

London Borough of Lewisham

Private Fostering Annual Report

Reporting period: June 2022 – June 2023

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1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Lewisham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) about the private fostering notifications, assessments, and monitoring activity to provide assure that privately fostered children are being adequately safeguarded.

To set out the extent to which Lewisham Children's Social Care are compliant with the statutory requirements, standards for assessment and support to be provided to privately fostered children and private foster carers.

To share current themes, trends and any significant information that has wider implications for safeguarding, across the partnership.

To outline the planned developments for 2023–2024 to further reinforce good practice in identifying, assessing, and monitoring private fostering arrangements within Lewisham.

2. Legal framework and relevant standards

2.1 A privately fostered child is defined as 'a child who is under the age of 16 years old (18 if disabled) and who is cared for, and provided with accommodation, by someone other than: the parent, a person who is not the parent but who has legal parental responsibility, or a close relative defined in this context as a brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent or step-parent. A child who is looked after in their own home by an adult is not considered to be privately fostered.

2.2 Examples of private fostering arrangements are:

- Children sent from abroad to stay with another family, usually to improve their English or for educational opportunities.
- Adolescents who, having broken ties with their parents, are staying in short term arrangements with friends or other non-relatives.
- Children living with host families, arranged by language schools or other organisations.
- Children living with members of the extended family, e.g. great aunt.

2.3 The relevant legislative framework in relation to private fostering is outlined below.

- Children Act 1989 Guidance Private Fostering
- Children Act 2004 (Section 44 amends Section 67 in the 1989 Act) • The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 • National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering.

2.4 In response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, the UK government launched a scheme for families to put themselves forward to welcome Ukrainian families into their homes. Since July 2022, the Home Office has been processing visa applications for some children/young people to travel to the UK without a parent or legal guardian, and without

a plan to join a parent or legal guardian already here, under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

- Where there is a Ukrainian child or young person living with a sponsor or family member in England and Wales without a parent or legal guardian, local authorities are required to assess and support arrangements as private fostering arrangements and UK government advice is to apply the private fostering framework to all children and young people travelling without a parent or legal guardian, regardless of the nature of the possible familial relationship.

3. Key Statutory expectations

Children who are privately fostered are amongst the most vulnerable and the local authority must be notified of these arrangements. The local authority has a duty to assess the private fostering arrangements for the child when there is a notification received or the local authority becomes aware that a private fostering arrangement already exists.

Under Standard 7 of the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering, the local authority is expected to effectively monitor the way in which it discharges its duties and functions in relation to private fostering, including providing a written report each year, for consideration by the Director of Children's Services, which includes an evaluation of the outcomes of its work in relation to privately fostered children within its area.

Local authorities are required to promote awareness of the requirement to notify, and monitor compliance and to appoint an officer for this purpose.

LSCPs have a duty to raise awareness about private fostering issues in the community and across the partnership.

4. Procedures

Initial Safeguarding & Promoting welfare

- 4.1 A qualified social worker should carry out an initial visit to the placement within 7 days of the notification. The social worker must carry out initial checks on all household members including the privately fostered child, notify all relevant agencies of the placement and ensure that necessary links are, or will be, established with other agencies. An assessment report should be completed following the outcome of this.
- 4.2 Having undertaken the initial visit, the social worker will arrange for checks to be completed including, health and school checks, carers suitability declaration, local authority checks for addresses within the last 5 years, health and safety checks on the accommodation, confirmed consent of the arrangement from the person who has legal parental responsibility, DBS checks on the private foster carer(s) and household

members over the age of 16 years old and also a reference to be obtained for the private foster carer(s). It may be necessary to undertake further visits to clarify matters.

4.3 If the arrangements are assessed as suitable, the social worker should confirm this in a letter to the private foster carer and parents.

4.4 If the arrangements are unsuitable, it will be necessary to consult a senior manager, who may in turn seek legal advice, with a view to considering initiating prohibiting procedures.

4.5 Monitoring, Support & Advice

Following the initial visit, the social worker is to complete further visits: at least every 6 weeks in the first year then, at intervals of no more than 12 weeks in subsequent years, if this reduction is assessed as a safe and appropriate.

4.6 The social worker should assess during these visits whether the private foster carers are promoting the cultural and ethnic needs of the privately fostered child. The child's overall development and emotional wellbeing should be considered, as should any educational and health issues. After each visit, the Social Worker should prepare a report.

4.7 The Social Worker also provides support and advice to the carer and child. This may include liaising with agencies on behalf of child/carer including health, education, and the UK Border agency, assisting them to access services, providing advice and support for example when there is a risk of breakdown of the arrangement, referrals to relevant agencies for additional support, for example CAMHS and/or other specialist services.

4.8 End of placement

Where notification is received that the private foster placement has ended, the social worker should ascertain the name and address of the person now caring for the child and his or her relationship with the child.

4.9 The social worker should notify the health and education agencies (as well as the new local authority where necessary) of the end of the placement in writing.

4.10 Private Fostering Service in Lewisham

Lewisham has a dedicated specialist private fostering senior social worker (PFSW), who carries out all initial private fostering assessments and regularly reviews the arrangements. The PFSW monitors and provides support and advice to the privately fostered children and carer for the first year of the arrangement through statutory visits every 6 weeks. Following the first year, 12 weekly statutory visits are undertaken.

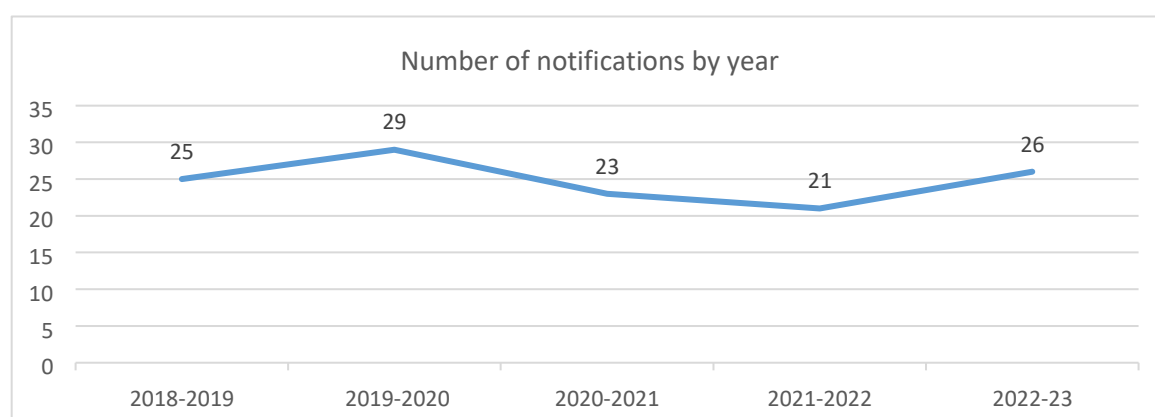
4.11 The PFSW is based in the Family & Friends Care and Special Guardianship Team in Children's Social Care. Casework is overseen by the Team Manager and the Head of Care Resources Service. Private fostering arrangement assessments are authorised by the Head of Care Resources. This service is the lead on providing specialist advice and support regarding private fostering across Children's Services and to external agencies.

4.12 The PFSW attends training and briefings on private fostering policy and practice. In addition, the PFSW attends the Coram BAAF Private Fostering Special Interest Group

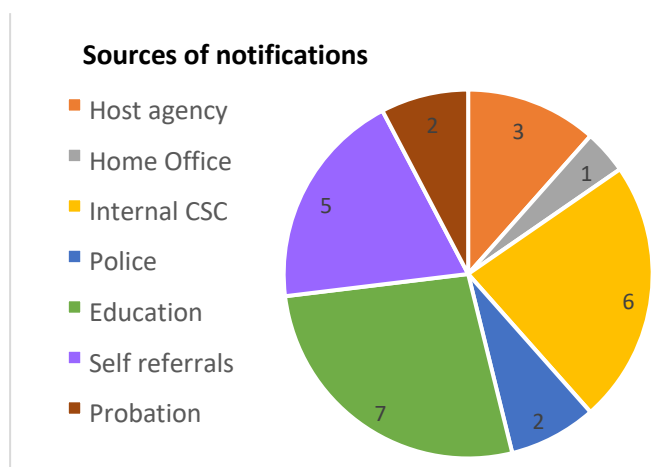
Meetings with other local authorities, to share information and improve policy and practice.

5. Private Fostering notifications in 2022-23

5.1 From the period 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023 Children's Social Care received 26 notifications of new private fostering arrangements in Lewisham, a slight increase from the last two years, but lower than in 2019-2020 when we received a peak of international students from China, staying with host families.



5.2 From a benchmarking exercise with neighbouring local authorities in London and from information shared at Coram BAAF private fostering forums, Lewisham notification and private fostering numbers have consistently been one of the highest in London. There

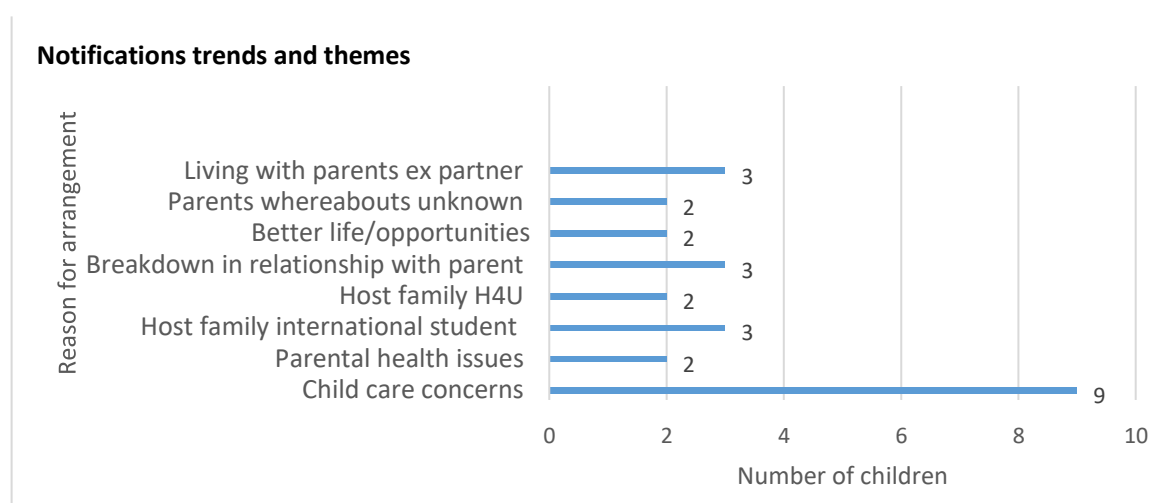


are some hypotheses as to why this maybe, such as; the demographic of our families and/or Lewisham being closely located to good transport links for private/independent/grammar schools for the international students. We believe the high notification numbers indicate a wide understanding of private fostering arrangements across the safeguarding partnership.

The largest number of notifications was received from education services, including admissions team and schools, this is an increase from last year where we only received 3 notifications.

There was a significant and growing number of notifications from within Children's Social Care, the second largest cohort of notifications during the period. We also received several self-referrals from private foster carers.

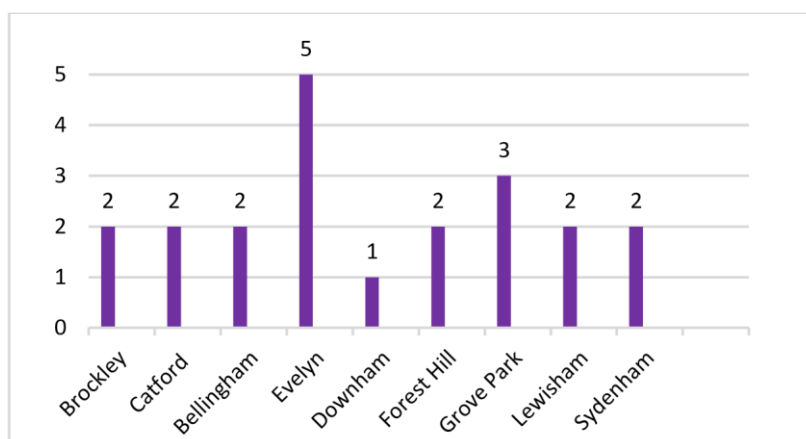
- 5.3 As with previous years, we have received notifications from Host agencies (3), notifications were also received from Police, Probation, and the Home Office. Overall, this is positive and suggests awareness of private fostering amongst professionals across the partnership.



- 5.4 The chart above illustrates the reasons why children were placed in new private fostering arrangements. There are varied circumstances; the biggest single reason relates to child welfare concerns (9), typically children already/recently open to Children's Social Care and where some families place children with friends and extended family for other reasons whilst they were defined as 'Child in Need' or subject to Child Protection Plans.

- 5.5 As with previous years, there is a continuing trend of adolescents whose relationship with their parent(s) has broken down and international students who are staying with host families whilst studying at private/independent/grammar schools. The PFSW has noted the emergence of children staying with host families through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

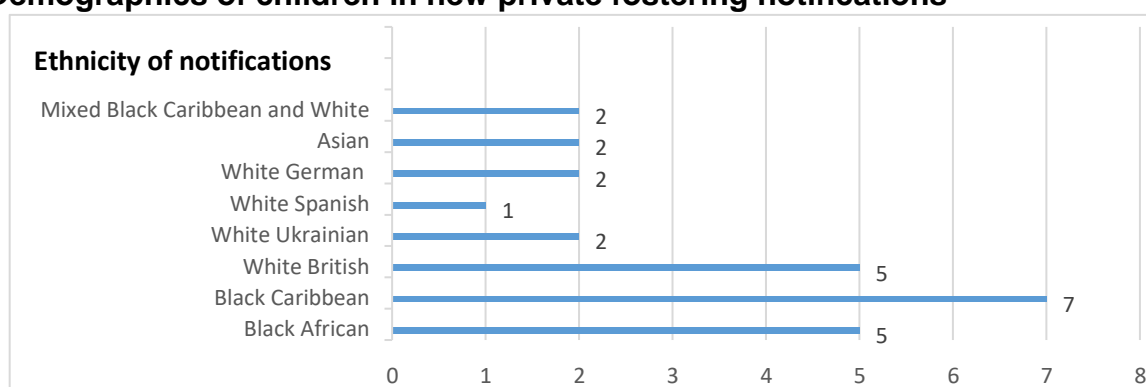
- 5.6 In two situations, children remained with their parent's ex-partner following a relationship ending, as the ex-partner(s) were never legally married, nor had legal parental responsibility, these arrangements met criteria of private fostering. Overall, there has been a continuing trend from last year that the number of 'mainstream' Private Fostering arrangements has outnumbered the total number of host family arrangements.



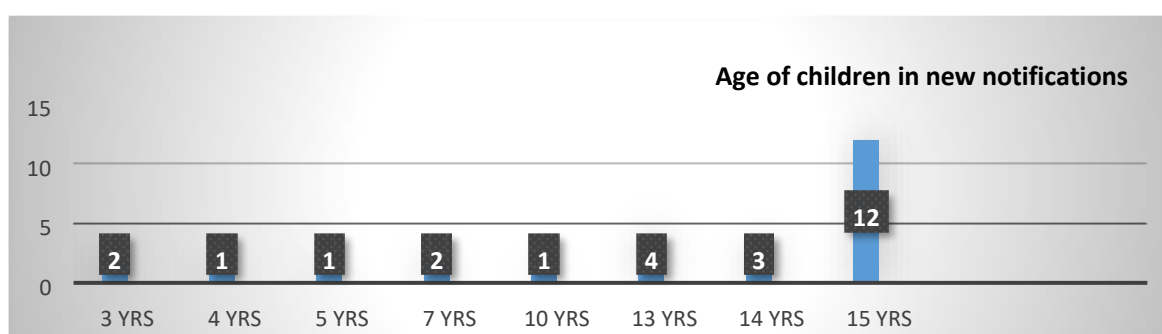
Notifications have been spread across the Lewisham Borough; the highest number have been from the Evelyn-Deptford area (5). The next largest in this cohort was Grove Park (3). Following these other areas were even in notifications this year.

Notifications by Ward

5.7 Demographics of children in new private fostering notifications



During the reporting period most of notifications have been for children of Black African and Black Caribbean heritage. Two notifications recorded for those of Asian origin included Chinese and Sri Lankan children.



Children/young people recorded as 15 years old is high, as with previous years. Of the 26 notifications, 12 (46%) were female and 14 (56%) were male.

5.8 Outcome of notifications

Notifications are carefully assessed to ensure they meet the criteria of private fostering and that they meet the children's needs. In addition, as part of the assessment where any 'child protection' or child in need' concerns arise, the Assessment Service is notified.

- 5.9 From 26 notifications in this period, 16 children were assessed to be private fostering arrangements. Of the remaining 10, four moved to another local authority, four returned of care of parent/s, one did not meet the criteria of private fostering as it was discovered that the child was in the care of a 'close relative'. One young person was an international student who completed their short stay course and returned to their country of origin prior to the private fostering assessment being completed.

6. Monitoring of Private Fostering Arrangements

- 6.1 In addition to the new notifications, during the period April 2022 to March 2023 there were already eight pre-existing private fostering arrangements in place. The ages of the children in these arrangements ranged from 5 to 15 years old, 7 are Black African and 1 is Vietnamese. This brings the total number of children currently known to be in private fostering arrangements in Lewisham during the period to 24. Of the eight pre-existing arrangements, the reasons given are; Parents work commitments, housing and financial difficulties and children sent to the UK from abroad for a 'better life'. A significant number of the children in the pre-existing arrangements are from outside of the UK. Information about meeting cultural needs and signposting to local resources specific to the child/young person's heritage has therefore been an important role for the PFSW.
- 6.2 Throughout 2022/23 the 6 weekly and 12 weekly statutory visits monitor and support arrangements. Out of the 12 arrangements subject to 6 weekly statutory visits, 92% of the required visits were undertaken, 52% were seen 6 weekly. For the eight pre-existing arrangements requiring 12 weekly visits, 100% were undertaken, 86% were seen within timescale. The majority of statutory visits were undertaken within timescale.
- 6.3 Lewisham has a number of privately fostered children/young people who are international students studying in the UK, who return to their family outside of the UK during the holiday period e.g. Germany and Spain. In addition, those from the Ukraine staying with host families under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, returned to the Ukraine to visit their parents during the school holidays. Therefore, not all visits to the children can be carried out within the statutory timescale. Other reasons for being unable to visit include the availability of the family/carers and non-carer engagement, as some carers struggle to understand why there should be any state intervention into what they view as a private and culturally 'normal' family arrangement. Visits out of time do not indicate children are left unseen and not monitored. Privately fostered children are regularly seen, frequent agency checks are undertaken with the professional network and any emerging safeguarding concerns are immediately escalated and investigated where appropriate. The PFSW also checks with the carer prior to the children leaving to go abroad for school holidays.

- 6.4 During each visit the child is always seen and spoken to alone (unless the child is too young or requests to have another person present), to check they are safe and remain happy in the arrangement. Specific attention is paid to address the child's religious, racial, cultural, and linguistic needs as appropriate and direct work tools to aid communication and encourage participation are used. (These are visible on the children's case records). Some visits are undertaken outside of the home, away from the carers, in a neutral environment; so children have the opportunity share their views or any worries they may have about their experience. In some cases, 'Youth Mental Health First Aid' materials have been utilised.
- 6.5 In the 'mainstream' arrangements, the private foster carers characteristically required assistance from the PFSW in accessing services such as registering the children with local GP's and making school applications.
- 6.6 To further strengthen our oversight of private fostering arrangements, annual reviews have been reintroduced. The intention is to ensure the child's voice is being heard, encourage more child focused analysis, establish the permanent plan for the child and family and guarantee all necessary safety checks are renewed. It also provides an opportunity for the carer to reflect on the year and to identify needs, concerns, and strengths within the arrangement.
- 6.7 Children Social Care's practice framework is Signs of Safety (SoS) and in February 2023 the private fostering assessment tool was revised to better incorporate the SoS framework and associated tools. Further development of the private fostering pathway on the Children's Social Care recording system (LCS) is planned to strengthen performance reporting and management oversight of the Private Fostering arrangements.
- 6.8 The last Ofsted inspection of Private Fostering Arrangements in Lewisham was in July 2019, as part of the Children's Services regulatory framework, in the report Ofsted commented:

Private fostering is promoted effectively, and the dedicated worker has good links with the communications department and partner agencies through the current safeguarding arrangements. This leads to timely initial visits, detailed assessments and appropriate checks and oversight of private fostering arrangements. Children are visited regularly, and there is appropriate liaison with a range of relevant agencies. The views of children and their parents are well considered.
<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50101634>

Lewisham Children's Services is expected to receive another inspection in 2023/24 where private fostering will be again subject to external scrutiny.

7. Feedback from Privately Fostered Children/Young People

7.1 Feedback is routinely sought from privately fostered children (see forms in appendix 2), during 2022-2023 13 children provided responses. Themes from feedback:

- Three quarters said they “liked” where they were living, one quarter saying “it’s ok”
- 69% said they “get along well” with the people they lived with, 31% said they were “ok”.
- 92% said they were happy with the amount of contact they were having with their parents and/or family, 1 child (8%) was “unsure”.
- All the children were in full time education and 84% said they feel healthy whilst, 2 children wanted advice on health issues, which the PFSW provided.
- 92% said they felt the amount of visits by the social worker was ‘about right’, 1 child didn’t answer.

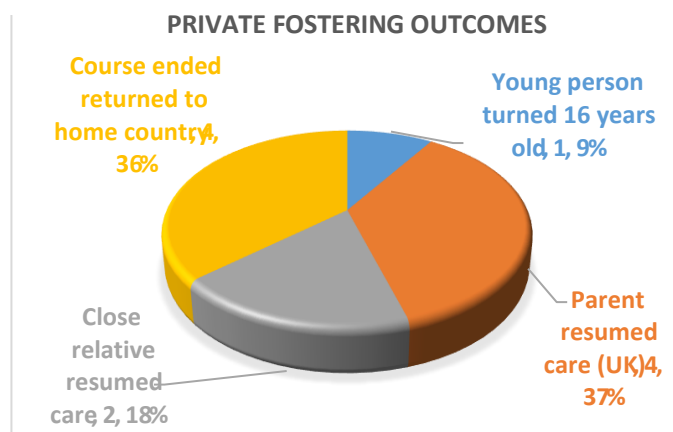
7.2 Feedback is used to help shape the service provided and inform how to best work together with the parents and carers to support the child. All privately fostered children and carers are encouraged to maintain contact with the children’s birth family wherever possible. Attention is paid to the child’s religious, racial, cultural, and linguistic needs as appropriate cross-cultural arrangements and it is particularly important for these children that regular contact with family is maintained and private foster carers are culturally aware and accepting of the children’s background. As part of the work of the PFSW carers are encouraged to participate in cultural activities and demonstrate an awareness of the additional challenges and inequalities faced by children from Global Majority & Black communities to support the children with these experiences.

8. Outcomes of Private Fostering Arrangements

8.1 During the reporting year, 11 private fostering arrangements ended, and the chart below summarises the end reasons. There were no persons disqualified from private fostering and no prohibitions issued during the 22/23 year.

Of the 11 arrangements that came to an end, four returned to the care of their parent(s). For four young people their educational course ended, and they returned to their home country. Two moved to the care of a close relative and one young

person turned 16, and remained with their carer, there were no identified additional concerns, so the PF arrangements ceased.



8.2 The referrals for international students staying with host families were from two host agencies based in Kent and Croydon. These host families have already been checked assessed and vetted by the host agencies prior to the local authority being notified. The children returned to their home countries following the completion of their courses.

8.3 The host family arrangements have been straightforward during this period, the young people reported enjoying their experience and learning about other cultures as well as studying at a school in the UK. Good partnership work has been maintained between the host families, the host agencies, the schools, and Lewisham Private Fostering Service.

8.4 During statutory visits, permanence is discussed with carers and where appropriate, the PFSW can sign post to services that provide legal advice on such matters for them to obtain advice on legal status solutions to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. This can include obtaining a child arrangement or special guardianship order. During this period no carers obtained legal parental responsibility for the children, however two carers have begun the process of pursuing this.

9. Challenges, trends, and the Local Authority response

9.1 The private fostering of unaccompanied minors through the Homes for Ukraine scheme is a new feature in this area of work. The scheme means workers must be alert to possible exploitation of young Ukrainians and a risk assessment of this is factored into assessments. Assessments also need to consider the young person's experience of war and displacement, as well as any loss and/or trauma as well as be culturally sensitive to their norms, traditions, language, and values. Potential risks of the arrangement breaking down must also be considered. Awareness raising on Ukrainian children entering host family arrangements has now been incorporated into the training

provided by the PFSW to frontline staff across the partnership. The PFSW has worked closely with the Lewisham Refugee Resettlement Programme and has also explored support from community and local charities/networks, with connections to Ukraine. It has also been very positive that the Refugee Council therapeutic support service London, has now expanded their eligibility criteria to include young people aged 5-18 years old.

A joint protocol with the 'Lewisham Homes for Ukraine' team is being developed to ensure seamless and collaborative work alongside both teams (Private Fostering Service and the 'Lewisham Homes for Ukraine' team) and will be completed in September 2023.

- 9.2 Referrals from within Children's Social Care have increased from three in the previous year, to 6 in this reporting period. These are typically where families have chosen for their children to live with friends or extended family, whilst they are a 'Child in Need', or subject to Child Protection Plans. These Private Fostering Carers were assessed and approved, having stepped in to prevent children becoming looked after and as part of safety planning. Joint visits between the PFSW and child's social worker were undertaken, and the PFSW attended key planning meetings.

The PFSW has worked closely with the social work teams, to ensure these families are receiving appropriate levels of support and that effective safeguarding plans were in place.

- 9.3 A significant number of the privately fostered children are originally from abroad/outside of the UK, the PFSW has accordingly paid attention to the cultural and identity needs of the children, such as faith, language, food, contact and isolation/integration. Social workers must also be alert to possible issues of child trafficking and exploitation. Where English is not the child, family/carers first language, interpreting services are used to ensure all parties can participate in the assessment process. In some circumstances, signposting to immigration specialist services as well as liaison work with the Home Office has had to be provided to parents and carers due to some of the children who have entered the UK on visitor visas, which will need to be renewed or they have overstayed, advice is therefore provided in helping to resolving this matter.

- 9.4 The PFSW has also noted the number of children in private fostering arrangements whose parent's whereabouts is unknown. This is further complicated when the child has come to the UK from abroad, with varying risks of illegal, irregular entry. This cohort has highlighted issues in relation to permanence and parental responsibility. Legal advice has been sought and, in some circumstances, legal planning meetings held, to make the appropriate decisions in the best interests of the child and to secure permanent plans for these children.

- 9.5 In many situations during March 2022 to April 2023, private foster carers have experienced financial difficulties due the current cost of living, this has been further complicated as many of the parent(s) of the children were also facing financial hardship and at times housing difficulties, making them unable to contribute to the financial maintenance of their children. In response, the private fostering service made referrals to food banks, charity applications for grants, supported families with benefit claims,

liaison work with schools to request additional support and advocacy with housing matters was undertaken.

10. Summary of key issues

- Lewisham notifications are the highest in three years and private fostering numbers have consistently been one of the highest in London.
- The largest number of notifications was received from education services and Lewisham Children's Social Care.
- Most notifications have been for children of Black African and Black Caribbean heritage.
- From 26 notifications this year, 16 children were assessed to be private fostering arrangements. Across the year, the total number of children cared for in Private Fostering arrangements was 24.
- The reasons children were placed in private fostering arrangements are varied, the biggest single reason relates to child welfare concerns where 'Child in Need' or those subject to Child Protection Plans are living with family and friends, as decided by their parents and the children are not looked after by the Local Authority.
- The service has maintained regular visits to privately fostered children to ensure that their needs are being met and they are safeguarded. To further strengthen oversight of these arrangements, annual reviews have been re-introduced.
- In feedback three quarters of privately fostered children said they "liked" where they were living, one quarter saying "it's ok"
- After the private fostering arrangement has ceased, four children returned to the care of their parent(s), for four young people their educational course ended, and they returned to their home country.
- The Private Fostering Service in Lewisham Children's Services has continued to promote awareness of private fostering across the year.

11. Private Fostering – Promoting Awareness Across Lewisham.

- 11.1 Nationally there was no official annual Private Fostering week in 2022. Whilst we have promoted private fostering, there are likely be children in Lewisham in arrangements that are unknown to the local authority. Therefore locally, the promotion of private fostering and associated requirements continues to be a priority. Children's Social Care

is working with the Lewisham Council communications team and the LSCP to promote awareness. Activity through 2022/23 has included:

Briefing sessions were held with LSCP with members from health, education and community organisations in attendance.

Development of a professional's section specific to private fostering on the LSCP website, with helpful tips and an identification flow chart to help professionals identify potential private fostering arrangements.

Periodic awareness raising via the LSCP Newsletter, which goes out regularly across the partnership and the LSCP Development Officer has helped to facilitate the PFSW, providing briefings and disseminating information across Health, Education, Early years, and community organisations/faith groups.

Articles on private fostering were added to newsletters across the partnership, virtual consultations were held, and mail outs were sent to community organisations.

Private Fostering awareness communications for Lewisham Council social media channels and information on Private Fostering has been included in all resident's newsletter. We are also currently in the process of updating/redesigning all the publicity materials including the leaflets and posters.

The main Lewisham Council website has retained their dedicated page to Private Fostering, with links to Private Fostering leaflets and key information. This is also being updated.

Publicity materials, including the Private Fostering factsheet and identification flow chart has continued to be disseminated to the Children's Social Care workforce, this includes MASH and Early Help. The private fostering procedures are accessible on the Children's Social Care procedures manual (Tri-x) together with one-minute practice guidance, this continues to be promoted to ensure that CSC professionals are well-informed and equipped to identify potential arrangements.

The PFSW has retained good links with Host agencies in developing ways in which to further reinforce the importance of promoting Private Fostering and reminding them of the requirement to notify CSC of any new arrangements.

- 11.2 This year the development of a Private Fostering App was explored, however it was decided the considerable cost to the ratio of benefits would make this not very cost effective.

Appendix 1 - Private Fostering Communications and Awareness Raising Plan 2023-24

Action	Responsibility	Date	Targets
LSCP maintain their dedicated web page on private fostering, periodic awareness raising via the LSCP Newsletter to be distributed across the partnership	LSCP	06/03/2023 – 4 monthly reminder articles in newsletters	For there to be more awareness and increase of referrals across the partnership. Statistical information and analysis of outcome to be included in 2023-24 annual report
Lewisham communications team to share private fostering awareness on council social media channels and internet promotion on council website	PFSW and Communications lead	10/03/2023 and to be reviewed by team manager quarterly.	For there to be more awareness and increase of referrals from wider sources and in the public domain.
Private fostering posters and leaflets to be updated and distributed in libraries, schools, nurseries, children's centres and healthcare settings.	PFSW, Communications lead and LSCP	17/04/2023 and to be reviewed by team manager 6 monthly	For there to be more awareness and increase of referrals from wider sources. Statistical information and analysis of outcome to be included in 2023-24 annual report
Information on private fostering to be included in CSC monthly internal newsletter.	PFSW and Communications lead	24/04/2023 and 6 monthly thereafter - to be reviewed by team manager	Internal staff to be clear about private fostering and duty to report.
Internal awareness raising through attendance at joint service meetings.	PFSW	02/05/2023 thereafter 6 monthly - to be reviewed by team manager	Internal staff to be clear about private fostering and duty to report.
Links to be maintained in Early years services to ensure there is awareness of private fostering and the notifications process. PFSW to attend DSL forum meetings.	PFSW, LSCP and Early years Lead	16/05/2023- thereafter PFSW to attend school DSL network meetings 6 monthly	For Early years services to be able to identify and refer private fostering arrangements.

Links to be maintained with the health sector and training annually at the 'lunch and learn sessions' to ensure there is awareness of private fostering and the notifications process,	PFSW and LSCP leads for GP's, Nurses and Hv's	13/06/2023 – thereafter PFSW to attend 6 monthly	For staff in health to be able to identify and refer private fostering arrangements. Stats and analysis of outcome to be included in 2023-24 annual report
Links to be established with religious organisations and community groups - explore possibility of awareness raising briefing and updated publicity materials being distributed in meeting spaces. Private fostering posters and leaflets to be put up in religious meeting spaces, i.e church, mosque.	PFSW, Communications & LSCP lead for Community organisations Faith groups	15/06/2023 and to be reviewed 6 monthly	For there to be more awareness and increase of referrals from wider sources. Statistical information and analysis of outcome to be included in 2023-24 annual report
Links to be maintained with Schools and the education admissions department to ensure there is awareness of private fostering and the notifications process. PFSW to provide briefing at DSL network meetings.	PFSW and LSCP lead for Education	21/06/2023 – thereafter PFSW to attend school DSL network meetings 6 monthly	For staff in the education admissions/schools to be able to identify and refer private fostering arrangements. Stats and analysis of outcome to be included in 2023-24 annual report
Internal awareness raising through internal advertising.	PFSW and Manager	Posters to be on internal noticeboard, review 3 monthly.	Internal staff to be clear about private fostering and duty to report.
Internal awareness raising - Information on private fostering to form part of all CSC new staff induction, including ASYE, NQSW and student social workers.	PFSW and Manager	29/06/2023 and at start of new workers cohort(s)	Internal staff to be clear about private fostering and duty to report.
Maintain links with host agencies to ensure that we are receiving appropriate notifications and ensure that we are satisfying that Private Fostering Minimum Standards.	PFSW and DSL host agencies	15/08/2023 – PFSW to meet with DSL host agencies annually.	Appropriate referrals received from host agencies. Good working practices remain between the host agencies and Lewisham Private Fostering Service

Links nationally and with neighbouring local authorities to be maintained, Lewisham to be a part of any national campaigns organised through Coram BAAF	PFSW and Coram BAAF	Ongoing - PFSW to continue to attend Private Fostering Professional Network Meetings by Coram BAAF 3 monthly	Lewisham to be a part of any national campaigns organised through Coram BAAF
<p>Joint protocol and guidance with the 'Lewisham Homes for Ukraine' and Lewisham private fostering team to be developed.</p> <p>Copy of guidance to be uploaded onto Tri-x</p> <p>Meetings to be held with both teams</p>	Anna Luckock and Amy Richmond	By mid-September & meetings at school term intervals.	For there to be seamless and collaborative work alongside both teams, colleagues across the Children's Social Care to be able to access the guidance when necessary and for both teams to share good practice and knowledge of local resources that Ukrainian families/ young people can access.
August – March 2024: Additional activity - To be planned after review of first 6 months			