



**The  
Fostering  
Network**

# Practice Support to Fostering Services

Maria Chase Practice Support Consultant

The Fostering Network Regional Conference

Yorkshire and Humber

5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## Presentation Overview

- Work of Practice Support Team (PST)
- Role of regional consultant
- Up to date issues in your region
- Our current work and plans to support your practice
- Other sources of support

## **PST – Who Are We?**

**NORTH EAST**

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Support Services Administrator**

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## Our Aim

Our central aim is to promote good practice in fostering, ensuring that children and young people benefit from foster care, that they have a voice and are able to reach their full potential.

## What do we do?

- Promote good practice
- Facilitate regional forums
- Represent member views
- Contribute to sector practice developments
- Update members on the work of The Fostering Network
- Develop training and consultancy
- Act as a source of advice, information and support for organisational members



**What topics would you expect to be in the top five that fostering service staff ask us about?**



# Top five topics for enquiries to PST across England

- Family and friends carers/connected persons
- Approval and assessment of foster carers
- Legislation, regulations and guidance
- Fostering Panels
- Record keeping

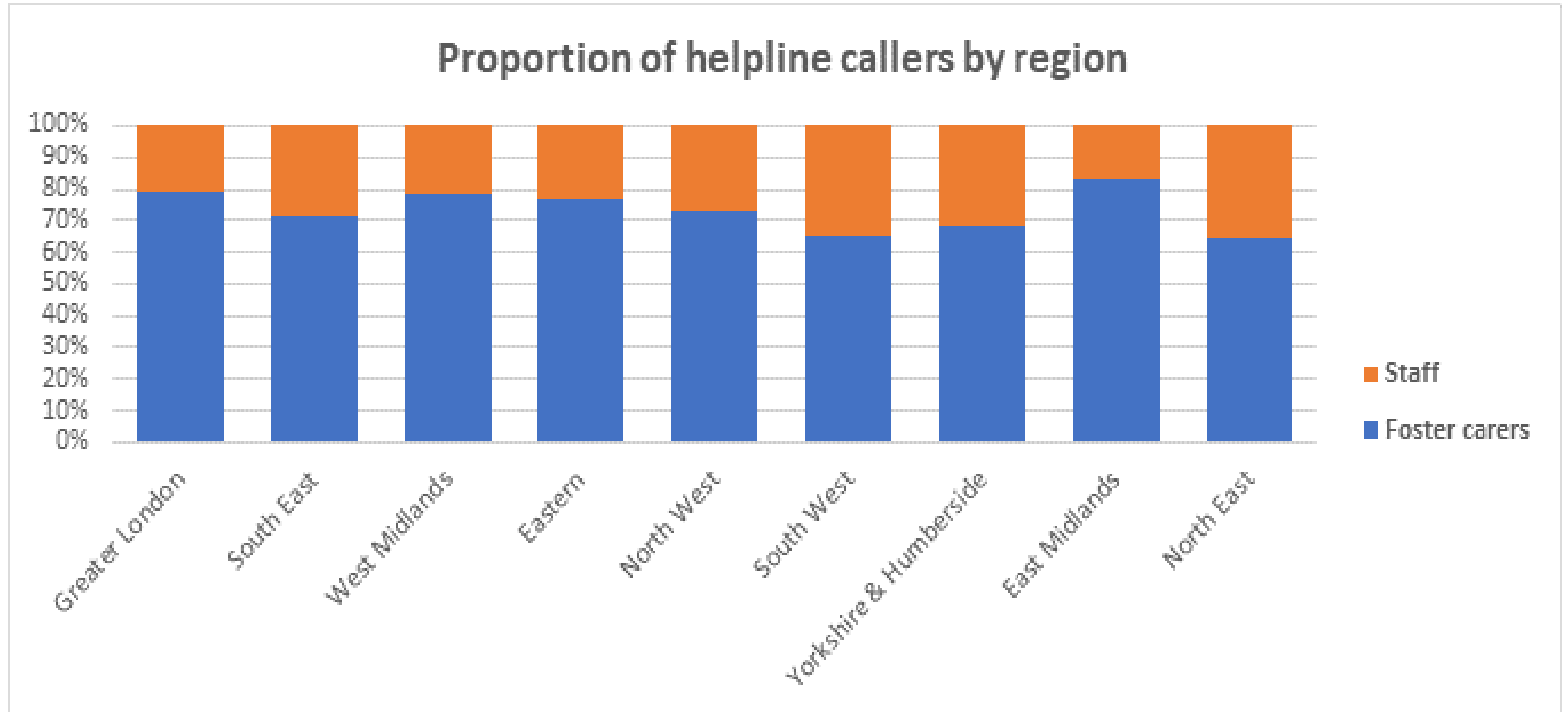


## Top five members' helpline topics over the last year

### 3260 helpline enquires (1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2019)

- Financial issues – 744 = 23%
- Review of approval -332 = 10%
- Allegations and standard of care concerns – 221 = 7%
- Legislation - 110 = 3%
- Disruption of placement – 103 = 3%

# Total helpline calls by region



## Top five practice issues raised by fostering service members in the Y and H Region

- Assessment & Approval
- Family and friends carers/connected persons
- Checks and references
- Other arrangements
- Fostering Panels

Followed by . . . .

- The Transfer process
- Finance
- Annual Reviews

## What does this information tells us?

- Type of enquirer
- Understanding of the legislation
- Time and resources
- Confidence in practice

## Practice enquiries – what do we know?

Discuss the practice enquiries on your table with others and agree your answers



## Your feedback

- *‘Really useful to talk this through’*
- *‘Thanks for this – it really helped in making the decision’*
- *‘Really appreciate this update – I will share with colleagues’*
- *‘We will be using this information in our thinking’*

## **Practice Forums in Yorkshire and Humber**

### **We directly facilitate:**

- IFP Forum
- IFP Practice Development Group
- Independent Foster Panel Chairs Forum
- LA Connected Persons Managers Forum
- LA Fostering Managers Forum

## Representation

We consult with you and represent your views to a range of key national steering groups as well as organisations such as the Department for Education and Ofsted.

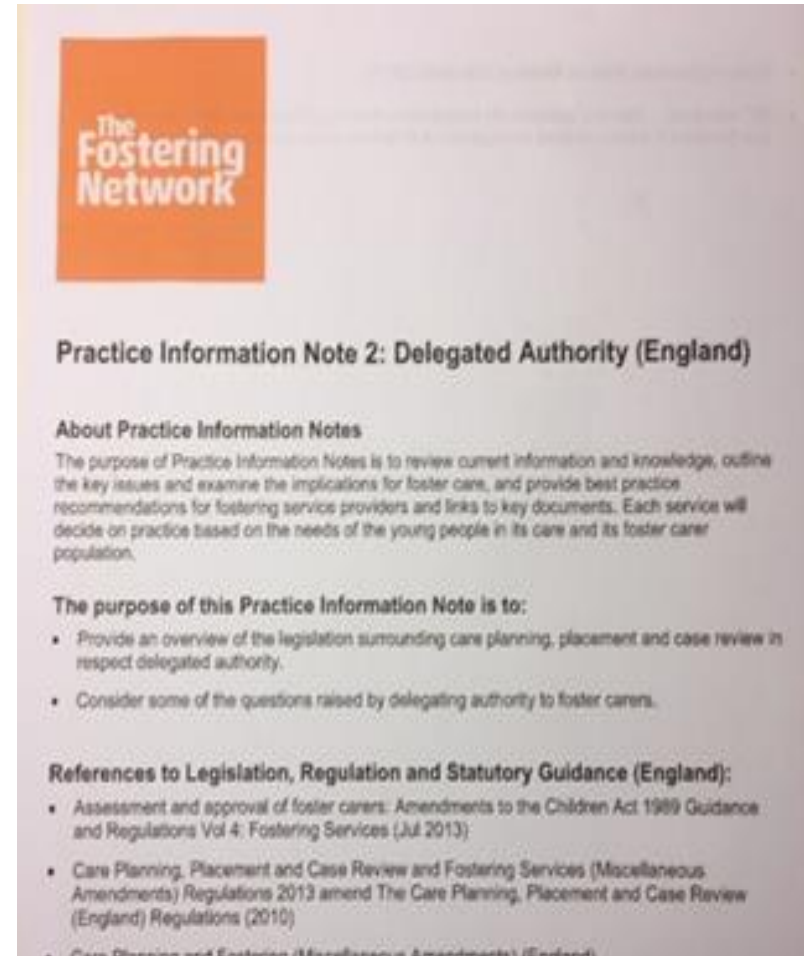




# Practice Information

We produce Practice Information Notes (PINs) on topics such as:

- Exemptions
- Family and Friends Carers
- Foster Carer Reviews
- Delegated Authority
- Smoking and e cigarettes

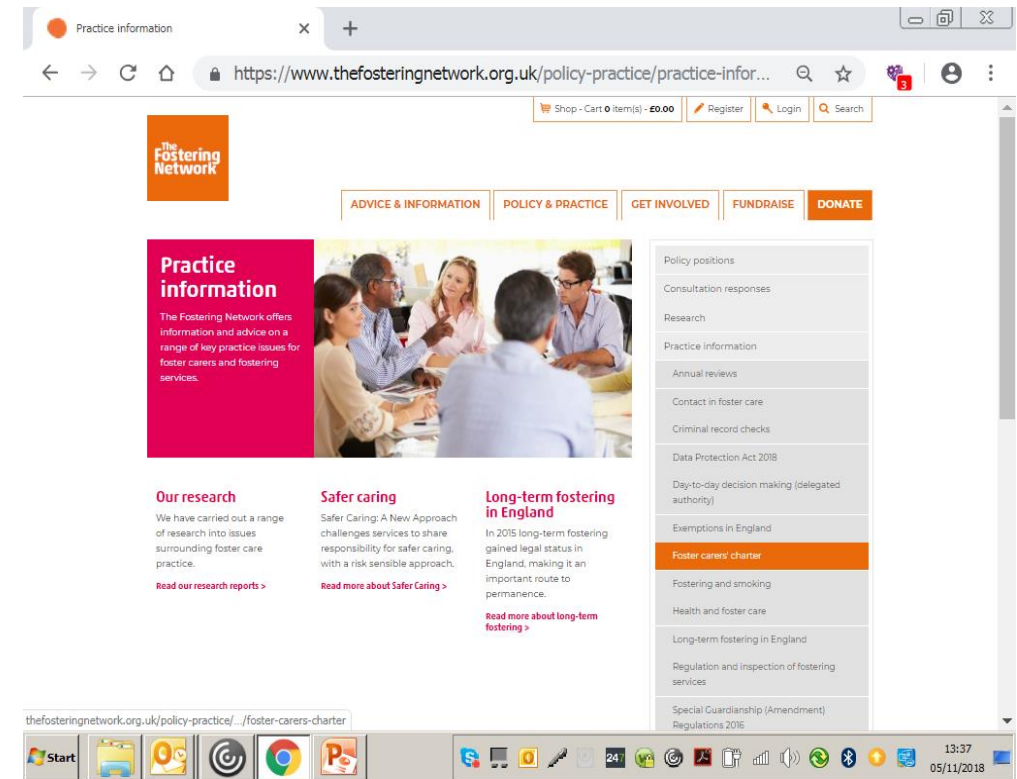


# Webpage development

We write practice information on our website for our members and are committed to adding to this content over time.

- Gaps?
- Ideas for new topic areas?

Let us know and we will consider these as part of our programme of development.



## Our message

- There are different but overlapping concerns between staff and foster carer members
- A greater understanding of regulations, guidance and good practice can help to develop better support to foster carers, and have a positive impact on work with young people
- Working together can achieve this

## Contact details

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**Fiona MacNeil:** Membership Officer – Yorkshire and Humber region

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**Thank you**

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