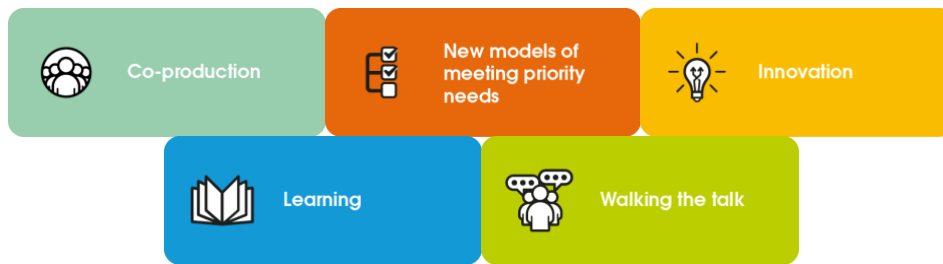


HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



Mutual Ventures working with Regional Fostering Recruitment Hubs

Collaboration between local authorities to provide more loving homes for children.

Mutual Ventures has supported groups of councils work together to develop new and innovative approaches to foster carer recruitment on a regional footprint.

Councils are collaborating to create focused services that champion foster carers and support them through the application and approval process. Their success relies on building a service that promotes cooperation between councils, and values and respects all prospective foster carers.

Funding for the programme is distributed to local authorities from the Department for Education.

Our support to councils

The purpose of fostering is to provide children with a safe, loving home when they can't live with their birth parents. Having enough foster carers is a constant challenge for councils.

Mutual Ventures support focuses on working with groups of local authorities to design and implement 'Fostering Recruitment Hubs' – with the aim of increasing the availability of foster carers in each area and improving the lives of vulnerable children.

We work with lead local authorities for 10 groups of councils, including Sunderland City Council, Blackburn with Darwen and Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Each group of councils has a dedicated MV lead. Our support includes:

- Coaching to provide critical friend challenge and change management support.
- Tailored support based on your individual support needs including on data, digital skills and foster care recruitment and practice.
- Facilitated workshops on developing vision, governance, finances, communications, and operations.
- Templates and tools to help support implementation



Fostering

Towards better outcomes

The purpose of Fostering Recruitment Hubs is to provide more foster carers and more loving homes for children. Working with us, local authorities have set a clear direction for their future and will 'go live' as new services from April 2024.

As hubs get up-and-running, anticipated outcomes include an increase in foster carer enquiries, an increase in the number of foster carers who are successfully recruited by councils, a reduction in the number of foster carers who de-register, and cost savings for local authorities from being able to provide more placements. Ultimately this should result in an improved experience for children in care.

The ambition of Fostering Recruitment Hubs is clear and draws on an urgent need to ensure we are doing the best we can for children in care. Working with local clusters, we will put foster carers and children at the centre of the services, recognising that they are remarkable and the greatest asset the care system has.

For further information contact:

John Copps

Assistant Director - Mutual Ventures

john@mutualventures.co.uk | 0203 714 3901 | www.mutualventures.co.uk