



FOSTERING
IN OXFORDSHIRE

Fostering Service Private Fostering Development Plan

**Working
together
to change
Lives...**

Updated July 2019



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Oxfordshire County Councils Private Fostering Development Plan for 2019-2020.

Introduction

This development plan has been devised in June 2019 by the Senior Practitioner of Private Fostering, Kerry Chrisp.

The plan outlines the Local Authorities plans for development and raising awareness from June 2019- June 2020.

It is a legal requirement for each local authority to outline its plans for development and raising awareness.

This plan has been seen by the Team Manager and Service Manager for Fostering within Oxfordshire County Council.

Development Plan

Recommendations	Actions	Outcomes
Raising awareness of private fostering in social work professionals at the earliest opportunity.	(March 2019) Contacted Jill Childs who is Oxford Brookes Principle Lecturer and Programme Lead for Social to work to request giving talks to undergrads and post graduate students.	Ongoing conversations with the University about giving talks starting in January 2020.
Raising awareness of private fostering in social work professionals at the earliest opportunity.	(March 2019) Arranged to give talk to all new Academy cohorts along with Sarah Hart from City Fostering Team.	The first talk on Private Fostering will be given on 16th July 2019 by Kerry Chrisp. This will continue to be something that we do.
Continue to raise awareness to professionals in Oxfordshire	(April 2019) OSCB Safeguarding Training doesn't currently include private fostering. Contact made with Gay Suggitt (Training Co-ordinator for OSCB) to get this included	Kerry Chrisp attending a Trainer Development Meeting to discuss private fostering with OSCB professionals and include it to their safeguarding training on 19 th June 2019).
Continue to raise awareness in Schools targeting the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Leads)	(April 2019) Arranged to attend DSL Conference at Kassam Stadium. DLS from all over Oxfordshire attend	Kerry Chrisp will be attending the Conference on 10 th July 2019 to deliver a presentation on private fostering.

	<p>this conference so it's a good opportunity to reach various locations in a short amount of time.</p>	
<p>Raise awareness in specialised Schools in Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>Meadow Brook college is an all-through Alternative Provision Academy working with some of Oxfordshire's most vulnerable children. Recently we have had a young person in PF arrangement attend this school. Correspondence was sent out to request attending one of their team meetings.</p>	<p>Corresponding with Jo Robinson, Assistant Head Teacher.</p>
<p>Improve the consistency and process of Foreign Language Schools referrals and notifications.</p>	<p>(January 2019) Arranged to attend the Language School Forum in County Hall organised by Donna Crozier (LADO)</p> <p>June 2019 – Updated policy for Foreign Language Schools to talk about at Forum</p>	<p>Kerry Chrisp will attend the forum on 19th June 2019.</p>
<p>Review and improve current notification form used to inform the Local Authority of a private fostering arrangement.</p>	<p>Review the form to include more information.</p>	<p>Review and Improved, upload onto the OCC website</p>
<p>Ensure information is up to date and accurate with regards who to contact in private fostering.</p>	<p>Update all OCC and OSCB information on Private Fostering professionals. This has changed from Katie Holmes (Senior Practitioner) to Kerry Chrisp and from Stephanie Danso (Social Worker) to Debra White.</p>	<p>March 2019 – new PF notification form uploaded to the intranet and OSCB in the process of changing information on their website.</p>
<p>Always ensure that the wishes of birth parents are sought and recorded. (case note on each child with parents' wishes)</p>	<p>This is an ongoing target, it is very important that the views of parents are sought and recorded.</p> <p>For foreign language school student this isn't always achievable.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Recorded within the Private Fostering Assessment or in case notes if views are not gained within assessment timeframe.</p>

	<p>However, we will always send a letter in the parent's native language via email or post informing them of our involvement and offer contact details for them to express their views if they wish too.</p>	
<p>Raise Awareness by offering to attend team meetings within Oxfordshire County Council.</p>	<p>Correspondence sent via email to the following teams- information provided and offer to attend team meetings to share information.</p>	<p>The following Teams have been sent emails to request attendance at their team meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Kingfisher Team ✓ CAFAT North ✓ CAFAT City ✓ CAFAT South ✓ Family Solutions City ✓ Family Solutions North ✓ Family Solutions South ✓ Early Help North ✓ Early Help City ✓ Early Help South ✓ Disability Team North ✓ Disability Team City ✓ Disability Team South ✓ LCSS North ✓ LCSS City ✓ LCSS South

<p>CoramBAAF used to hold Specialist Interest Groups. This was an opportunity for private fostering professionals nationwide to meet and discuss themes and topics relating to private fostering as well as seek guidance on individual cases and issues. This was a valuable resource which has unfortunately been cut from CoramBAFF so is no longer being facilitated. Oxfordshire County Council feel the benefits of such a group is of value and will seek to continued communication with other professionals in differing local authorities.</p>	<p>Contact information has been shared with various professionals in neighbouring local authorities. We will look at continued meetings quarterly alternatively hosted in each local authority.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>CoramBAAF used to run Private Fostering Week, however they are no longer doing so. A dedicated week to private fostering is important so we will seek to continue to do this without the additional support.</p>	<p>Meet with Maria White who is the Fostering Marketing and Recruitment Manager for mainstream fostering to look at ideas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Look at strengthening private fostering assessments and direct work with children and young people, particularly where there is a higher need for targeted work.</p>	<p>Oxfordshire County Council use outcome stars as part of their assessment framework. Consideration to using these within private fostering.</p>	<p>Kerry Chrisp has attended the Outcome Star Training on 20/05/2019. We will now start to incorporate these to one to one work and where appropriate to the private fostering assessments. This will not be standardised for every assessment as it may not be appropriate for all, however beneficial for some cases, particularly UK cases where reunification home work is happening.</p>
<p>Increase the level of checks for private foster</p>	<p>Kerry Chrisp has been in contact with Delia Mann</p>	<p>Current on-going conversations with heads</p>

carers. In some cases, it has been felt that a PNC is needed due to the amount of time a DBS can take to return. Thames Valley Police have not granted the Private Fostering Team to do this previously, however it felt important.	(Head of Service, Family Solutions) to discuss this.	of departments about private fostering being able to request these checks.
Raise Awareness with Thames Valley Police. Police officers are likely to come into contact with children and young people in private fostering arrangements.	Make contact with local policy stations and request attendance at their team meetings to talk about private fostering.	Ongoing.

Reviewing this plan

The development plan will be routinely consulted within the day to day work of the private fostering team and may be added to throughout the year.

This development plan will be reviewed in June 2020 by the Private Fostering Senior Practitioner to review if actions were carried out, and how effective those actions might have been.

A new Development plan will also be devised in June 2020 with new recommendations and actions.

This plan will also be review at quarterly review meetings with the Private Fostering Team, the Fostering Team Manager and Service Manager.

For more information

Please see the private fostering information section on Oxfordshire County council's website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering/information-foster-carers/private-arrangements>

If you have any questions about the Private Fostering Development Plan or Private Fostering in general, please contact the following professionals:

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