



**The
Fostering
Network**

Practice Support to Fostering Services

Keith Miller

Practice Support Consultant

The Fostering Network Regional Conference

North East

19th September 2019

Presentation Overview

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

PST – WHO ARE WE?

NORTH EAST

keith.miller@fostering.net

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

maria.chase@fostering.net

NORTH WEST

judy.bell@fostering.net

MIDLANDS

sab.jagpal@fostering.net

LONDON & EAST

joanna.adande@fostering.net

LONDON & SOUTH EAST

diane.heath@fostering.net

SOUTH WEST

kim.harris@fostering.net

**Practice Support Team Manager
Support Services Administrator**

helen.keaney@fostering.net
angela.sinclair@fostering.net

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?



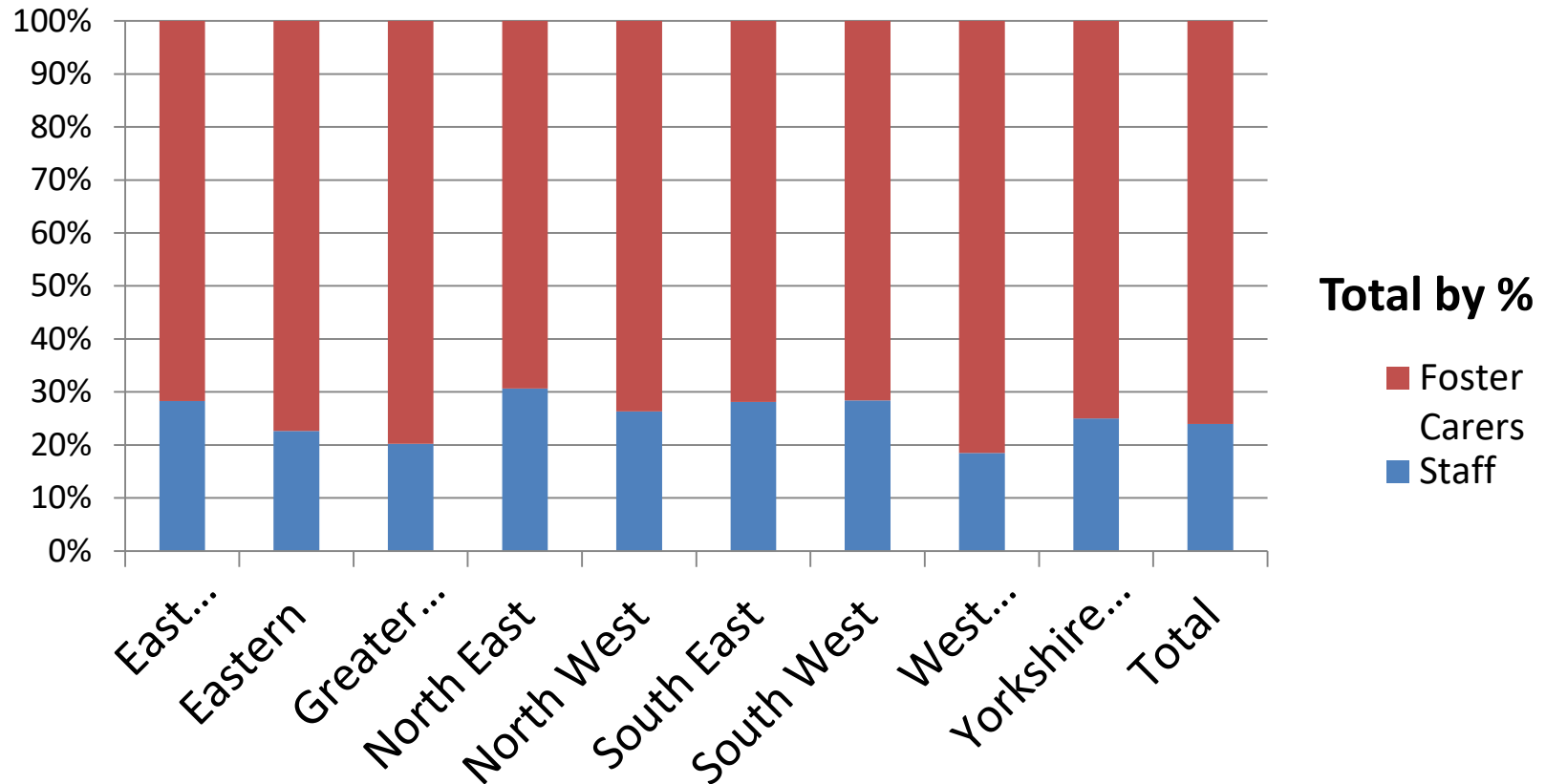
Top five topics for enquiries to PST across England

- 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

- Financial – tax, national insurance, benefits
- Allegations and standard of care concerns
- Review of approval
- Assessment process
- Disruption of placement

Total helpline calls by region



**What do you think are the
Top 5 practice issues raised by fostering
service members in the North East region?**

Top five practice issues raised by fostering service members in the North East region

- Assessment and Approval of foster carers
- Care Planning/Placement Planning
- Health and Safety – including adult health issues
- Family and Friends Care
- Allegations and Standards of Care

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’*
- *‘Your views are really welcomed’*
- *‘Really appreciate this update – it makes clearer what we can advise the applicant’*
- *‘We will be using this information in our thinking’*



Practice Forums in the North East

We directly facilitate:

- North East Independent Fostering Providers Forum
- North East Fostering Panel Chairs Forum
- North East Connected Persons Forum

We attend and provide information to:

- North East Local Authority Fostering Team Managers Meeting

Representation

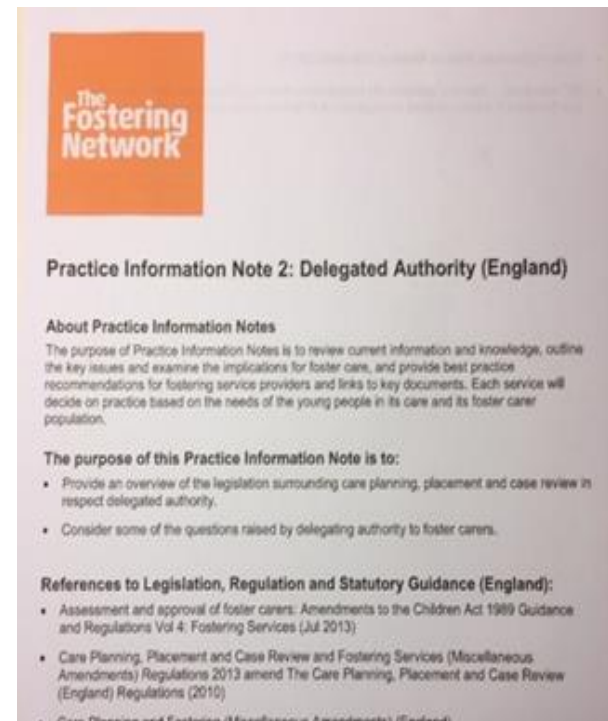
We consult with you and represent your views to a range of key national steering groups as well as organisations such as the Department for Education and Ofsted.



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

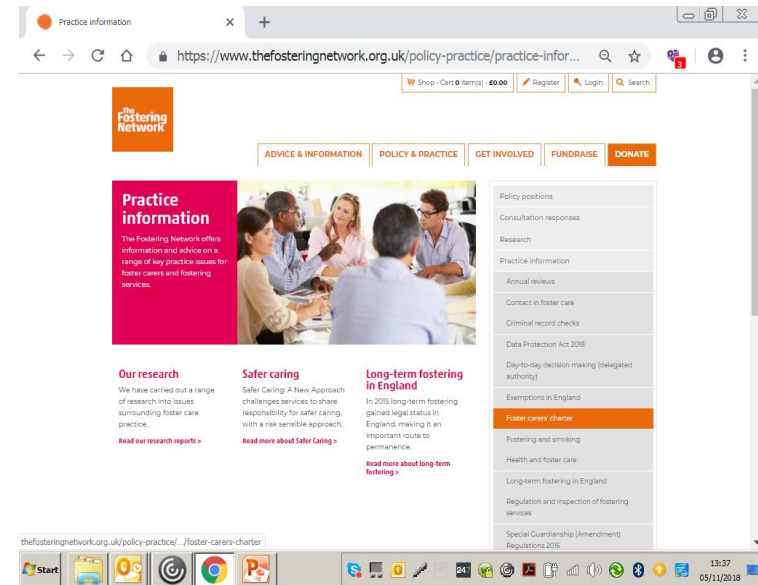


Webpage development

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.



Networking for Best Practice

- Clear focus on improving outcomes for children and young people who are looked after in foster care
- Sharing of knowledge, innovative practice and what works
- Reflecting on our roles as foster carers, social workers, support workers and managers of services

Contact details

Keith Miller: Practice Support Consultant – North East region

Keith.Miller@fostering.net Telephone 07511 900416

Member Helpline: 0207 401 9582 - Email: info@fostering.net

Fiona MacNeil: Membership Officer - North

Fiona.Macneil@fostering.net Telephone 07712 526750



Thank you

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