







## **4 NEWS ROUNDUP**

All the news that matters from the past month

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**Social care** How some councils are offering "golden hellos" to attract fostering families **8** 

**Social care** Sector split over ethics and effectiveness of incentive payments in foster care **10** 

**Health** Lessons from the Mental Health Assessment Pilots for looked-after children **12** 

**Youth work** Debate over youth workers chaperoning pupils' walk to school to reduce violence **13** 

**Education** The negative impact four decades of education reforms had on disadvantaged learners **14** 

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**Editorial** Derren Hayes on measures to fix the foster carer shortage

**Opinion** Children's services reform needs brave leaders; Child deaths highlight the case for doing better

#### 22 FEATURE

#### How to overcome the digital divide

The Covid-19 pandemic has shone a spotlight on the "digital divide" which widens inequalities between disadvantaged children and young people and their peers

# 27 SPECIAL REPORT Foster Care

**Policy** Amid concerns the sector is at "breaking point", policymakers are working to improve recruitment and retention of foster carers

**Research** Planning and supporting permanence in long-term foster care; Matching Foster Care Systemic Review

**Practice** How the Mockingbird model of practice sees "constellations" of foster carers established who offer support to each other; West Midlands councils share costs of producing series of films to promote foster care

COMING UP... Therapeutic Communities (March), Outdoor Learning and Residentials (April), Digital Solutions (May)

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Children & Young People Now is a magazine and website for professionals working at all levels with children, young people and families. The magazine provides in-depth analysis, opinion and articles on best practice, targeting managers and senior practitioners involved in the commissioning and delivery of services. The website provides a breaking news service throughout the day for all practitioners and a host of resources, including information on careers and funding.