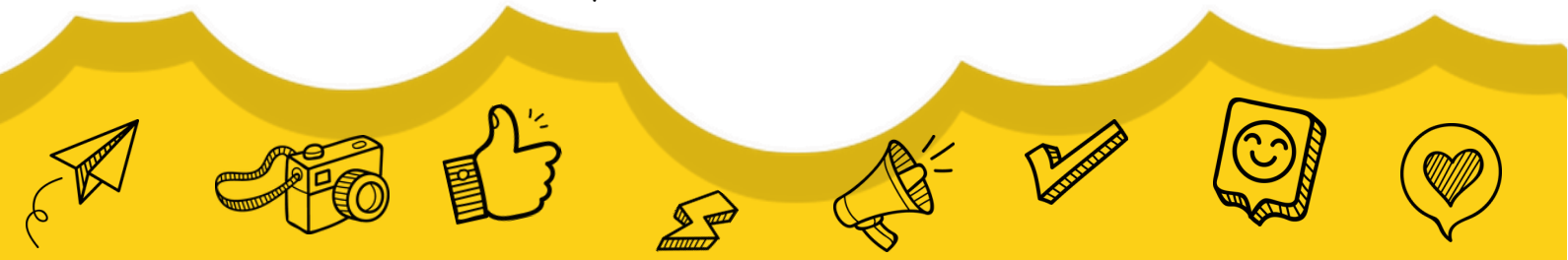




KENT INDEPENDENT VISITOR SERVICE REPORT

Contract Quarter 3 2025
April 2025 - June 2025



Listen . Support . Empower

“

The Kent Independent Visitor service concludes this quarter supporting a total of 66 young people (since October 1st 2024).

There are currently 47 active Kent arrangements across the County, delivering consistent and stable support to young people in the community.

”



Chloe Harris

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





Volunteer's Week



To thank our wonderful volunteers and supporters, YLF threw a 'Thank you' BBQ at The Friars in Aylesford. The event was a huge success, allowing us to catch up with our volunteers and thank them personally with food, drink and a little gift. Social events are really important with volunteer retention and following feedback from some of our independent visitors, we have arranged more social events over the summer to encourage everyone to share experiences and ideas.



Goodbye to Frank

This quarter we said goodbye to Frank Martin, who has left the YLF after 8 years in the befriending team to try his hand in a new sector. We wish him the best of luck in his new role!

We will be welcoming Tajnic Higgins to join the team in July and we're looking forward to an excited new chapter for the service




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Case Study - Ethan & Arlo

Arlo is an 8-year old boy living on the Isle of Sheppey, which has historically been a difficult place to recruit volunteers. We matched him with Ethan in May, who was happy to travel the extra distance to be Arlo's independent visitor, after learning about Arlo's energetic personality and passion for art, especially drawing superheroes!

Though the arrangement is a very new one, the pair are getting on amazingly- their first couple of visits have been going to the beach, playing football and spending some time competing against each other and winning lots of sweets at the arcades. Arlo really looks forward to whatever Ethan plans for their next meeting and is hoping to try some high adrenaline activities in the future. Ethan says 'he is a lovely lad, he's always so polite and I really enjoy hanging out with him! I'm looking forward to doing some bigger days out over the summer holidays.'

We have every faith that Ethan and Arlo's arrangement will be a great success!

Case Study - Sarah & Macy

Volunteer Sarah was matched with Macy in May 2024 and has been invaluable in giving Macy an escape and a listening ear if she ever needs it. Since their arrangement started, Macy has been really keen to go to the theme park for the first time, so after some saving on their budget, Sarah took her to Chessington World of Adventures for the day. The weather was on their side, meaning they could also make the most of the water rides, which Macy really enjoyed. Sarah used the lengthy queues as an opportunity to catch up with Macy, who was happy to offload some worries about school. They looked around the zoo and enjoyed a sea-lion talk in between rides, it turns out Macy is quite the little thrill-seeker! More recently, Macy's social worker requested Sarah at her latest review, which she attended with Macy's blessing. Sadly, due to her foster parent's ill-health, her placement of 8 years is due to change. Sarah has committed to remaining Macy's independent visitor throughout this huge change, giving her the promise of consistency and an adult she knows she can trust and talk to while she navigates this time. Macy is currently in a placement with her brother and sister, who each have their own independent visitors. The team have arranged a volunteer social gathering so their independent visitors can meet and offer to support to each other and share ideas on how best to support the young people.



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Data Monitoring

DEMOGRAPHICS

51%
of matched
young people
are female

47%
of matched
young people
are male

2%
of matched
young people
are trans

It is a common trend across all Independent visitor services in England that the number of males matched is lower. We are in line with this trend .

35%
of all active
referrals for this
service are
female

62%
of all active
referrals for this
service are male

3%
of all active
referrals for this
service are non-
binary

We are in line with the national trend in that the majority of those awaiting a match are male.

It is also recognised across the national independent visitor network that males can be challenging to match. This is because 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

75%
of young people
discussed their
emotional wellbeing
with their IV on visits

94%
of young people stated
that they enjoyed their
visits this quarter

29%
of young people tried
something new whilst
out with their IV this
quarter

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. Some of the new visits this quarter have included -

- A trip to Herne Bay for fish & chips
- Bracelet making
- A trip to a London Theatre
- Chessington World of Adventures!

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. This is usually because the young person prefers to have a special activity with the volunteer, creating new traditions for the young person.

Talking about emotional wellbeing is encouraged once the relationship is stable enough, however some young people use their volunteer as an escape from their everyday, so this is only encouraged if it comes up in conversation organically.

While we never like to see a young person hasn't enjoyed their visit, it is usually because the activity is new and they have simply found something that doesn't work for them. We value the honesty from our young people and volunteers!



"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



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.

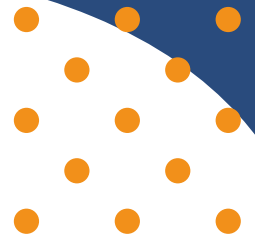
30%
of active
arrangements
have been active for
over
2 years

34%
of active
arrangements
are currently in
their second year

36%
of active
arrangements are in
their first year



Data Monitoring



47

Active arrangements

- Number of young people matched currently

7

Matches this quarter

- New arrangements since 1st April 2025

66

Total young people supported this year

- Number of young people that have had an Independent Visitor this year (October 2024 to current)

19

Newly recruited volunteers this Year

- New accredited volunteers for this service since October 2024. These are spread across both the Medway and Kent services

6

Referrals this quarter

- New young people referred to the service.

14

Referrals in total this year

- Total number of young people referred to this service this year (October 2024 to current)

34

Young people awaiting match

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

4

Arrangements ended this quarter

- Number of arrangements concluded

3

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/organisations 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.