NAFP

NATIONWIDE ASSOCIATION OF FOSTERING PROVIDERS

Is sufficiency of placements a problem? Why? What can we do about it?

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Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers

NAFP is the not-for-profit organisation that has been campaigning on behalf of independent fostering agencies, and the children for whom they care, since 2008

Our members care for around 95% of children living with IFA carers across England, Scotland and Wales

Language and terminology

- Language is powerful and important
- Reflect on why we use the language we do
- Understand the implications of that language
- Make informed decisions based on a set of principles
- Dependent upon the context

a child is not a placement

How do we know sufficiency is a problem?

Do we mean that we…

‘can't find the foster carer a child needs, when they need it, where they need it’?

Can we find 10,000 new foster carers?

Foster carers with no income

Data difficult to interpret; recording, approved places, vacancies

Challenge of different needs being met in same foster carer home (*placing alongside*)

Timing is everything (but money helps)

- Backdrop of significant funding pressures
- A social care system where culture and politics collide
- Fire-fighting
- Many children already known to the local authority and other agencies
- Short time horizon for finding a foster carer for a child

Other overlapping issues that add complexity

- Quality of referral information; involving past foster carers
- Local foster carers
- Limited collaboration across geographical boundaries
- Children's home or foster care? Is a family setting always best? Step down/across/transition?
- Choice for young person

Can we find any solutions?

- Role of retainers for foster carers
- Better use of what we have is possible
- Right carer for the right child; relationships
- Relative importance of local in meeting a child’s needs
- Information management
- Cooperation/collaboration across geographies and agencies

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