



**The
Fostering
Network**

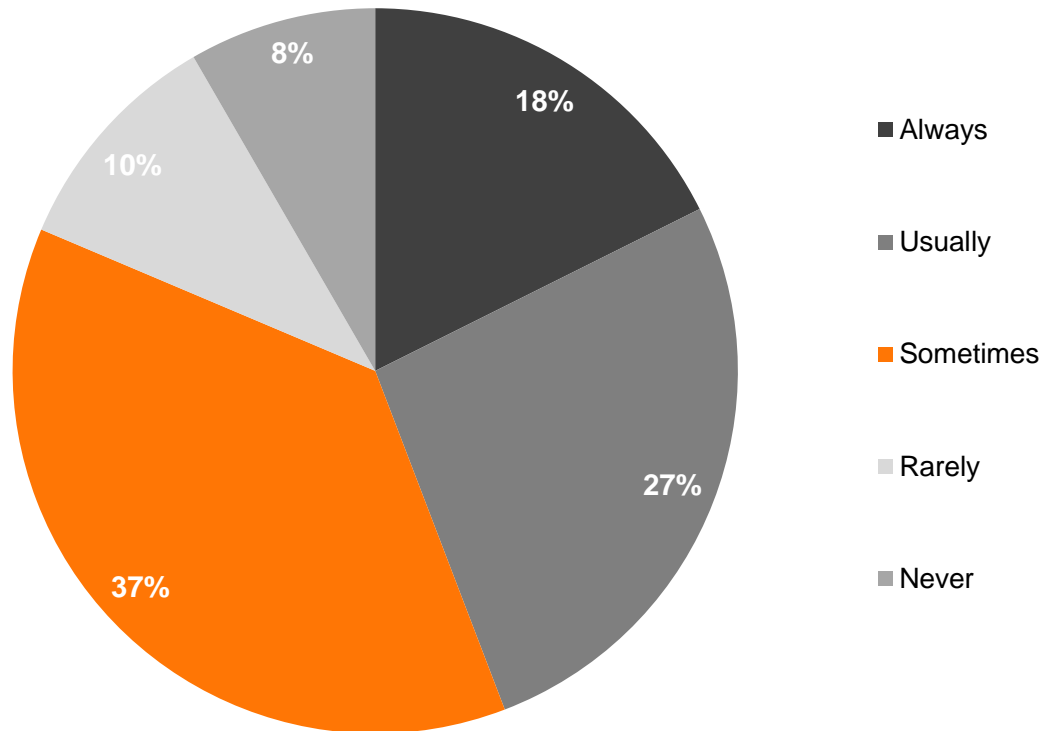
Relationships – golden thread

“Quality of a child’s relationships is the lens through which we should view what we do and plan to do.”

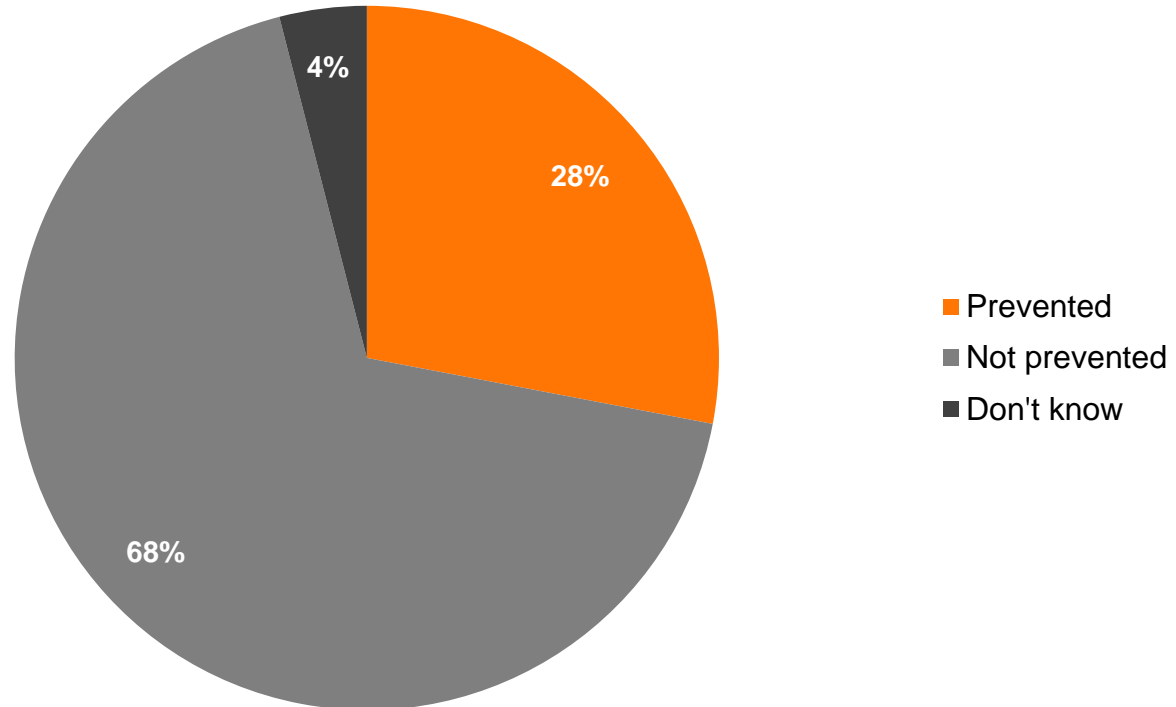
Care Inquiry Report

“In a world of shifting family relationships in which children increasingly grow up with a wide range of connections that are seen as normal we need to take stock of why our approach to children in care is different. Why do we persist in breaking children’s old relationships when we introduce them to future carers, despite knowing that so many children who do not happen to be in care manage to negotiate complex family relationships as they grow up.”

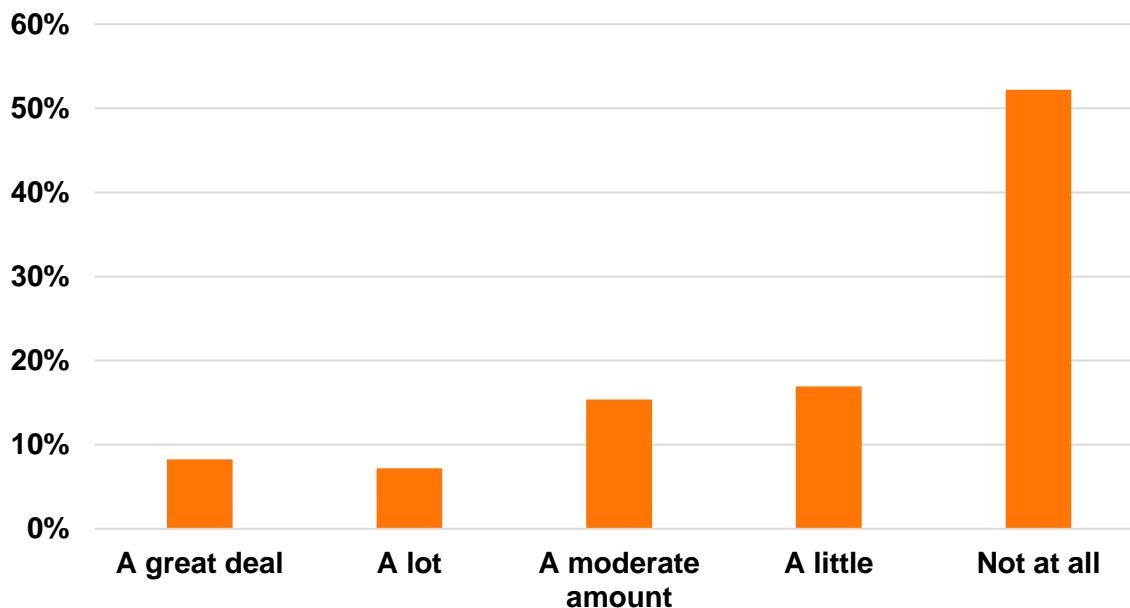
Do you keep in contact with former foster children?



Have you ever been prevented from having contact with a former foster child?



How supported do you feel in maintaining contact with former fostered children, where appropriate?



Who is preventing contact?

LA/fostering service/social workers	52%
Adopters	18%
Birth family inc. parents	12%
Foster carers	6%
Other	12%

It's very tricky to keep the balance of not looking too needy to see the children who have been adopted judged by FSW and as there are no guidelines to how much or how little contact you should have with adopted children I feel it's best to keep my feeling to myself at this point, so therefore I tend to be guided by the adoptive parents .

It is very important that if possible to maintain the relationship with the former foster child. As we might be the only secure base he has to rely on.

I've had to walk a very fine line between being supportive and not arousing the chagrin of the authority who I still foster for.

I foster babies so form very close bonds and attachments. If I didn't keep in touch I feel the baby/child will feel abandoned. I understand it is more problematic when children return home but I'm lucky I have managed to get on well with parents.

I feel the children we have looked after have been through so much already and to lose another attached person in their lives is scandalous.

I have been a massive part of many children's lives & it should be only them who decide if they want a complete break. At times I have felt it was cruel.

It's difficult for adopters to feel confident enough to allow those relationships to continue. They need more support.

Keep Connected Campaign

Children and young people who move within and out of the care system are enabled to maintain their relationships with their former foster families and other people who are significant to them.

Principles

To shape how transitions from and within the care system are approached across the UK.

Promote greater understanding, planning and support.

Thank you

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