



# KENT INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICE REPORT

Contract Quarter 3  
April - June 2024



Listen . Support . Empower

“

At the end of this quarter the Kent Independent Visitor service has supported a total of 70 young people (since October 1st 2023).

There are currently 49 active Kent arrangements across the County, delivering consistent and stable support to young people in the community.

”

**Frank Martin,**  
on behalf of the Independent Visitor service



# The IV Mission....



Providing long term levels of support, independent from the care system



Improving resilience and social and emotional wellbeing



Providing consistency and stability to young people in care



Upholding the statutory right of providing an Independent Visitor to all those who it is suitable for



Improving the experiences of young people in care

# Achieving the Mission Goals

Monthly visits out in the community



Consistent role models



Trying new things



Interest and young person focused



Young person led

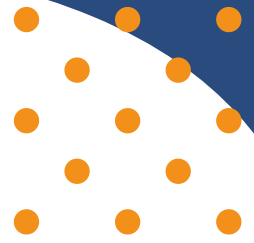


Independent volunteer





# Data Monitoring



49

## Active arrangements

- Number of young people matched currently

7

## Matches this quarter

- New arrangements

70

## Total young people supported this year

- Number of young people that have had an Independent Visitor this year (October 2023 to current)

6

## Newly recruited volunteers this quarter

- New volunteers coming through for this service. These are spread across both the Medway and Kent service

8

## Referrals this quarter

- New young people referred to the service.

23

## Referrals in total this year

- Total number of young people referred to this service this year (October 2023 to current)

29

## Young people awaiting match

- Number of young people waiting to be matched (including referrals carried over from previous contract)

9

## Arrangements ended this quarter

- Number of arrangements completed this quarter

2

## Referrals for young people placed out of area

- For those young people out of area, we are looking to identify local volunteers that are part of clubs/organizations that the young people are themselves are interested in

1

## Volunteers that are Care Leavers

- We welcome more Care Leavers to volunteer for this service.



## Length of IV Arrangements



One of the primary objectives of an Independent Visitor is to become a long term member of their young person's support network. It is a requirement for all of our volunteers to make a minimum commitment of two years in order for them to become a consistent and trusted adult in the young person's life and achieve this objective.

43%  
of active  
arrangements  
have been active for  
over  
2 years

17%  
of active  
arrangements  
are currently in  
their second year

40%  
of active  
arrangements are in  
their first year



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# Data Monitoring

## DEMOGRAPHICS

41%  
of matched  
young people  
are female

59%  
of matched  
young people  
are male

There is no updated national data on the gender split between those waiting for a match and those who are matched. However, it is a common trend across all Independent visitor services in England that the number of males matched is lower. In comparison to this trend, we are successfully matching more Males than females.

42%  
of all active  
referrals for this  
service are  
female

58%  
of all active  
referrals for this  
service are  
male

Additionally, we are in line with the national trend in that the majority of those awaiting a match are female.

It is also recognised across the national independent visitor network that males can be challenging to match. This is attributed to data that suggests females are more likely to volunteer for the service, and male young people often indicate the need for a male role model.

This data then suggests that we are more successful at matching males than other providers, and therefore having more males awaiting an independent visitor is an indication of the gender divide of need for this type of support.

# Data Monitoring

## VALUE OF ARRANGEMENTS

100%

of young people discussed their emotional wellbeing with their IV on visits

100%

of young people stated that they enjoyed their visits this quarter

34%

of young people tried something new whilst out with their IV

Providing our young people with the opportunity to try something new that they may not have previously had access to is one of the most valuable outcomes of the role. New Visits this quarter have included -

- Trip to Historic Dockyard
- Trip to a Zoo
- Day out in Folkstone
- Dinner at a restaurant
- Thorpe Park
- Beach Trip
- Day in London

Trying out new activities is encouraged at first, as it works as a way for the relationship to build between the volunteer and young person. However, it is a recognisable trend that as the length of the arrangement increases, the number of new activities tried decreases. The most common reason behind this is that young people will elect to repeat things that they enjoy doing with their IVs.

“We don’t need to do different stuff all the time; I like doing the same stuff because it is our thing between us.” - Young Person





# ADAPTING TO CHALLENGES

## Farewell Kirsty

This quarter we said goodbye to Kirsty our befriending coordinator.

Kirsty joined the Befriending team after becoming an independent visitor and mentor in 2022. Her time as part of the IV team has been greatly appreciated by our volunteer base, as she has implemented lasting positive changes to our processes and has worked tirelessly to ensure that our volunteers are supported and equipped to deal with all the challenges that come with working with vulnerable young people.




Kirsty has tackled challenges head-on, ensuring that the support of young people is at the center of what we aim to achieve, and her passion has shone through her work. As much as it will be sad to see Kirsty leave, we know that she will bring that same passion with her to her next role and eventually become an amazing counsellor.

As with most goodbyes at YLF, this is not the last we will see of Kirsty, as she will continue to volunteer with us and remain a member of our extended team.

I want to wish her the best of luck for the future. She will be missed.

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# Volunteers week - Our “Thank You” event.

The start of June marked the start of volunteers week. This gave our teams the opportunity to thank each and every one of our volunteers for the fantastic work that they do each month supporting our amazing young people.



We held a thank you event in Maidstone providing food, music and gifts as a way to show our continued thanks and admiration. We had a large number of our volunteers attend and it was a great chance for them to also talk to one another, share stories and experiences.

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# Feedback from young people, Volunteers and professionals

*"I have enjoyed every minute of my volunteering and look forward to many more years to come!" -*

**Volunteer**

*"This has been a real positive for them-* **Foster Carer**

*"I like our trips out, gives me the chance to talk" -*

**Young Person**

*"I think if you are given the chance to have someone like this you should say yes" -* **Young Person**

*"Its so much fun, I wish I could see them more" -*

**Young Person**

*"We have tried new stuff and given me space out and about" -* **Young Person**

*"They are easy to talk to" -* **Young Person**

*"It is an amazing service and provides such a positive experience" -* **Social Worker**

