

# Placement Stability Measures

Those children and young people who have had 3 or more placements

Those young people who have been in care for more than two and a half years who have been in the same placement for two years or more.

# Children and young people with 3 or more placements

63 children and young people were listed in September 2019 as having had 3 or more placements .

- Teenagers – 24 young people listed are aged 13 and over. 9 of these young people had experiences of long term foster care (over 2 years in same placement) and once this placement disrupted we were unable to resettle.
- 19 /63 children listed as having had 3+ placements were babies and children under 5 years old .
- There were 6 examples of the court ordering parent / child placements which broke down .
- 5 placements in foster care disrupted as a result of allegations against the foster carer the majority of which were later found to be unsubstantiated.

# Continued

- Older children – 4 examples of short breaks to cover carer holidays that count as placements and take child to 3+
- A number of older children experienced 3 plus placements because of the difficulty in identifying placements when they entered care

# Children and young people in care for more than 2.5 years who have NOT been in their placement for 2 years or more

- In November 2019 there were 402 children in our care and of these 182 children have been in care for more than 2.5 years, 45%.
- Of the 182 children **61** children have not been in placement for 2 years or more, ie 33% of those who have been in care for more than 2.5 years.

# 61 children

- 11 young people are aged 16/17 and have moved to some form of supported accommodation which for some is a positive move.
- 2 children have stepped down from residential to foster care because of the positive progress they have made.
- 14 young people have moved from foster care to residential care. This is a group of adolescents with complex needs presenting behaviours that foster carers have found to be too difficult to manage. The majority have had multiple foster placements which have disrupted.
- 13 children and young people have experienced changes of foster placement but remain in foster care.

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- 1 young person has experienced foster care, residential care, secure accommodation and is currently in custody.
- 1 young person has experienced multiple foster placements, residential care, secure accommodation and is currently in hospital.

# Learning from Disruption

- Disruption meetings are held whenever a long term matched foster placement disrupts. In 2019 12 cases were referred and disruption meetings held for 8 cases.

## Key themes

- \* 3 out of 8 disruptions were independent agency placements
- In house foster placements – case audits identified praise for the support of a SSW in one case and identified a lack of support in another case. No consistent theme.

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- Identifying appropriate long term placements for young people has been compromised by the shortage of foster carers with the skills to manage adolescents
- The impact of changes of SSW was identified as having contributed to disruption and in 5 cases children had also experienced a change of social worker in the 12 months prior to placement breakdown. In 2 of the 5 cases children had also experienced a change of IRO.
- Revive support – Revive was involved in 4 out of the 8 cases but in some of these there was lack of engagement by foster carers and a delay in asking for support, waiting until the placement reached crisis point. Delay in referring to Revive was in part also due to changes of SSW and SW .



- Pathway planning – 3 out of the 8 cases were out of timescale for pathway assessment
- Provision of short breaks – a number of cases identified that short breaks would have been helpful to carers either to sustain placements or to enable a planned rather than emergency move.

# Conclusion and Actions

- Impact of increased number of babies and very young children coming into care
- tracking unborns
- Pre – birth offer
- FFA and concurrency
- Development of a pre-birth assessment tool
- Early family finding

# Maintaining Adolescent Placements

- Review of Revive
- Develop support hub
- Prioritise long term matching cases
- Independence training for young people
- Clarify IFA support