

Foster Care in England

The following statistics have been taken from Ofsted's State of the Nation Report December 2015

In order to answer the following questions you must get on your feet.

I will read out a statement and you must walk to either the arrow pointing upwards (indicating a higher number), or over to the arrow pointing downwards (indicating a lower number).

1. Number of children in foster care throughout 2014-2015 compared to the previous year. Was this higher or lower?
(answer is higher by 2% 85,890 children and young people)
2. Number of fostering households in 2014-2015 compared to the previous year. Was this higher or lower?
(answer is lower by 1% 36,890)
3. Number of young people living with their foster carer after their 18th birthday compared to the previous year. Was this higher or lower?
(answer is higher by 2% 1,790)
4. Number of disabled children placed in foster care compared to the previous year. Was this higher or lower?
(answer is higher by 3% 5,720)
5. Number of siblings placed together who were assessed to be placed together compared to the previous year?
(answer is higher by 5% 8,635)
6. The number of incidents of physical restraints compared to the previous year?
(answer is lower by 17% 1,025)
7. Number of children reported as going missing compared to the previous year?

(answer is higher by 19%)

8. The number of children in foster care with no educational arrangements or persistently absent from school compared to the previous year?

(answer is higher by 1%)

9. The number of **long-term** fostering households compared to the previous year?

(answer is lower by 1% 36,890)

Fostering and adoption teams in Lancashire have begun to work with LINX in order to involve the voice of the child in their future planning. In October 6 members of LINX met with panelists from fostering and adoption to talk about young people's participation in assessing and reviewing carers.

Can you suggest ways young people may get involved in improving outcomes for children and young people being cared for by adults other than their birth parents?

Some ideas we have been working on include:

- LINX Young Inspectors
- LINX Young people visiting foster carer support forums
- LINX's questions being asked at panel
- LINX member sitting on the panels
- LINX members sitting on interview panels for social workers entering foster and adoption
- LINX delivering training for carers
- LINX reviewing forms used by children and young people living in foster homes

See the ideas below are rate them: