



**BSCP Practitioners Forum**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Welcome**

# Programme



- 14.00 Welcome, Introduction and Safeguarding Update**  
**Penny Thompson CBE**, Independent Chair, Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership
- 14.15 Briefing: Private Fostering**  
**Kim Smith** - Assistant Head of Fostering SGO & CP, Birmingham Childrens Trust
- 15.00 Practitioners Feedback and Questions**
- 15.15 Learning & Development Update.**  
**Dave Passley**, L&D Programme Manager/**Kerrie Dawkins**, L&D Officer  
Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership
- 15.25 Any other Business**
- 15.30 BSCP Conference – 16<sup>th</sup> November, Millennium Point**  
Close

# Welcome, Introduction and Safeguarding Update

## Independent Chair's Safeguarding Update:



- Independent Chairs' Accountability Report & Business Improvement Plan 2023-25
- Tri-Ministerial Letter 'Stable Homes; Built on Love' – 24.03.2023
- [Lost and not Found](#) – CSJ Report – March 2023
- Childrens Commissioner – [Strip Search of children in England and Wales analysis](#) – 27.03.2023
- Public Health Annual Report - "[Everything's at your fingertips](#)" – April 2023
- Publication of [Ofsted ILACS](#) - 18.04.2023
- Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly – 27.04.2023
- Launch of [BSCP website](#) – 27.04.2023
- Refresh of Right Help, Right Time – ongoing

# PRIVATE FOSTERING

**Getting it right for privately fostered  
children in Birmingham**



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# OPTIONS

- **A child who does not live with their parent(s), can be cared for in a number of ways:**
- **Special Guardianship**
- **Child Arrangement Order**
- **Fostering/Kinship Care**
- **Close Relatives – often referred as private family arrangement**
- **And finally...**
- **Private Fostering**



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# WHAT IS PRIVATE FOSTERING ?

**If someone who isn't a close relative cares for a child for more than 28 days this could be a Private Fostering arrangement and the Local Authority (Trust) must be notified.**

**The child must be under the age of 16 or under 18, if disabled.**



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# Who is a close relative?

- **Brother / Sister**
- **Aunt / Uncle**
- **Grandparent**
- **Step parent**
- **The above should be related by full blood, half blood, or marriage**



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# Role of the Local Authority

“Local authorities do not formally approve or register private foster carers. However, it is the duty of local authorities to satisfy themselves that the welfare of children who are, or will be, privately fostered within their area is being, or will be, satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted.”

- “It is the local authority in whose area the privately fostered child resides which has legal duties in respect of that child.”
- “Local authorities need to distinguish between private arrangements made between parents and carers, and arrangements in which they, with the consent of the parents, have been involved where the child concerned is legally defined as ‘accommodated’ under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, thus being a looked after child.”
- We wish to provide support and guidance to children and carers in Private Fostering arrangements.



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# Roles within Private Fostering

- “The private foster carer becomes responsible for providing the day to day care of the child in a way which will promote and safeguard his/her welfare.”
- “Overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the privately fostered child remains with the parent or other person with parental responsibility.”
- Where a child is privately fostered or there is a plan to privately foster, the Local Authority in which the child resides or will reside with the private foster carer, must be informed.
- This must be done at least 6 weeks before the date on which the private fostering arrangement is to begin or immediately where the arrangement is to begin within 6 weeks or after the arrangement has been made.



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# Important points to remember about Private Fostering

- “Private fostering arrangements can be a positive response from within the community to difficulties experienced by families.”
- “Nonetheless, privately fostered children remain a diverse and potentially vulnerable group.”



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# Why some children are Privately Fostered

There can be a number of reasons why a child becomes privately fostered:

- Parents have long term health / mental health problems;
- Parents working away from home for a period of more than 28 days;
- Parents living somewhere else for a period of more than 28 days;
- Breakdown in relationship with parent(s) – this can leading to young person opting to stay elsewhere for a period of more than 28 days;
- Parents in prison for a period of more than 28 days;
- Child / young person studying away from the family home and staying with a host family for a period of more than 28 days;
- Child / young person on a holiday / trip which is longer than 28 days.



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# Private Fostering in Birmingham

- The number of private fostering arrangements in Birmingham is low - 25
- This is mirrored nationally
- There are many more children and young people living in private fostering arrangements across the country that are not identified
- Parents and carers often don't realise they must tell us
- Therefore we rely on professionals to notify us of these arrangements.
- The Trust's partners have a **duty** to notify the Trust about private fostering arrangements to enable us to fulfil its statutory functions

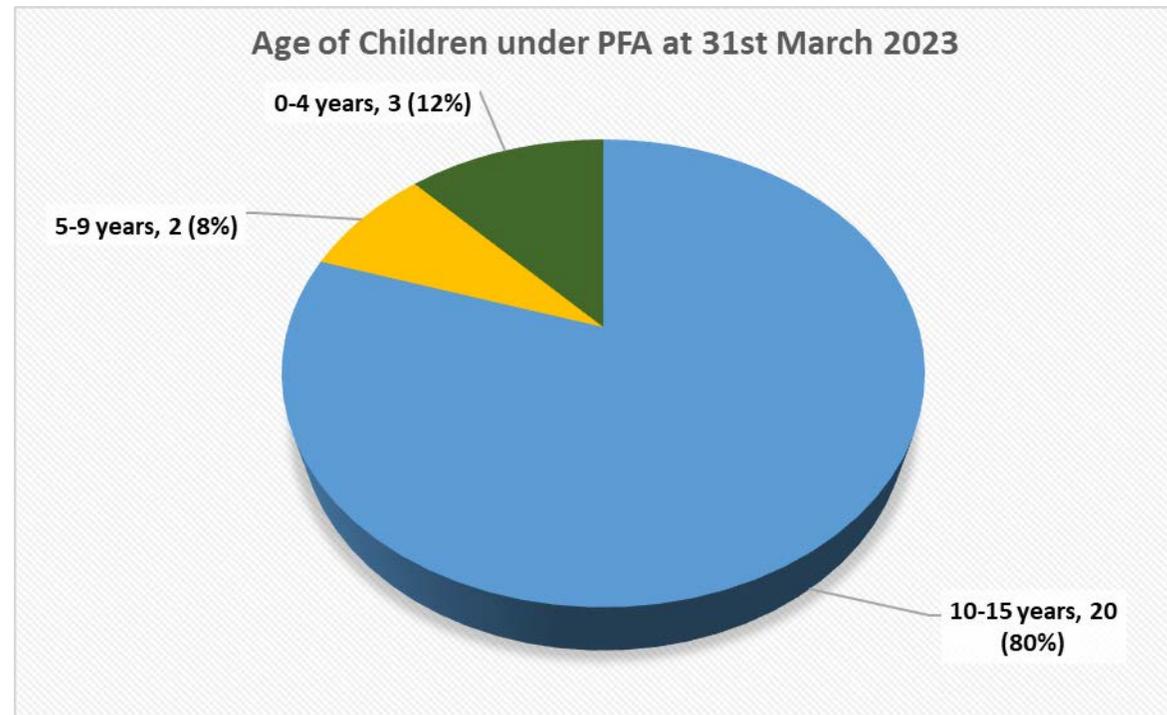
# Private Fostering in Birmingham

- In the last year we received 47 notifications of PF arrangements from the following sources:

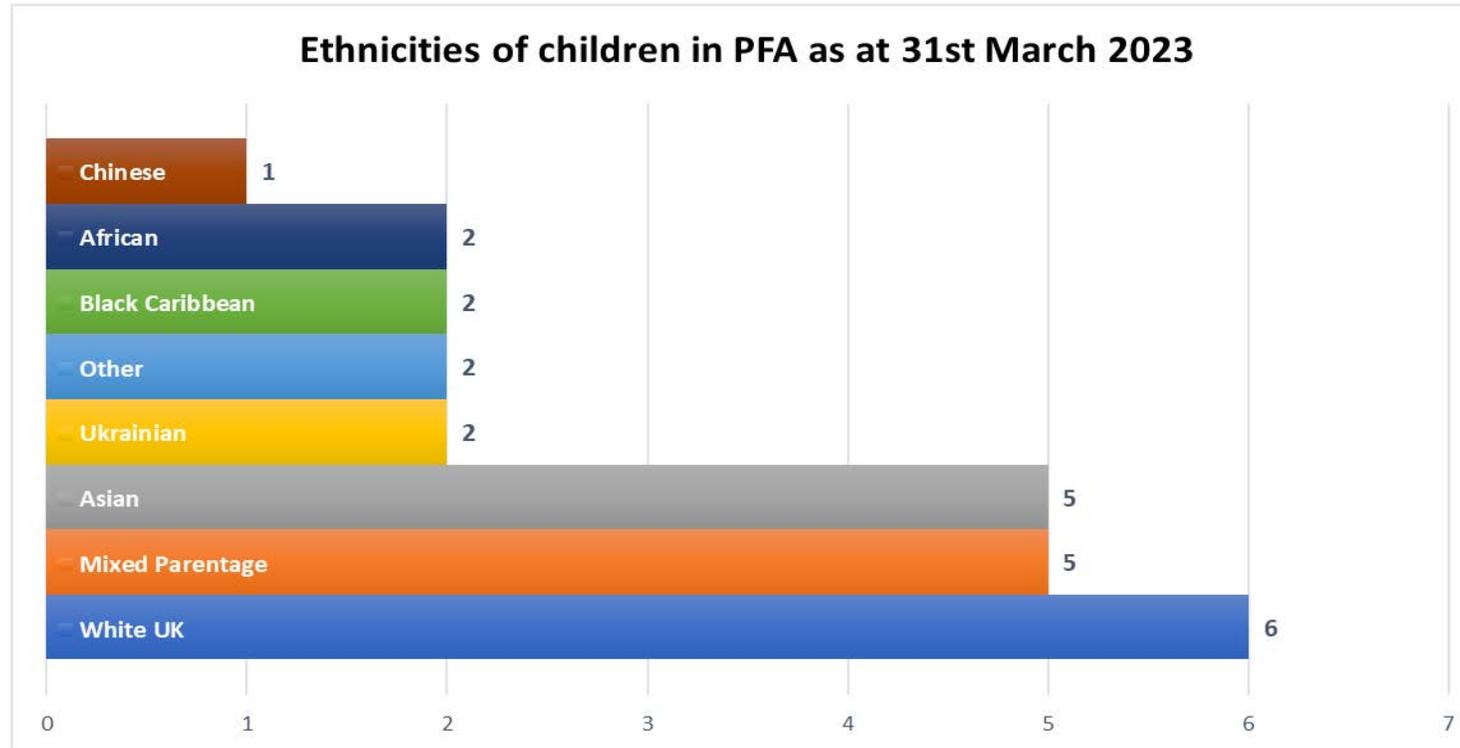
Family member	4
Police	2
Health	4
Education	5
Language School	4
NSPCC	1
Housing	2
OLA	2
Family and Friends Team	2
Child's social worker	9
CP Conference Chairs	8
Immigration/Home Office	2
Homes for Ukraine	2

- Are you surprised by the number from your respective organisation?
- Why do you think the numbers might be low – can we help?

# Private Fostering in Birmingham - ages



# Private Fostering in Birmingham



Of the children living in private fostering arrangements as of 31st March 2023, 12 were female and 13 male. This is consistent with recent years.

# Quick recap

- Child or young person 16 or under (18 if disabled)
- Arrangement expected to/might last 28 days or more
- No legal Order in place (SGO, CAO)
- Not living with close relative...
- Close relative is:
- Sibling, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or step parent by marriage



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# NOT SURE?

- **If in doubt refer and let us help make the decision.**
- **Find out more on our website:**
- [birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/privatefostering](http://birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/privatefostering)
- **Notifying us**
- Notification of a Private Fostering Arrangement should be made to CASS:
- [cass@birminghamchildrenstust.co.uk](mailto:cass@birminghamchildrenstust.co.uk) 0121 303 1888.
- For help with Private Fostering resources, training or awareness raising contact:  
[SGOandPrivateFosteringSupportTeam@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk](mailto:SGOandPrivateFosteringSupportTeam@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk)



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## Resources available

- Please see our website or follow the link below to access our webinar, downloadable private fostering posters and top tips.
- [new Private Fostering resources](#)
- Thank you for your time!





# Practitioners Feedback and Questions

# Learning & Development Update

**Dave Passley**

Learning & Development Programme Manager  
Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Kerrie Dawkins**

Learning & Development Officer

## Multi-Agency Courses with spaces

### Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) for Practitioners (3-part) Training 2023/24- 19373

**MONDAY 3 JULY 2023 (09:30 - 16:30)**

**Venue:** The Hub, Hazelwell - 318 Vicarage Road Kings Heath Birmingham B14 7NH

**THURSDAY 13 JULY 2023 (09:30 - 16:30)**

**Venue:** The Saffron Centre - 256 Moseley Road Birmingham B12 0BS

**TUESDAY 18 JULY 2023 (09:30 - 16:30)**

**Venue:** MS Teams

### Identifying, Supporting and Protecting Girls and Women from FGM (CPD Advanced)- 19680

**THURSDAY 13 JULY 2023 (10:00 - 12:30)**

**Venue:** MS Teams

### Child Exploitation: Tackling CE Together in Birmingham- 20284

**MONDAY 17 JULY 2023 (09:15 - 16:30)**

**Venue:** The Signing Tree (Deaf Cultural Centre) - Inside Deaf Cultural Centre Ladywood Road Birmingham

[HTTPS://BOOKING.LSCPBIRMINGHAM.ORG.UK/](https://booking.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/)

Register/log in at

<https://booking.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/>



# Practitioners Conference

## 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Millennium Point



# Any Other Business!

**Thank you all for attending  
and enjoy the rest of your  
day!**