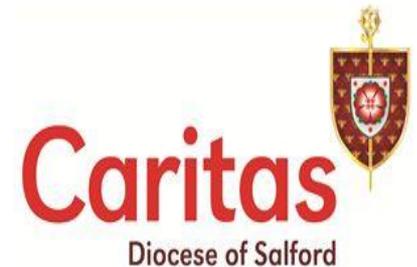


Welcome to Caritas Fostering

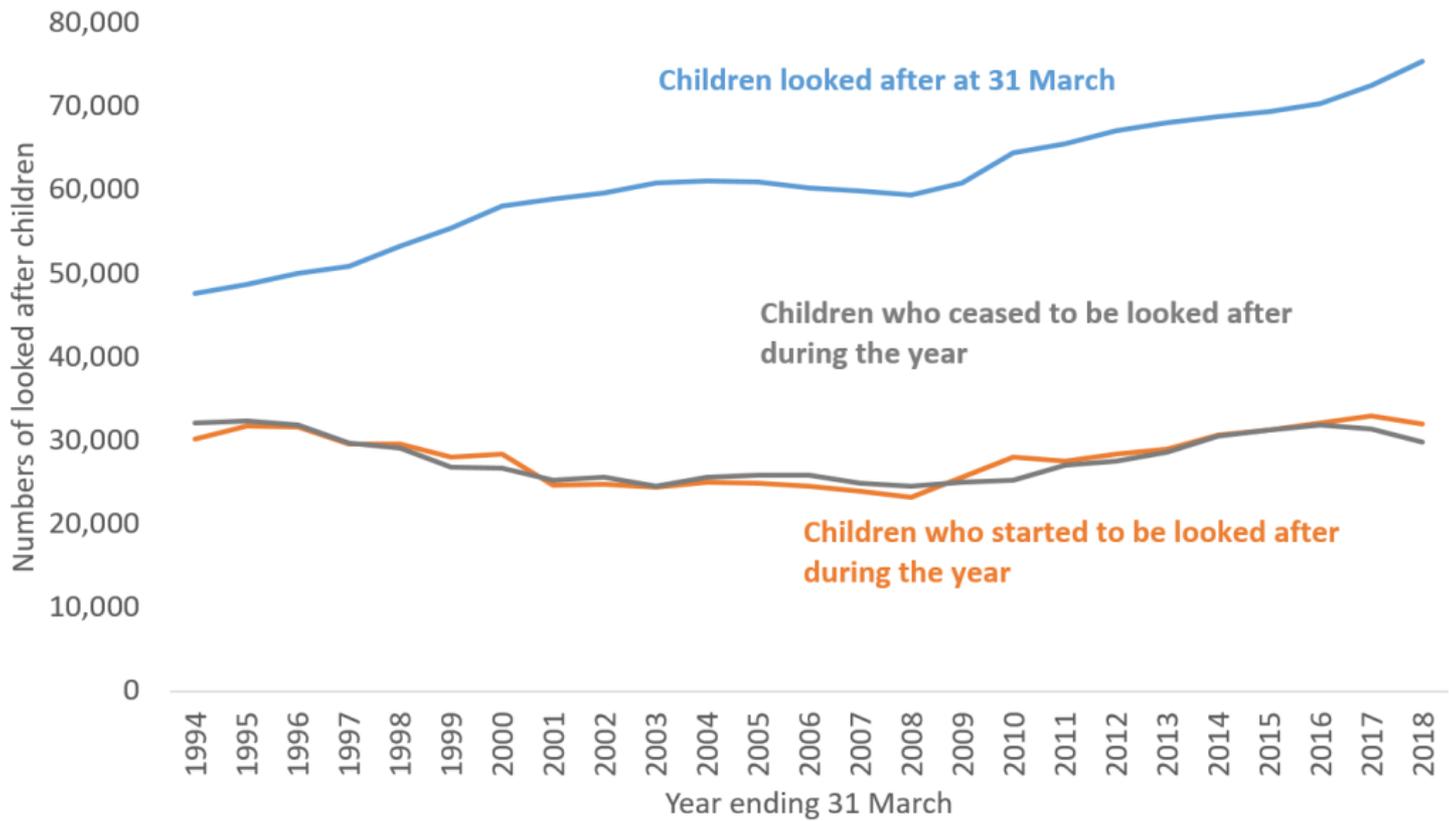


- **Anthony Turner:** Service Manager (Social Work & Social Care Services)
- **Neil Raby:** Supervising Social Worker
- **Clare Clarke:** Supervising Social Worker
- **Rachel Sadler:** Fostering and Adoption Administrator



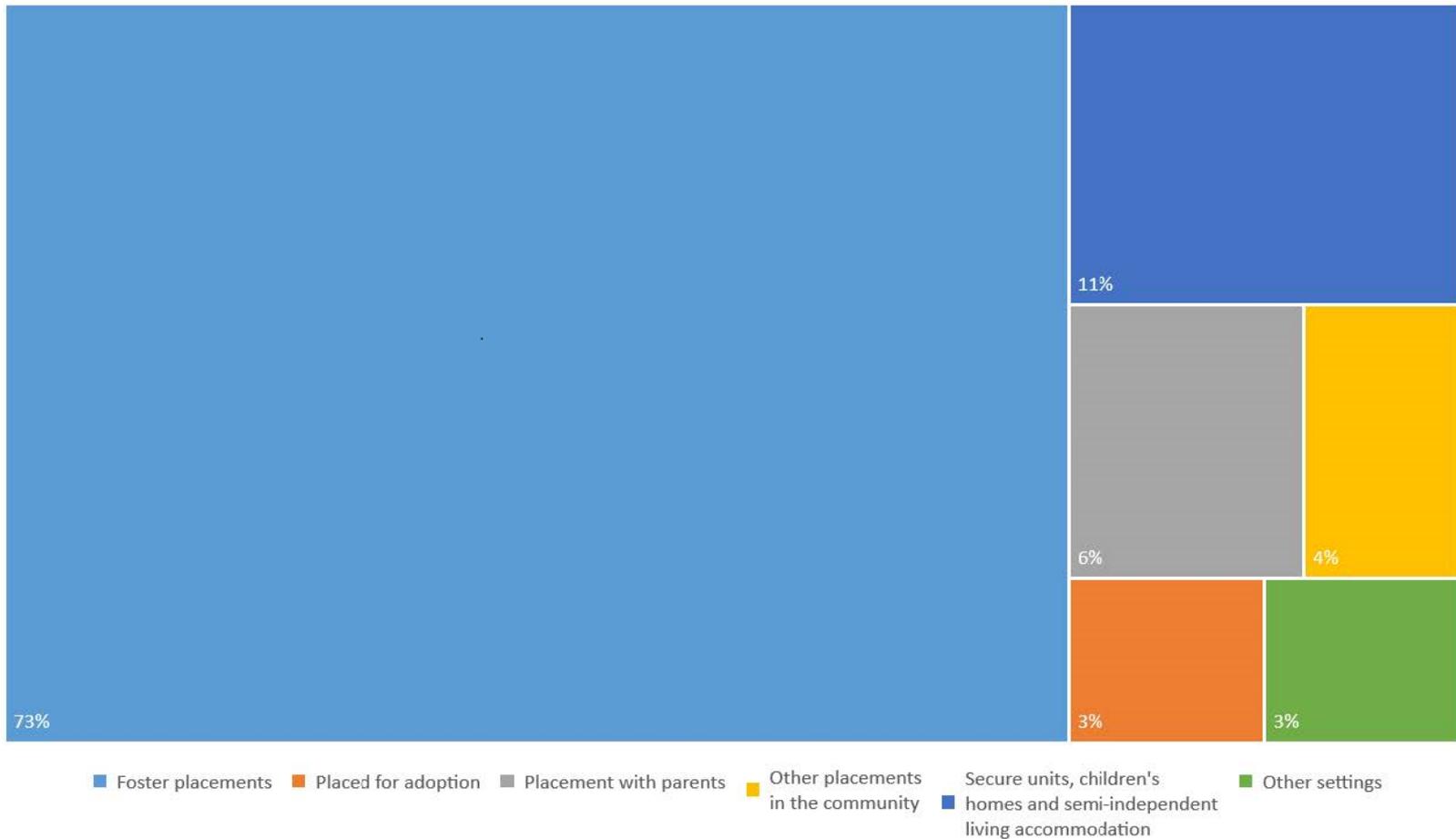
Numbers of looked after children have continued to steadily rise

Numbers of children starting and ceasing to be looked after in the year, and numbers at 31 March



- At 31 March 2018, the number of children looked after by local authorities in England increased, up 4% to 75,420 from 72,590 in 2017, continuing increases seen in recent years.
- The broad characteristics of looked after children have remained similar to previous years; just over half (56%) are male, 44% are female.
- The largest age group (39%) of looked after children are aged 10-15 years; 23% are aged 16 years and over, 19% are aged 5-9 years, 13% are aged 1-4 years and 6% are aged under 1 year.
- Caritas Fostering continues to receive hundreds of referrals from Local Authorities each and every week.

The majority of looked after children are placed with foster carers



Proportions of looked after children by placement type
England, 31 March 2018

Across the UK there is an urgent need for more foster carers

The
Fostering
Network

In England

7,220

more foster families are needed

Caritas Fostering

- Caritas Diocese of Salford's Fostering Service was established in 1956, as a part of Catholic Children's Rescue Society (CCRS).
- It was founded to respond to the needs of children in the Diocese of Salford which covers most of Greater Manchester and East Lancashire.
- Foster carers are recruited to provide families for looked after children on either a short term, long term or respite basis.
- This extends to Looked After Children who are young parents themselves (parent and child placements).
- The standard of care provided by our carers is guided by current child care legislation and conforms to the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services & Fostering Regulations 2011.
- Our Catholic ethos provides a foundation for our philosophy and provision of care and motivates all we do.

Who can Foster?

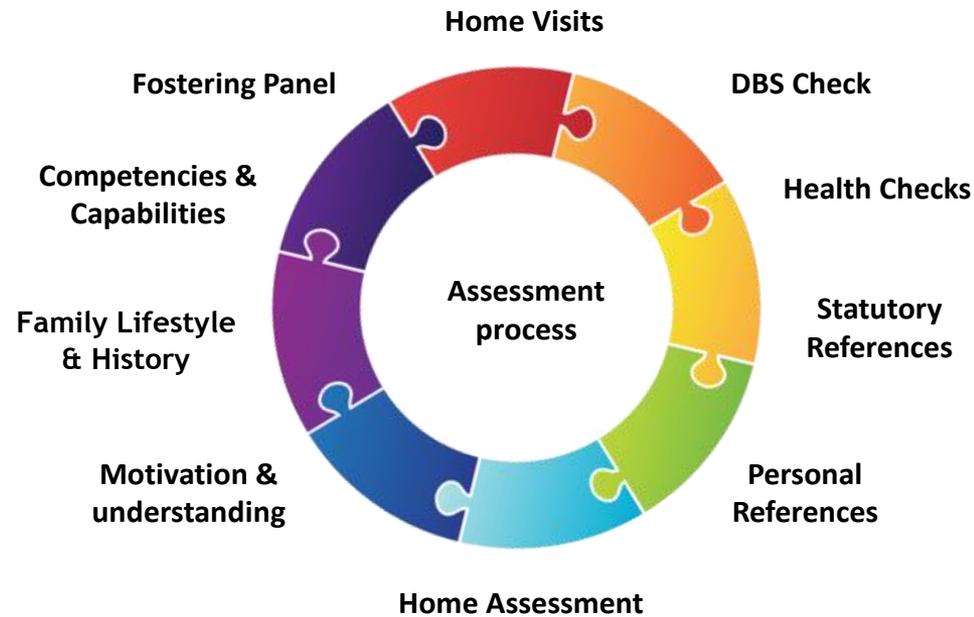
- Despite some common myths race, religion, relationship or employment status, age (over 21) do not effect your ability to foster.
- Caritas has no fixed ideas of what constitutes a family; you could be a couple, single, from a minority cultural community, from all faiths and none.
- The only requirements are that you have a spare bedroom and the availability and want to provide a home for the most vulnerable children and young people.

Fostering with Caritas

Services and support we offer our foster carers, children and young people include the following:

- Robust Assessment Process & Skills to Foster Training
- A high level training programme
- Monthly supervision
- Foster Carers consultation meetings
- One to one visits with children and young people in placements
- Education support for children and young people in placements
- Children and young persons consultation meetings
- A 24 hour out of hours support service 365 days a year
- Support for foster carers at various meetings such as looked after children's reviews

Becoming a Foster Carer



Fostering-Friendly Communities

- What can parishes and schools do to help?
- Raise awareness of the urgent need for more foster carers to provide loving homes for children and young people.
- Support the recruitment of new foster care families.
- Tell your family and friends about fostering.
- Put up promotion posters and leaflets in your church and community spaces.
- Host information and drop in days at your parish.
- Make space available in news letters.
- Actively welcome and engage with fostering families.
- Be part of their support network.
- Celebrate successes & events e.g. Foster Care Fortnight.

Fostering-Friendly Communities

Our Aims.....

- Our target for 2019..... is to sign up 10 Fostering-Friendly Parishes
- We would welcome any thoughts and ideas of how you think you could help?

Change a life.....and Foster

- To find out more about becoming a foster carer or Fostering-Friendly parish contact us on:
- Tel: 0161 817 2250
- Email: info@caritasfostering.org.uk
- www.caritasfostering.org.uk
- **We would love to hear from you!** 😊

