

1. How many social work students have committed to working for Surrey County Council after they graduate, under a scheme run by the Surrey Children’s Service Academy?

Although the Academy does support student social workers who are offered placements within the council, their recruitment to Surrey is based on successful application and selection onto Surrey’s ASYE programme (Assessed and Supported Year in Employment) for Newly Qualified Social Workers which is run by the Academy.

Of the NQSWs who completed their ASYE year in Oct 2019 24 are still in post from the original 30. In terms of the current position, we have a cohort of approx. 20 NQSWs who are due to complete their ASYE year in Oct 2020/21. Additionally, we will be starting a new cohort at the end of September 2020 which will be made up of 42 NQSWs.

2. How many looked-after children are placed out of county?

As of today (18/8/20), 443 children (44.52%) placed out of county of which:

- 58 placed with family and friends foster carers (in-house provision)
- 46 placed with Surrey foster carers (in-house provision)
- 11 placed with parents but living outside Surrey border
- 7 placed with Surrey supported lodgings carers (in-house provision)
- 172 placed with foster carers (IFA)
- 54 placed in external residential providers (including welfare secure accommodation)
- 14 at external residential schools
- 56 placed with external supported lodgings providers
- 5 placed for adoption but living outside Surrey border

The group highlighted are the children, we would want to bring back to Surrey at an appropriate time. For example, if the 172 placed with foster carers are long term matched and the placement is meeting their needs, we would not choose to change this until the child reaches 18 or staying put ceases. This would not be in the best interests of the individual children with stability and positive relationships.

(552 children (55.48%) living inside Surrey border of which 119 were in externally commissioned placements)

3. What proportion of looked-after children are seen by a social worker within six weeks of their previous contact? (It may be useful to provide both up-to-date and pre-Covid figures, as I understand this requirement has been relaxed at least until next month)

Tableau reporting as of 18/08/20 showed 95% of looked after children have been seen within statutory timescales, of which 77% of visits were face to face.

Pre Covid-19 data up to 10/03/20 showed 93% of children had been seen within statutory timescales.