



THE LONDON BOROUGH
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Annual Private Fostering Report 2015/2016



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2. Introduction

2.1 This report sets out the London Borough of Bromley's performance for the period of 1st April 2015 until 31st March 2016 on private fostering. The report is based on the requirements set out in the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Private Fostering 2005, the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 and examples of good practice from the Ofsted report published in January 2014 ("Private Fostering: better information, better understanding"). It is worth noting that Bromley was inspected by Ofsted in May 2016. As this was not within the reporting year for this report, I have provided the BSCB with a separate update to be read in conjunction with this.

2.2 Bromley's private fostering Statement of Purpose is updated annually and outlines the definition of private fostering and the expectations on the local authority to meet this. This Annual Report should therefore also be read in conjunction with the Statement of Purpose for 2015/2016.

2.3 This report will be presented to the Assistant Director of Children's Services and their Senior Management team and it forms the basis of the Annual Private Fostering Report for the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board.

2.4 Bromley gives consideration of all examples of good practice regarding Private Fostering and demonstrates where possible innovative practice and aims to also exceed the National Minimum Standards. Bromley continues to:

- Consider its private fostering responsibilities with the upmost importance and senior managers continue to communicate the importance of ensuring that privately fostered children are safeguarded and seen within a statutory timescales.
- Be proactive in identifying private fostering arrangements and ensure that its assessments and visits are performed in line with legislation and good practice.
- Safeguard children and escalate cases to Child in Need or Safeguarding services where necessary.
- Promote equality, diversity and treating others with respect.

- Undertake regular private fostering awareness campaigns which help to highlight private fostering arrangements, draw attention to the legal definition and outline the call to action when a private fostering arrangement is identified. Bromley also works hard to develop good working relationships with its wider community and partner agencies in order to create and develop a comprehensive and systematic approach to identifying children and young people in private fostering arrangements.
- Maintain internal and external communication regarding private fostering arrangements using a wide range of publicity.

The Senior Practitioner within the Children Looked After Team was tasked with maintaining and improving on the Local Authority's approach to private fostering. As of January 2016, the responsibility of private fostering moved to the Family Placements Team where the role of Lead Officer was allocated to a social worker in this team.

3. Private Fostering – A Definition

3.1 A private fostering (PF) arrangement is essentially one that is made privately (i.e. without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. A person who is a close relative under the Children Act 1989 i.e. a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of full blood or half blood or by marriage) or stepparent will not be a private foster carer. However, private foster carers may be a cousin, a great aunt, friend of the family, parent of a friend of the child. The period for which the child is cared for by the private foster carer should be continuous.

3.2 Arrangements for private fostering were updated in the Children Act 2004 and the Children (Private Arrangement for Fostering) Regulations 2005, which set out the duties of local authorities in their arrangements for private fostering. The National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Local Authorities were published in 2005 alongside this.

4. Planning on Private Fostering

- 4.1 Standard 1 of the National Minimum Standards requires that the Local Authority has a written statement or plan, which sets out its duties and functions in relation to private fostering and the ways in which they will be carried out. Bromley has developed a formal Statement of Purpose which is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Bromley's Statement of Purpose for private fostering is reviewed annually alongside this annual report, in line with requirements under the National Minimum Standard (NMS) for private fostering. The Local Authority's Statement of Purpose regarding private fostering sets out: the notification requirements; the Local Authority's duties and functions under the Children Act 1989, 2004 and the Children (Private Arrangement for Fostering) Regulations 2005; as well as the role of all professionals and agencies in Bromley and the arrangements of training for relevant staff and professionals.
- 4.3 This document will be made available to partner agencies, along with other private fostering publicity information, and will be published on Bromley's website.

5. Notification Arrangements

- 5.1 The Referral & Assessment Service (RAS) receive all new enquiries and referrals regarding proposed or existing Private Fostering arrangements. The Referral and Assessment Service undertake the task of assessing the suitability of private fostering arrangements and initial welfare visits. Once the arrangement is deemed as a safe private fostering arrangement, the duty of undertaking regular home visits and the provision of support and advice transfers to the lead officer for private fostering located within the Children Looked After Team (CLA). As of January 2016, this responsibility transferred to the Family Placements Team and lead officer, Susanna Reich was appointed.
- 5.2 The lead officer for private fostering also undertakes developmental work including reviewing private fostering forms on Care First and ensuring that the Local Authority's private fostering policies and procedures are in line with statutory requirements and national guidance. The

Lead Officer also provides advice to social workers and partner agencies on complex private fostering matters as well as providing training to Bromley council staff and partner agencies

6. Safeguarding and Promoting Welfare

6.1 The Referral and Assessment Service undertakes all suitability and safeguarding assessments and completes Regulation 8 visits until the case transfers to the CLA Team. The subsequent welfare visits for monitoring purposes are then completed by the Lead Officer for private fostering based in the CLA Team and as of January (2016) the Family Placements Team.

6.2 The Referral and Assessment Service's Deputy Managers sign off all private fostering arrangements when they are assessed as safe and any arrangements that do not meet this threshold are pursued via the formal safeguarding route under the remit of the Safeguarding and Care Planning Service. Before they are transferred to the lead officer, a transfer meeting is held to ensure that all parties agree that it is a viable private fostering arrangement. Once held with the lead officer, at any point that risk is identified, this is escalated and pursued through the usual safeguarding routes.

7. Practice Development

Nationally:

7.1 The British Association for Adoption and Fostering (CORAMBAAF) facilitates a special interest group for private fostering. The Lead Officer for private fostering attends this special interest group which meets four times a year and enables local policy and practice to be developed in line with best practice from other authorities.

7.2 Members of the group include; CORAMBAAF staff, representatives from the DoE, NSPCC, Ofsted and member agencies with personal experience of private fostering. The group has been supporting members by providing relevant research findings, good practice guide and up-to-date materials in relation to private fostering.

7.3 CORAMBAAF co-ordinates a national annual publicity campaign for private fostering. This provides an opportunity for raising awareness campaigns to be coordinated within local

authorities. Bromley Council has participated in the local and national private fostering raising awareness campaign every July in line with the local authority's communication plan.

Locally:

7.4 The private fostering lead officer has continued to work closely with both internal and external agencies in raising awareness about private fostering and in safeguarding and ensuring the wellbeing of privately fostered children. The lead officer has continued to build on the close working relationship with language schools, GP's, schools and health. Information in the form of posters and leaflets regarding private fostering is regularly distributed to schools, GP surgeries, residents associations and faith groups in Bromley outlining the definition of private fostering and the legal duties to report any known private fostering arrangements.

In February 2016, the lead officer met with one of the managers from the main language school in Beckenham (Kings) to ensure that they were clear on their statutory duties and safeguarding responsibilities.

7.5 The previous lead officer for private fostering jointly with Practice Consultant (RAS) provided training in July 2015 for 23 social workers from RAS and TASPSS. The training covered areas including current legislation, guidance and publications. It also looked into notifications and assessment of private fostering, including the importance of completing forms within timescales. The previous lead officer discussed lessons learnt from Ofsted inspections of other local authorities on private fostering and looked into recent court judgements on complex private fostering cases. This training was incredibly useful in raising awareness for private fostering and ensuring that all the relevant social care professionals understood how to identify and successfully process these arrangements in the system. The lead officer at the time supplied feedback forms for the social workers to reflect on their training and he received excellent feedback regarding the sessions.

The current lead officer also offered the Referral and Assessment, Safeguarding and Child Looked after Teams refresher training sessions through team meetings in March 2016 to ensure that any new employees were informed of the correct practice. The current lead officer will arrange for more formal training to be offered in 2016.

- 7.6 National Minimum Standards (NMS) – The NMS Rolling Plan was completed in October 2014 and is reviewed annually to ensure we are confident we are still providing services within the National Minimum standards.
- 7.7 The local authority’s policies and procedures in relation to private fostering in Bromley continue to be developed and a Private Fostering Arrangement assessment form was integrated into the system in 2015. In February 2016, a new activity tool was added to private fostering to be able to monitor the DBS checks for private foster carers and alert us to when they need to be updated.
- 7.8 Leaflets and information on private fostering have been regularly updated on Bromley’s website including leaflets for privately fostered children, their parents and carers as well as for professionals and members of the public. The leaflets that were designed in 2015 are now available both online and in hard copy and even more up to date posters and postcards were being designed in March 2016.
- 7.9 Bromley’s website is also always being updated and in March 2016 the website was being updated to ensure it was more streamline. The majority of private fostering information will be accessed through the Bromley “My Life” pages in the future with a clear link from the main website to ensure consistent information with easy access.

8. Raising Awareness about Private Fostering

- 8.1 The Children Act 2004 includes a paragraph (7A) in Schedule 8 of the Children Act 1989, which places a duty on local authorities to promote private fostering public awareness in their area of the notification requirements.
- 8.2 It is a legal requirement to promote public awareness and in last years’ report it was noted that a poll in July (2015) commissioned by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (CORAMBAAF) revealed that 91% of the UK adult population do not know what private fostering is.

8.3 Bromley recognises the importance of promoting private fostering public awareness in planned and organised ways. Outcomes of these activities in the past have made little difference in terms of increasing notifications and we are aware that the most effective awareness raising campaigns focus primarily on the council's own staff, GP's, school admissions and language colleges.

Data from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 show that the number of notifications received had increased significantly to 20, compared to eight from the previous reporting year. This is very encouraging and is likely to be due to the thorough campaign of raising awareness delivered by the lead officer. The data also indicates that a large number of these notifications were referred by professionals who were unrelated to language schools and demonstrates that the raising awareness campaigns may be having an impact. There is still more work to do and Bromley will continue to build on these campaigns, however it demonstrates that the increased numbers of notifications can in all likelihood be linked to more awareness amongst professionals.

8.4 In line with the Ofsted report mentioned, Bromley has continued to develop communication plans to develop activities to raise awareness. The communication plan remains subject to ongoing review and is implemented by the project group consisting of members from across the Children's Social Care Division. When private fostering was transferred to the Family Placements Team, the project group members had in the main ceased to work for the local authority. The new lead officer has had to form a new group with new employees to continue the excellent work that had been started. There continues to be a review of this group's membership aiming at enhancing the breadth of the local authority's publicity campaign about private fostering and considering members from youth offending services and housing.

8.5 Bromley has considered the following strategies to raise awareness:

- 1) The previous lead officer provided in depth training to the children's workforce practitioners in July 2015 and received positive feedback from social workers. Over 30 social workers have received in-depth training conducted over two separate occasions. Plans to provide training to social workers in the Referral and Assessment teams have been in place and a date will be identified to account for new staff joining the team, this will be an ongoing process, implemented on an annual basis to ensure that all professionals in these teams are up to date.

The lead officer has also offered to attend various team meetings to keep staff updated on their role in private fostering.

- 2) We continue to develop our database of organisations in the borough including Churches, Mosques, Community centres, Resident associations, Cultural Organisations, Schools, GP's, Children Centre's and Public Libraries. Letters, posters and leaflets have been sent to various organisations highlighting the need to notify us of any private fostering arrangements they are aware of.
- 3) The nurse for children looked after liaised with the lead GP for Bromley to ensure that posters were distributed in GP surgeries and health centres to raise awareness.
- 4) All educational establishments in Bromley including Early Year's provisions were sent a circular from the local authority's education department emphasising the need for notifying the local authority about any private fostering arrangements they are aware of.
- 5) Ongoing publications were undertaken in 2015 through the internal newsletter "In Touch" and the BSCB Newsletter. Both newsletters reach a wide audience and are circulated across the borough; they have been useful in disseminating messages and raising awareness.
- 6) During the annual Private Fostering Week in July 2015, private fostering was promoted in a number of ways. This included, advertising on TV's around the main reception area in the Civic Centre, issuing a press release on the Council's website, using Twitter and the local newspaper, working closely with Bromley's schools admission team and arranging for a piece in the Chief Executives Column asking people to think about private fostering. The former lead officer formed an excellent working party to ensure that members of the public and professionals were aware of the definition of private fostering and their responsibilities within this. A number of professionals played an active role including the website team who updated the website to incorporate private fostering week, also the local authority's communication team, the local authority's education service and the Bromley My life Web Team all played a part in promoting private fostering.
- 7) In November 2015, the lead officer attended the BSCB Annual Conference in November where he distributed a guide for professionals as part of raising awareness activities. This was a large and diverse audience with a multiagency presence representing professionals with a large amount of involvement with children and families. We have also promoted private fostering awareness by attending various meetings with different organisations and partner agencies.

8.6 The Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) continued to provide a leadership role in private fostering and contributed to raising awareness through their internal newsletter and conferences as well as supporting the lead officer with private fostering. The Business Manager for BSCB has been an active contributor to the local authorities Communication Plan on private fostering and this has passed on to the next colleague who has replaced the former business manager in January 2016.

9. Notification and the outcomes of raising awareness activities

9.1 There has been an increase in the number of private fostering notifications between 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016. The number of notifications has gone from eight in the previous reporting year to 20 in this reporting year. Of those 20 notifications, 11 of them were from language schools, this leaves nine notifications who were from other sources. The language school notifications are still in the majority, however it is encouraging to see that the number of "non-language" school notifications have increased.

Of these 20 notifications, 12 were female and eight were male. Of these 20 notifications, four children were classified as White British, one was Black British, four were classified as Black African, seven were classified as "other" which was usually the language students, for example one child was from Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia. The remaining four were from China.

It is encouraging to see that there is more of a mix of ethnicities from this reporting year, incorporating more Black African children and more White British children.

9.2 This increase in notifications is likely to be linked to the raising awareness activities that have been undertaken.

9.3 Bromley has and will continue to develop the private fostering communication plan, forming new relationships with other professionals to widen the impact of raising awareness activities. Bromley will also look at these statistics and use them to analyse and build on the effectiveness of our campaigns.

10. Advice and Support

10.1 The Referral and Assessment service and the Lead Officer for private fostering ensure that private foster carers, parents and their children receive appropriate advice and support in all areas including advice on benefits and housing.

- 10.2 Where possible, the lead officer for private fostering will continue to direct and support people to resolve any legal or immigration status issues that arise for the children or young people subject to private fostering regulations.
- 10.3 Private foster carers are offered support and receive appropriate information if they wish to explore seeking a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order. This has occurred with a private foster carer recently and she has been supported by both lead officers to apply for an SGO for the child that she is caring for.
- 10.4 The lead officer for private fostering has been available to offer support and advice to colleagues who require clarification on private fostering matters. This has included answering email and phone queries from professionals from schools and other areas who are working with families.
- 10.5 The lead officer seeks advice and support from the safeguarding team and has escalated cases to a child in need level where necessary.

11. The views of privately fostered children, their parents and carers

- 11.1 The private fostering service is attempting to offer a service user centred approach through gaining feedback from privately fostered children, their parents and carers to better meet their needs and priorities. As mentioned in last year's report Biswas et al (2009) noted that service users are considered experts with respect to their needs and Bromley has been encouraging privately fostered children, their carers and parents to feedback via questionnaire forms which are returned. The feedback helps to support service change and development, which in return will deliver better outcomes for our privately fostered children. The number of carers and children who have returned the forms however have been small and this is something that can be built on in the coming year.
- 11.2 The previous lead officer ensured that social workers received appropriate training focused on helping them to understand the importance of gathering feedback for further analysis. This will continue through the year and social workers will be encouraged to report feedback to the lead officer.

12. Monitoring Compliance with Duties and Functions

The reporting period performance assessed against previous return figures

(Table 1)

Indicators	2012/2013 Return	2013/2014 Return	2014/2015	2015/2016
Number of notifications of new private fostering arrangement received during the year	11	10	8	20
Number of cases where action was taken in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 4 (1) and 7 (1) for carrying out visits	9	10	8	20
Of these the number of cases where this action was taken within 7 working days of receipt of notification of the private fostering arrangement	2	8	6	15
Number of new arrangements that began during the year	11	10	8	19
The number of private fostering arrangements that began On or After 1 April 2015 where visits were made at intervals of not more than 6 weeks	0	5	4	17
The Number of private fostering arrangements that began BEFORE 1st April 2015 that were continuing on 1st April 2015	2	3	8	4
The number of private fostering arrangements that began before 1 April 2015 that were continuing on 1 April 2015 where scheduled visits were completed in the requested timescale	0	3	5	4
Number of private fostering arrangements that ended during the year	9	4	11	15
Number of children under private fostering arrangements as of 31 st March 2016	4	13	6	9

12. The above table shows that the number of private fostering notifications have increased significantly between the 31st March 2015 and the 1st April 2016 and the majority of these notifications proceeded into private fostering arrangements. The number of cases where

action was taken within 7 working days has also increased to 15; however, there is still a number where the timescale was not met. This was due to a number of reasons, however in some cases it appears that this is still down to incorrect forms being completed by the Referral and Assessment team. The previous worker provided thorough training to the RAS, CLA and Safeguarding teams and this needs to continue to ensure that all social workers knowledge is updated and refreshed. In a few cases, the timescales were not met due to the young person or family being unavailable to visit despite the efforts of the referral and assessment social workers.

The cases that have been held in the CLA team and subsequently Family Placements Team have consistently had visits of 100% within timescales. There was one exception where a Chinese student went home in December 2015 and returned to China for the holidays, she was then seen as a matter of urgency on her return.

This table also indicates that even though a higher number of notifications were received during 2015/2016, that a large number of arrangements also ended. This appears to indicate that the nature of private fostering arrangements are short lived, either through foreign students living with host families or due to temporary situations where children usually return to live with their families.

Summary of Private Fostering from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 reporting period

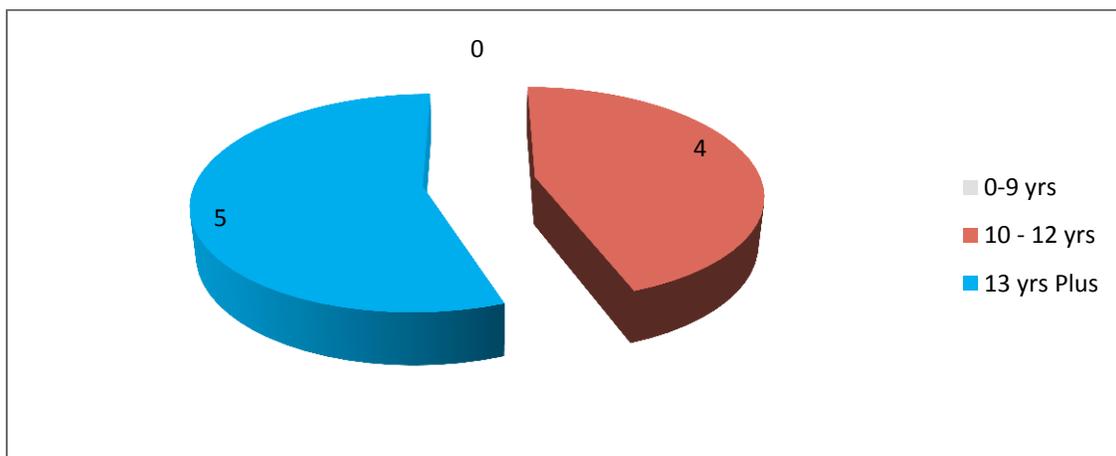
(Table 2)

Indicators	Number
PF arrangements already in place at the 1 st April 2015	5
Number of new notifications during the year 1 st April 2015 and 31 st March 2016	20
Total number of children in PF Arrangements on 1 st April 2016	9
Number of PF Arrangements which have ended during the year	15
Number of notifications which didn't progress to private fostering assessments	1

12.2 At the beginning of the period covered by this report, Bromley had five children who were subject to private fostering arrangements. Of those five, two children were held by the CLA team and two children were assessed by the RAS team and transferred to the CLA team, however they returned home to their mother before the lead officer had a chance to visit them. During the 12-month reporting period, the Local Authority received 20 new notifications of children subject to private fostering arrangements. Of these new arrangements, 11 were foreign students who were studying at the local language school in Beckenham, Kings College. These private fostering arrangements typically last six months to give the young people the time to study their GCSE's before returning home, a few of these children turned 16 before they returned home and were no longer subject to private fostering arrangements. Of the other 10, three returned home before they were transferred to the CLA team and four are long-term cases which were transferred to the CLA or Family Placements Team depending on when the notifications were received.

As of 31st March 2016 there were nine children who were privately fostered in Bromley, Table 3 shows the breakdown in age.

(Table 3) **Age of Privately Fostered children in Bromley as of 31st March 2016**

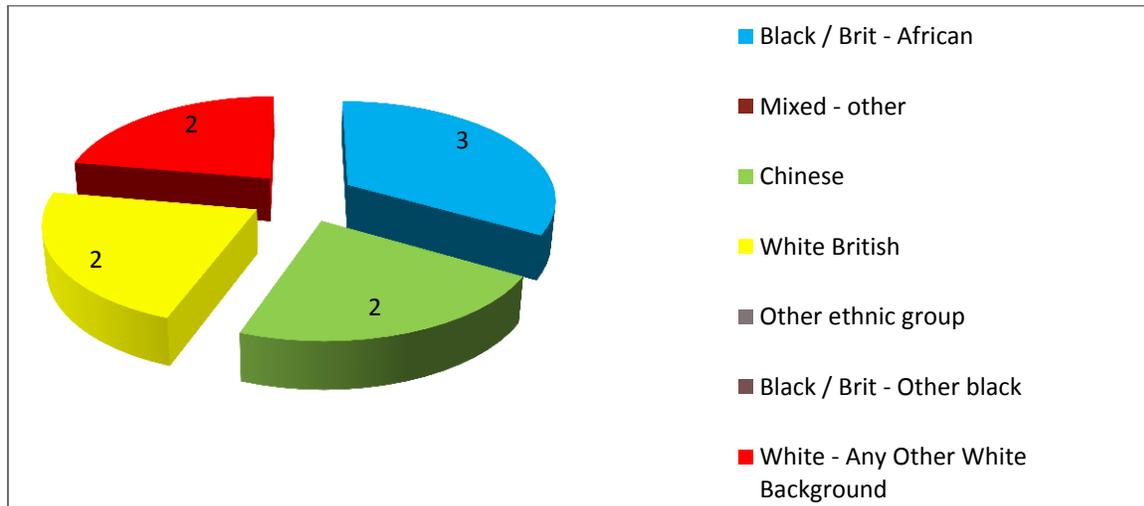


This table demonstrates that as of 31st March 2016, there were no children under 9 years old who were subject to private fostering arrangements, the number was quite evenly split however

between 13 years plus (typically foreign students) and aged 10-12 years. This is a difference from the year 2014/2015 where the proportion of younger children was much lower.

Ethnicity of Privately Fostered children as of 31st March 2016

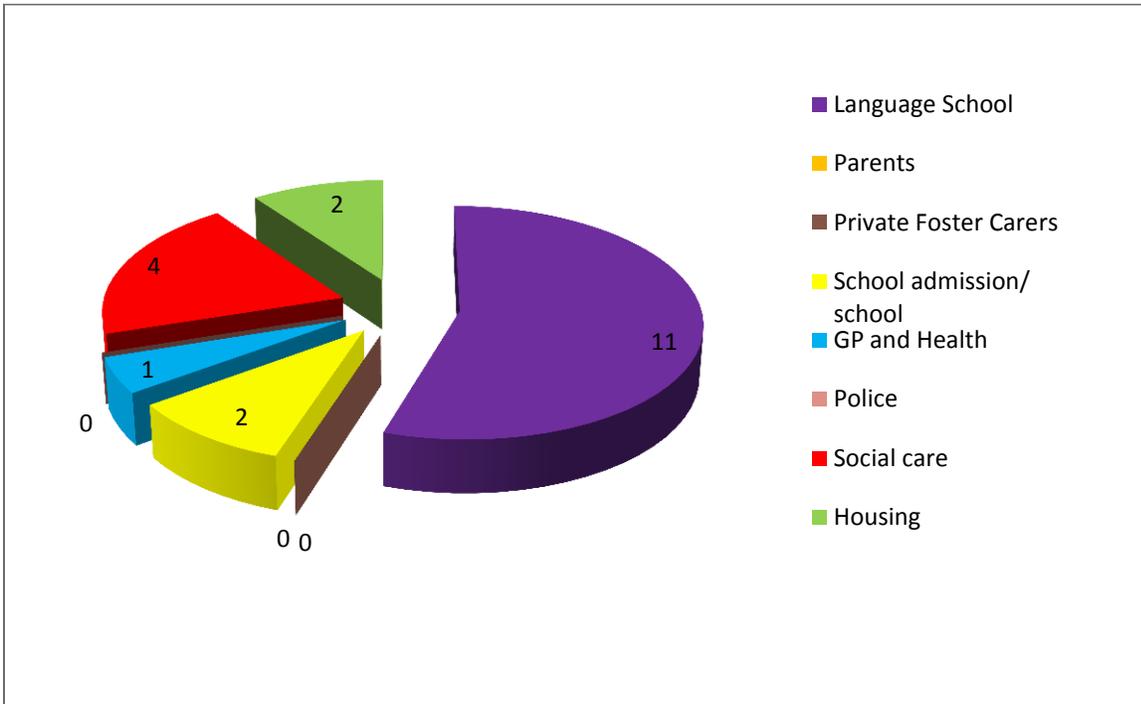
(Table 4)



It is clear from the chart above that there is a mix of children from different ethnicity's under private fostering arrangements as of 31st March 2016. In previous years, the number of children and young people from a Chinese background has been higher and due to foreign students, however the demographic has changed slightly and there are now children who are from more of a mix of age and ethnicity under private fostering arrangements. These changes in notifications, ages and ethnicity in my opinion demonstrates that the raising awareness campaigns run by the Lead officer have succeeded in informing professionals and members of the public about private fostering and what this is. The table below will detail the source of these notifications.

Source of Notification of Private Fostering Arrangements from 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

(Table 5)



The above chart shows that again over 50% of the notifications received were from language schools during the reporting period. However, there is a mix of sources for the other referrals that were received during this period which is more diverse than the previous reporting years.

There were four notifications from social care, this was a mix of other local authorities but mainly our own Safeguarding Teams who were working with a child who then went to live elsewhere and became subject to a private fostering arrangement.

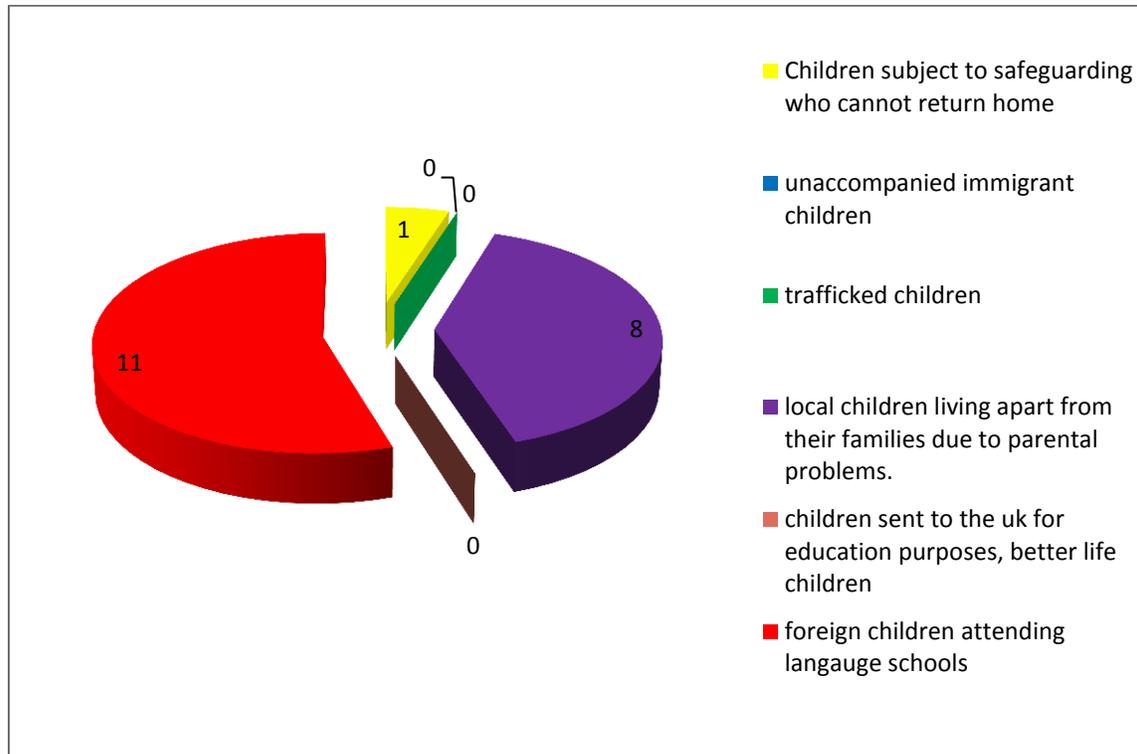
There were also two referrals from housing which is a very positive sign that the raising awareness campaign is having an impact on other professionals. There were also two referrals from schools when they became aware of a change in pupils circumstances.

There was also one referral from a health visitor, she was on a routine visit and noticed a child living with a family that she did not recognise and who was not part of the family and referred to social care.

The local authority's communication plan has taken into account the importance of the role of professionals in increasing notifications and it is clear that this is having an effect as the numbers of notifications from professionals has increased. This is something that the local authority will continue to build on and improve to raise even more awareness for private fostering.

Reasons for Private Fostering Arrangement – Reporting Period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

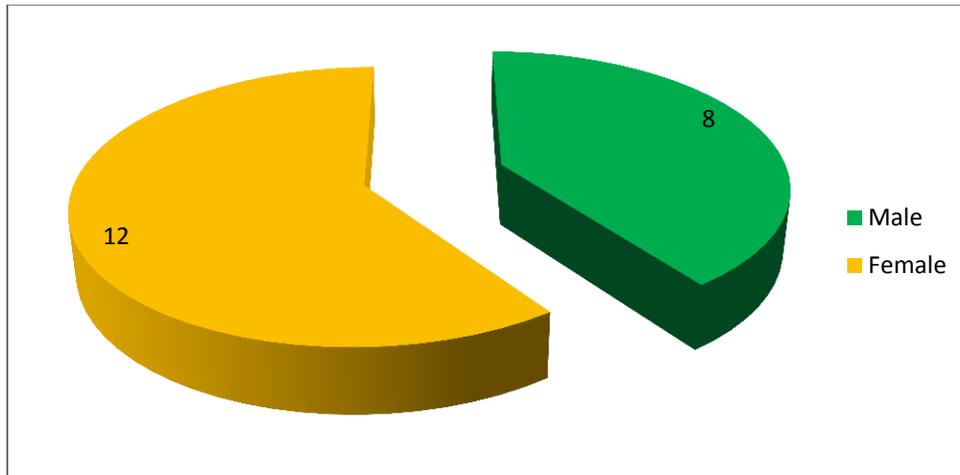
(Table 6)



The above pie chart shows that the majority of notifications we have received relate to children living in private fostering arrangements from language schools (11 in this reporting period). However, in this reporting year, 40% of the children we have been notified of live in this area and are living apart from their families for various reasons including, parental alcohol use, parents moving to work elsewhere and parental criminal and aggressive behaviour. Again, this shows an increasing shift in the demographics of our private fostering notifications which could indicate a wider breath of awareness across the borough and could be due to the raising awareness campaigns.

Privately Fostered Children by Gender – Reporting Period of Notifications 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016

(Table 7)



As last year, the majority of notifications of privately fostered children were female with 12 compared to 8 over the reporting period. Of these 20 notifications, there were nine private fostering arrangements as of 31st March 2016. Of these arrangements, five were boys and four were girls.

13. Ofsted Inspection

13.1 Ofsted examines the way in which local authorities undertake and perform their duties and responsibilities in relation to private fostering. This is measured against the NMS for private fostering and the Children (Private Arrangement for Fostering) Regulations 2005 and in accordance with the Ofsted single inspection framework which sets out the statutory basis for inspection and summarises the main features of inspections.

13.2 Bromley's children services were inspected in May 2016 and this included the private fostering Service. This is not within the reporting year that is covered in this report; however, the lead officer in private fostering met with the inspectors and discussed the hard work and progress that has been put into the service over the last two years. A separate update has been provided to the

Bromley Safeguarding Children's board to include updated work and OFSTED recommendations from the recent inspection.

13.3 The Lead Officer for private fostering in Bromley continues to work proactively to improve the quality and standards of care in relation to privately fostered children. The Lead Officer for private fostering jointly with the Referral and Assessment services has been proactively working towards addressing the requirements of NMS and the Private Fostering Regulation 2005 and within the framework for inspection of Local Authority Private Fostering Services. There have been a few cases in this reporting year where there have been queries over whether the standard of care has been good enough in a private fostering situation or whether there are safeguarding concerns.

An example of this was when a privately fostered child included on the Child In Need plan along with the other children living in the house. This helped to allow for more services to be open to her and for the social workers in the safeguarding team to include her in their assessment as a member of the family. Professionals from the family placements team and Safeguarding Team worked well together to enable the privately fostered child to be included in the family's child in need plan.

Another example was when two siblings under a private fostering arrangement were living with a family friend and at one point during the assessment by RAS, there were six children living in the two bedroom flat with the carer. Two of these children were looked after by a neighboring authority and were staying with this carer. The lead officer Susanna Reich and her manager Mark Edmonds felt this was not an appropriate placement due to the overcrowding and concerning circumstances and escalated this to the RAS Group manager where a meeting was held to discuss the safeguarding concerns held. The two other children from the neighboring authority had left the family and after discussion, this was then transferred to the Family Placements team.

Another example was where a privately fostered child (held in the CLA team) returned home to her mother and therefore ceased to be private fostering, however as there were safeguarding concerns at home this was re-referred back to the RAS team for an assessment.

One last example was when a child subject to a CP plan and open to the safeguarding team went to live with a family friend and was therefore under a private fostering arrangement. However, as he was still subject to the CP plan he remained in the care of the Safeguarding team who were then

responsible to complete the private fostering visit records. This was evidence of effective team work between the private fostering service and the safeguarding team to ensure that standards of care were maintained and the child was safeguarded.

14. Progress Report on Action Plan 2014/15

14.1 The action plan outlined in the Annual Report 2014/2015 has on the whole been successfully implemented with a few outstanding tasks. There is an up to date action plan with a number of additional tasks and it is expected that all timescales should be met. Due to changes in staff, the task of developing ongoing policy has not been fully realised. This will be part of the Action plan for 2015/2016 to be developed.

15. Action Plan for 2016/2017

1. The Local Authority's Statement of Purpose in relation to private fostering continues to be reviewed annually.
2. There will be well-coordinated raising awareness activities in July 2016 as outlined in the Communication Plan. The lead officer for private fostering will monitor the effectiveness of raising awareness and report to management of its outcomes or any difficulties.
3. The lead office for private fostering will review the NMS-Rolling plan for the reporting year 2016-2017 by October 2016 to ensure that we remain in line with National Minimum Standards.
4. The lead officer for private fostering will continue to review the Local Authority's Communications Plan in relation to raising awareness about private fostering in line with the OFSTED recommendations and good practice undertaken by other Local Authorities.
5. The lead officer will continue to work with language schools and agencies providing host families for overseas students attending language school, to ensure they fully brief their host families on both their responsibilities and those of the local authority's in relation to the assessment and most importantly the on-going monitoring of such arrangements.
6. The lead officer for private fostering will continue to provide appropriate training for children workforce practitioners and partner agencies by working jointly with the Referral and Assessment Team, Learning and Development Team and Business Manager for BSCB.
7. The lead Officer for private fostering will continue to attend the Private Fostering Specialist Interest Group (PFSIG) run by CORAMBAAF and use this as mechanism to disseminate any lessons

learnt or share examples of best practice from other Local Authorities.

8. The lead officer for private fostering will ensure that leaflets/information for privately fostered children and their parents and carers are translated into different languages, which may include Cantonese and Mandarin. The lead officer for private fostering worked on this last year and is prepared to provide translated information if necessary. The young people who have originated from abroad to study English have in 2015-2016 spoken very good English and providing paperwork for them in their own language has not often been necessary. I have also found that the school have very good relationships with the parents and speak to them often; this can be used as another base for further communication if necessary. The number of "local" children who are subject to private fostering arrangements in the reporting year has increased and therefore we may see a further change in the demographics of children who are privately fostered in Bromley.
9. The lead officer for private fostering to continue liaising with the local authorities website, My Life and Twitter administrators as well as the corporate communication department to ensure that the service supports raising awareness of Private Fostering through their social media during Annual National Private Fostering Week in July.
10. The lead officer for private fostering should continue to ensure that privately fostered children, their parents and carers are able express their views about the services they have received and use the feedback forms to bring about service change and development.
11. The lead officer for private fostering will continue to work with the social workers in Referral and Assessment to provide advice on complex private fostering cases as required.
12. The lead officer will ensure that privately fostered children who do not have an adult who holds parental responsibility for them will be assessed to ascertain the best outcome for their situation.
13. The lead officer will ensure that all DBS certificates for private foster carers and their children over 16 years old are up to date and clear.
14. The lead officer for private fostering will continue to work with the Business Manager for Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) in regards to raising awareness about private fostering in Bromley.
15. The Lead office for private fostering to continue liaising with Bromley's Schools Principal Admissions Officer to ensure that completed forms are checked for potential private fostering arrangements. The lead officer has found the admissions team difficult to liaise with and this will need to be readdressed.

16. The lead officer for private fostering to ensure that privately fostered young people who turn sixteen will be referred to the 16plus Service for support and advice following discharge from private fostering service if required.

17. The Lead Officer for private fostering was tasked to work with the Children's Performance Improvement Officer and Referral and Assessment to complete a review of policies and procedures in regards to Private Fostering, this was not completed by December 2015 as intended. The new lead officer in private fostering, Susanna Reich took over in January 2016 and has attempted to look at further policy, however the Performance Improvement Officer has left the borough and it has been difficult to identify, who has taken this role on. This will become an urgent task for 2016 and will be re addressed as soon as possible.