

Mockingbird Impact Report 2025:

A summary

The Mockingbird Programme is transforming foster care in South Gloucestershire by creating supportive communities that improve the well-being of both foster families and children.

THE MOCKINGBIRD PROGRAMME

The Mockingbird Programme, developed by The Fostering Network, offers sustainable foster care through a family-centred model that fosters strong relationships between children, young people, and foster families. At its core are “constellations” of foster families, led by a Hub Home Carer, providing peer support, guidance, social activities, and sleepovers to strengthen bonds and ensure permanency.

IMPACT & GROWTH

Launched in South Gloucestershire in April 2023, the programme now supports 24 satellite carers through three Home Hubs. It has significantly impacted fostering families, with a notable reduction in burnout and better support, as highlighted in the 2024 State of the Nation’s Fostering Report.

SUPPORT & ACTIVITIES

Since its launch, Mockingbird has offered 42 social activities, 27 training sessions, and 278 mentoring sessions. Hub carers have organized 165 sleepovers and provided over 665 hours of one-on-one support, fostering a strong sense of community and connection among foster carers.

HUB CARER REFLECTIONS

Hub carers have expressed immense satisfaction, with one noting that the programme has helped create a “wonderful fostering family” and emphasized the importance of building strong, trusting relationships.

RECOGNITION & MEDIA

The programme has gained media attention, including BBC Radio and BBC News, and launched a 2024 film to highlight its benefits, supporting fostering recruitment.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Mockingbird has boosted both recruitment and retention, with many carers citing the programme as a reason for joining and staying. 90% of satellite carers reported better stability in their fostering roles.

PLANS FOR 2025/26

Looking forward, Mockingbird plans to expand with two new constellations, enhance training opportunities, and introduce Stayover Carers for consistent support. They also aim to gather feedback from children in care and foster carers’ children to further improve the programme.