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Intensive Fostering Services (IFS) is provided by Kibble, a charitable organisation based in Renfrewshire. IFS provides fostering to young people aged from five to 18 years. The service recruits and supports foster carers to provide foster care and short breaks to young people who cannot reside within their birth family.

The service consists of a team of staff, operating out of hubs in west and central Scotland, who provide intensive support to both caregivers and young people to achieve identified outcomes. Young people also

- Children and young people benefitted from enduring and compassionate relationships with highly skilled and supported caregivers.
- A trauma model of care had been embedded across all parts of the service and was contributing to positive outcomes for children and young people.
- Support provided to caregivers and children and young people was highly individualised, responsive and flexible.
- The service was excellent at developing innovative solutions to ensure children and young people

needs of young people.

Caregivers were valued as vital members of the team and were invested in to promote their ongoing learning and development. Many caregivers had benefitted from completing further education to support them in their role and all caregivers were trained in Safe Crisis Management and trauma. One member of staff told us, "As a service we recognise and value the importance of supporting those who care for our young people". The service had been aspirational in their approach towards trauma, embedding a model that promoted a whole service response. A shared understanding of children and young people's needs helped to strengthen relationships and ensure stable fostering experiences.

A thoughtful and proactive approach to the use of short breaks care enhanced children and young people's experiences. Short breaks were well planned and took place with familiar caregivers. We saw examples where short breaks had supported relationships within fostering households and reduced the likelihood of unplanned endings. The service also promoted natural support networks via 'family and friends' carers who were proportionately assessed and supported in their role. Children and young people were nurtured through the community of support developed around them.

Children and young people were supported to maintain relationships with family and friends where this had been assessed as being in their best interests. We saw many examples where caregivers and staff made significant effort to prioritise relationships for young people and share information in a creative way. This enabled children and young people to feel respected and that their important relationships were valued.

Children and young people were provided with excellent support to meet their potential in relation to learning and education. The service worked creatively and innovatively with other services to champion young people's right to a high quality and inclusive education. The successes of children and young people were celebrated routinely within their records and within team meetings. Children and young people's prospects were enhanced through the high aspirations held by the service.

Children and young people were kept safe through a robust and child centred appr

We evaluated this key question as excellent where performance was sector leading with outstandingly high outcomes for children and young people.

Children and young people benefitted from careful, individualised personal planning. Risk assessment and management plans, the 'My Kibble Journey' progress record, and personal support plans worked well together to support and evidence positive outcomes. Plans were SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) and were updated on a regular basis in partnership with young people wherever possible. Documents were formatted in a child-friendly way and were meaningful for children and young people. Excellent quality assurance practices ensured quality, rigor, and a focus on outcomes for children and young people.

The service worked well with other agencies to ensure assessment and care planning was focused on promoting outcomes. Staff contributed to children and young people's overall care plans as part of statutory reviews, and facilitated regular multi-agency reviews to discuss progress and ensure plans were updated. This reduced the likelihood of drift and delay for children and young people, and ensured they got the support that was right for them.

The use of regular progress meetings, group supervision and specialist risk assessment meetings contributed to robust, safe, and meaningful planning. All children and young people had detailed safer caring plans, which were highly individualised. We saw examples of young people being actively engaged in regular meetings to discuss and review risk. This inclusive approach had led to significantly improved outcomes for many children and young people.

The service was exceptional in ensuring children and young people were as fully involved in driving their own care and support as possible. The transition process ensured a high level of engagement with children and young people, and we saw how this continued throughout their experience with the service. One caregiver told us, "The children are asked and encouraged to be involved in everything that concerns them, their voice and opinions matter most of all so it's better if they are involved, and they're more likely to want be a part of it if they helped set it up". Young people's views were sought and recorded in all planning meetings and carers' reviews, and this included the views of birth children within fostering families. Children and young people felt valued and respected through being continually listened to during their care experience.

Caregivers and the wider service were strong advocates for children and young people, and the use of independent advocacy strengthened children and young people's rights when required. The service had a system in place to ensure independent advocacy is considered for every child or young person as they transitioned into the service. This helped to empower children and young people.

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IFS should continue to learn from placement breakdowns and this should inform practice when placing further children, particularly from the linked care home, Arran Villa.

National Care Standards, foster care and family placement services - Standard 2: Promoting good quality care and National Care Standards, foster care and family placement services - Standard 13: Management and staffing.

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This area for improvement had been met. The service had robust processes in place for the review and evaluation of all placement breakdowns. All caregivers were reviewed at the fostering panel following an unplanned ending. Although there is still clearly a link between the service and Arran Villa (and other Kibble care services), we saw evidence of good planning and matching when children and young people moved into IFS.

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How well do we support people's wellbeing?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Children, young people, adults and their caregiver families experience compassion, dignity and respect	6 - Excellent
1.2 Children, young people and adults get the most out of life	6 - Excellent
1.3 Children, young people and adults' health and wellbeing benefits from the care and support they experience	6 - Excellent
1.4 Children, young people, adults and their caregiver families get the service that is right for them	5 - Very Good
How well is our care and support planned?	6 - Excellent
5.1 Assessment and care planning reflects the outcomes and wishes of children, young people and adults	6 - Excellent

