



MEDWAY INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICE REPORT

Contract Quarter 3
April - June 2024



Listen . Support . Empower

“

At the end of this quarter the Medway Independent Visitor service has supported a total of 31 young people (since October 1st 2023).

There are currently 23 active Medway 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

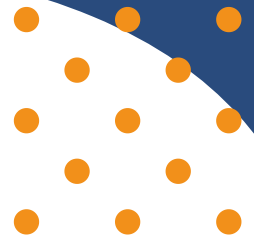


Independent volunteer





Data Monitoring



23

Active arrangements

- Number of young people matched currently

3

Matches this quarter

- New arrangements

31

Total young people supported this year

- Number of young people that have had an Independent Visitor this year (October 2022 to current)

2

Newly recruited volunteers this Quarter

- New volunteers coming through for this service.

2

Referrals this quarter

- New young people referred to the service.

2

Referrals in total this year

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

10

Young people awaiting match

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

2

Arrangements ended this quarter

- 2 arrangements concluded this quarter. Both young people turned 18 and transferred to our Leaving Care Mentoring service.

6

Total number of young people awaiting match who are 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

2

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.

52%
of active
arrangements
have been active for
over
2 years

22%
of active
arrangements
are currently in
their second year

26%
of active
arrangements are in
their first year



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

Data Monitoring

DEMOGRAPHICS

56%
of matched
young people
are female

4%
of matched
young people are
gender fluid

40%
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 other providers.

25%
of referrals for
this service are
female

75%
of referrals for
this service are
male

In line with national trends in the majority of young people referred to the service are male.

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.

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 Zoo
- Animal Experience at Wildlife park
- Trip to Dockside Shopping Centre
- Swimming
- Trip to Farm
- Sushi Restaurant

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 centre 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.



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 - Interview with a carer-

This is feedback given from a foster carer who was interviewed around her observations of the relationship between a young person in her care and their Independent Visitor:

"I have been Q's carer for a while and in that time I have seen how Paul has had a very positive effect on him. Paul has always been very professional with me and has communicated appropriately and effectively.

Q has not had the easiest time recently and Paul has offered increased support in the form of visits and phone contact to help Q make sense of his feelings. I have witnessed other mentoring schemes work with Q previously and in some cases the mentor has focused on being just a friend and being liked by Q. Paul doesn't do this, He acts as a real role model and will challenge Q's behavior and language at times. He is someone that Q really respects and looks up to which is rare for him as he has seen so many professionals and carers come and go.

After a visit Q is visibly happier and calmer, being given the change to let off some steam or talk through some things that he maybe doesn't want to talk to me about.

Q's behavior in the home has escalated recently and this has had a knock-on effect on all aspects of his life. Q recently had a missing period and it was Paul who was able to get through to him and went to pick him up which speaks to how much he trusts and relies on him. Paul has taken the time to support Q in any way he can as he is currently looking to move placement he has informed Q that he will remain a constant for him no matter where he is moved to."

