

**Report to the Children, Young  
People, Families and Learning  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Commission**

17 November 2025

**Wards:** All

**Private Fostering Annual Report**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Report Status:**

This item is not exempt

[Click here to select grounds for exemption](#)

This is a non-key decision.

**1. Purpose of the Report and Summary**

- 1.1 This annual report gives an overview of activities in relation to privately fostered children in Hull from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31st March 2025. The report details how Hull City Council has complied with its duties and functions in relation to private fostering and includes how the welfare of privately fostered children has been safeguarded and promoted over the past 12 months. The report also outlines the activities which have been undertaken to promote awareness of the notification requirements regarding children who are living in private fostering arrangements.
- 1.2 In Hull over the past year, we have continued to promote local understanding and awareness of private fostering and sought to improve how we meet the needs of the children and young people concerned. This includes using audit to review our own performance and to identify if improvements are needed.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Private Fostering Regulations apply when children or young people, aged under 16 years (18 if they have a disability) live with a person who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. The term 'close relative' has a specific definition within the legislation it includes grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles, and aunts (whether of the full or half blood or by marriage) and stepparents. Children living with people who are not close relatives, such as a cousin, great aunt or family friend need to be assessed and reviewed under the Private Fostering Regulations to ensure the placement is able to safeguard and promote his/her welfare.
- 2.2 Following the Laming Report in 2003 into the death of Victoria Climbié (who was privately fostered by her Great Aunt at the time of her death), regulations relating to Private Fostering were amended and strengthened by Section 44 of the Children Act 2004. The following year two further documents were published; The National Minimum Standards (NMS) 2005 and The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulation 2005, which clearly set out the role of the Local Authority, the Parent and the Private Foster carer and related professionals. Under Standard 7 of the National Minimum Standards for private fostering, local authorities are expected to effectively monitor the way in which it discharges its duties and functions in relation to private fostering, including to provide a written report each year, for consideration by the Director of Children's Services, which includes an evaluation of the outcomes of its work in relation to privately fostered children within its area. (Supporting Criteria 7.9 NMS for Private Fostering). Private fostering arrangements continue to be a focus of the Ofsted Local Authority Inspections.
- 2.3. In the last five years Hull City Council has not had significant numbers of notifications of private fostering arrangements. For this reporting period there were eight notifications. The latest available comparative data from the Yorkshire and Humber region shows Hull compares similarly with other authorities with three authorities reporting less than 5 notifications in the year. Private Fostering notifications are not captured by the benchmarking data for the statistical returns, so a comparison is not able to be made currently against statistical neighbours. Future performance evaluations will incorporate comparisons with statistical neighbours. The Performance Team is currently working to establish the necessary data collection processes to support this approach.
- 2.4. Significant effort in this reporting period has taken place to raise awareness of private fostering amongst parents, carers, and professionals. However, this data demonstrates that social workers and carers continue to be to the main source of notifications with two notifications from Targeted Early Help Services. Notifications regarding private fostering arrangements have remained consistent from Hull's internal social care teams, indicating sustained awareness and engagement within the sector. However, referral rates from external professionals—particularly those in Education, Health,

Police, and the voluntary sector—remain disproportionately low or entirely absent. This ongoing disparity highlights a critical need to strengthen multi-agency understanding and responsiveness. All professionals who come into contact with children and families must be adequately equipped to identify and report private fostering arrangements, in line with statutory safeguarding responsibilities.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Ongoing work is needed to continue to raise awareness to increase identification of children living in private fostering arrangements particularly from partner agencies, specifically education settings.
- 3.2. An action plan for 2025/2026 is contained within the report and is overseen by the Private Fostering Steering Group.

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Nicola Tuton Telephone No.: (01482) 616363

Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: -  
Private fostering annual report

## Implications Matrix

**This section must be completed and you must ensure that you have fully considered all potential implications**

This matrix provides a simple check list for the things you need to have considered within your report

If there are no implications please state

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, Overview and Scrutiny and the Climate Change Advisor and any other key stakeholders i.e. Portfolio Holder, relevant Ward Members etc prior to submitting this report for official comments	Yes
I have considered whether this report requests a decision that is outside the Budget and Policy Framework approved by Council	Yes
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Yes
The report is approved by the relevant Director/Assistant Director	Yes
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	N/A
I have considered the potential media interest in this report and liaised with the Media Team to ensure that they are briefed to respond to media interest.	Yes
I have included any equalities and diversity implications within the report and where necessary I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	Yes
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	N/A
Any human rights implications are included within the report	N/A

I have included any community safety implications and paid regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act within the report	N/A
I have liaised with the Climate Change Advisor and any environmental and climate change issues/sustainability implications are included within the report	N/A
I have considered how the decision may contribute or impact on culture and heritage within the city.	N/A
I have included information about how this report contributes to the Community Plan/ Area priorities within the report	Yes
I have considered the impact on air quality, carried out an appropriate assessment and included any resulting actions or opportunities necessary to improve air quality in the report.	N/A
I have considered the impact on Children Looked After and Care Leavers and any resulting actions/implications have been included within the report.	Yes