

Surrey Foster Carers Turnover

Information is supplied annually to Ofsted in the form of a prescribed data-set.

Collection year	Total Number of households at 31 st March	Number of places at 31 st March	Number of Family and Friends households
2018	388	658	
2019	377	643	
2020	393	656	109
2021	398	662	113
2022	397	660	122
2023	358	599	107
2024	331	584	102

(Source: Ofsted Fostering Data Set Return)

Fostering Households approved by fostering panel in year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-24	2024-25 17 th Feb 2025
General foster carer	31	21	18	21	26
Friends and family carer	50	41	37	37	31
Fostering to adopt carer	2	4	-	1	Adoption SE report on this *
Short breaks – children who are also looked after carer	1	2	-		
Short breaks – children who are not otherwise looked after carer	3	0	-		
Total	88	62	55	59	57

(Source: Surrey Fostering Panel Case Data)

*Foster to Adopt are adopters who are temporarily approved as foster carers to care for a named child under Early Permanence and are assessed and approved by ASE.

Collection year	Total Number of households resigned or deregistered by fostering panel	Number of mainstream fostering households	Number of connected person fostering households	
2020-2021	42	11	31	
2021-2022	38	24	14	
2022-2023	47	31	16	
2023-2024	63	40	23	
2024-2025	48	21	27	

(Source: Surrey Fostering Panel Case Data)

Deregistration reason – Household number	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Resigned due to retirement	11	8	4
Resigned due to change of circumstances	14	23	10

Resigned due to difficulty fulfilling the fostering role	3		4
Resigned as child no longer looked after (Special Guardianship obtained / Adoption Order)	8	7	11
Resigned due to impact of fostering on emotional well-being	1		1
Resigned as child no longer in their care	5	4	
Resigned following standards of care investigation	1		1
Deregistered by the service as no longer suitable to foster	4		2
Child returned home (planned move)		10	7
Placement Breakdown		4	1
Staying put/Supported Lodgings		8	7
Becoming Shared lives carers for previously fostered child		3	

(Source: Fostering Service exit interviews and Fostering Panel Case Data)

Special Guardianship Orders made	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 Q1, Q2 and Q3 (April to December)
Number of children who have had an order made in financial year. (Does not include children where an SGO has been made as an alternative to proceedings and child did not need to become CLA)	59	31	20

Temporary Approval Activity

The fostering service have undertaken roadshows and team Tuesday session to support the focus on family first principles in front line team. It has been clear that the roadshows have an impact on reg 24 numbers, but this is not sustained when roadshows ceased. The fostering service has therefore offered to undertake all viability assessments (this is assessment prior to reg 24's to see if family members are viable to care for children) for the assessment service. This is in hope of identifying family members early and to prevent children needing to be placed with carers that are not known to them. We are also trialling undertaking viability assessment for two family safeguarding teams. The fostering team managers have also offered to attend Family Group Conferences to support families to understand the offer to Kinship carers and produced a Kinship Offer to give to family members.

In December 2024 there were 9 Reg 24 referrals for 15 children. This resulted in 4 households temporarily approved as foster carers for 6 children.

Foster Carers Enquiries

Foster carer enquiries have been at the highest level ever with 302 new enquiries to fostering since the 1st October 2024 to 31st January 2025, with a total of 473 enquiries from 1st April 2024 to 31st January 2025. Compared to a total of 360 in financial year 2023/24 and 229 in 202/23. This has been through use of digital marketing, traditional organic marketing materials such as leafletting and community-based events.

Between 1st April 2024 and 31st January 2025, we have undertaken 103 Initial visits, which has progressed to 27 Stage 1 Assessments. We have found that enquirers are motivated by a desire to support children, but this is not always fully thought through in terms of children's needs and experiences and the requirements of fostering and registration, leading to what appears to be a high drop-out rate. However, we are hoping to approve 32 new general fostering households this year against our target of 30.