How can there be a shortage of carers and vacancies at the same time? Making better use of what we've got

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Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers

- The Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers (NAFP) is the only UK-wide trade association that campaigns solely for independent and voluntary sector fostering providers (IFPs)

- NAFP is a not-for-profit organisation and a company limited by guarantee

- Our mission is:

To be the voice of the independent and voluntary fostering sector for children and young people, and to promote high standards of professional and business practice within the membership

- NAFP members represent around 75% of children placed in the independent and voluntary sector

Do we know our fostering services?

- 65,520 looked after children in England (31 March 2011), an increase of 2% from 2010, 6% from 2009 and the highest number since 1987

- 41,100 (63%) children were placed with 31,000 foster families, an increase of children from 39,490 in 2010; 13,670 children were placed through an independent fostering provider, up from 12,940 in 2010

- What are the trends regionally? Sub-regionally? Locally?

- Do we know our children? Age profiles? Sibling groups? Additional needs?

- Vacancies? Are you sure?

- Retention rates? Benchmark?

Commission for needs

Commissioning is the process of translating aspirations and need into quality and cost-effective services which provide choice and support the whole community, through a defined process and a commonly agreed set of principles Blackburn with Darwen Children's Services

- Needs assessment - individual children (needs can change), strategic, looking ahead, modeling

- Managing supply (*the market*) - sufficiency, value for money, quality, relationships, developing services for unmet needs

- Making referrals – quality/consistency of **matching** information, in-house first? Then IFPs? Residential last? Why?

- Data/information collection for whole service

The challenge...

Understand the needs of your children, now and in the future

Manage the supply of placements to meet these needs

Support the development of services

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