

Independent Visitor Service

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Role of the Independent Visitor

Improved social skills, friendships and mental health

- Developing relationship with a trusted adult/peer
- Making positive friendships
- Developing social skills
- Improved self esteem
- Improving confidence and feeling accepted

Raising Aspirations and improving practical life skills

- Increased opportunity to a variety of cultural, leisure and sporting activities
- Exploring education and training
- Becoming more independent
- Making choices
- Using different transports
- Budgeting and planning

Current Position (to August 2022)

Volunteers

- Since October 2022, 43 new IVs recruited (currently 75 active)
- An increase 26 since last year (130 recruited since Sept 2020)

Matches

- 73 referrals since October 2022, 60 matches occurring
- Since September 2020, 145 referrals, 130 matches.
- 27 matches have concluded this year, (70 matches in total)
- Currently, 59 active matches, 15 young people on the waiting list

Service Impact

- A qualitative response – care review meetings, meetings with young people and volunteer feedback.
- Care Review Meetings – meetings with social workers, foster carers, key workers and other professionals (100% positive feedback).
- Young person meetings – after one year of matching, 12 this year (98% positive feedback about the IV and the match impact)
- Volunteer Supervisions – every 12 weeks to discuss the matches, (92% see positive impact with their young person, 96% enjoy the volunteering experience).

Future Development

- To reach the National Independent Visitor Service (NIVN) target of matching 10% of children in care (120) with an Independent Visitor
- Exceeding the Durham County Council target of 50 referrals and 30 matches annually.
- Acknowledge that each activity visit averages at £30 with transport costs of £24 and that increased living costs impact the cost of transport and activities
- Acknowledge that a further 50 Independent Visitors would be needed to reach 120, 10% of the children in care, pressure on current resource.
- Discussions occurring with Commissioning and a report to go to Senior Managers in November 2023.