care to all our carers and offer bespoke consultative support to cares

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- 16.8 Other support includes the fostering service out of hours support delivered by the fostering team, foster carer mentoring scheme and a range of support groups for carers and social activities.

17. Mockingbird Model of Foster Care

- 17.1 The Mockingbird Model of Care initially launched in January 2021 has boosted retention and received excellent feedback from carers involved, Portsmouth is the pioneer in the south coast embedding the Mockingbird model as part of the fostering service. Based on the principle of an extended family caring for children, one home hub fostering household leads and supports a network of up to 10 fostering families called a constellation, caring for up to a total of 18 children. Three of the constellation's carers motivation to join Portsmouth was due to the feedback from Mockingbird.
- 17.2 The constellations thrive on the relationships formed between the home hub carers and their diverse network carers and children. The strong relationships promote mutual support, social and learning activities for the carers and most significantly and fosters positive outcomes for children in care. For example, children have the opportunity to have sleepovers with another carer with the home hub carer when the carer might need a break, or a teenager wants a break. As the strong relationships develop between the carers their network this naturally promotes the children to develop friendships and engage in social activities and have meaningful contact with their family. Carers are able to be supported by the wrap around structure the home hub carer and network of carers provide. This support in turn reduces the risk of the carer ending the placement. The research by the National Fostering Network in the recent National Independent Care Review identifies Mockingbird as a model promoting placement stability.
- 17.3 The feedback for carers and children in care within Mockingbird has been consistently positive. The carers value the mutual support, the close relationships, and opportunities to have natural breaks without impacting negatively on the children. The feedback from children has been clear in that they enjoy the opportunity to have friends and be part of social group. Children within Mockingbird have been instrumental in feeding back their experience through participation in Children in Care Council that has helped influence the growth of Mockingbird in Portsmouth.

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18. Examples of Feedback

- I love going to Aly's, it's fun and I get to see H' - child aged 9
- 'Without the support of Mockingbird, we would not have been able to continue ' foster carer
- ' I'm very grateful to Mockingbird for giving us this space where we have far better-quality time together ' parent
- 'Mockingbird has really made a difference having the opportunity to have their support and create a lovely family feeling' foster carer

18.1 Portsmouth launched three constellations over the course of 2021/22- north Portsmouth, central Portsmouth and Gosport/Fareham and will be launching a further two September 2022 and January 2023 -Havant/Waterlooville and south Portsmouth.

18.2 This model is a great example of co-production in terms of planning and service delivery. Our foster carer contribution to the development of children and family service is highly valued and there is carer representation on the Corporate Parenting Operational Board, the Children in Care Virtual Education Service and Children in Care Health Service.

18.3 Our Foster Carer Liaison Group meets every two months to enable carers to raise any service issues and contribute to service development, for example the Carer Mentoring Scheme and the range of support groups. Our carers support with recruitment events and delivery of training.

19. Conclusion

19.1 The majority of Portsmouth's children in care continue to be cared for by Portsmouth foster carers.

- Whilst foster carer retention for Portsmouth is good there is a clear need to increase the number of foster carers able to be suitably matched with the increasing diverse number of children needing care. Portsmouth has a clear marketing strategy and recruitment indications for 2022/23 with a target to increase the number of fostering households being recruited to Portsmouth. Recruitment particularly focuses on carers for teenagers, siblings and unaccompanied children.
- Foster carers support is a focus to equip them to care for children who have experienced significant trauma, Trauma informed training will continue to be part of the mandatory training for carers and their fostering

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team. Foster carers need to feel confident and supported in caring for children with complex needs and it is often practical support they need. Mockingbird offers a network of support that promotes a close extended fostering family for the child that boosts placement stability. Learning from Mockingbird can be applied to other types of care, for example peer support and learning for parent and baby carers and foster carers focused on caring for unaccompanied child is being developed.

- Intensive support is available particularly to support carers when they are caring for children with complex issues for example children vulnerable to criminal exploitation, children with health and developmental needs.
- Mockingbird Model of care is embedded across the fostering service and will grow.
- Connected carers wishing to offer permanence to the child via SGO or adoption will be encouraged with the support they need in place.
- The service will support and enable children to leave care in a timely way and those families continue to be receive the support they need in line with our work on reunification

Signed by (Director)


Appendices:

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Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Portsmouth Fostering Panel Chair's Report	 Portsmouth Fostering Panel Cha