

FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **13 December 2017**

From: **Fiona Mackirdy**
Head of Countywide and Looked After Children's services

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **Fostering regulations require that an annual report of the fostering service should be presented to Elected Members**

Recommendation: **The Committee is asked to note the report**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Provision of fostering services is a key statutory requirement of the local authority and is essential to enabling children living away from home to receive good quality family care.
- 1.2 The provision of fostering services is governed by legislation and statutory guidance. Guidance requires that Elected members receive regular reports on the activity and quality of the fostering service.
- 1.3 A good in-house fostering service is essential to provide quality placements for children, and to enable management of placement costs. An in-house placement is usually about 50% of the cost of an externally commissioned placement in an Independent Fostering Agency.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The Fostering Service Annual Report for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 1. It is recommended that this is read in conjunction with the Annual Report of the Independent Fostering Panel Chair 2016/17 (Appendix 2) and the Fostering Statement of Purpose (to follow).
- 2.2 During 2016-17 there was increased activity in all areas of the fostering service. The service (at March 2017) had 125 households approved for fostering (growth of 15% from the previous year), providing 252 beds.
- 2.3 The Placement Sufficiency Strategy outlines the requirements for the in-house fostering service for the next two years. More in-house placements are needed with particular focus on older children and sibling groups. This will enable more children to be placed in-house and in-county and will contribute to management of the Looked After Children's Placement Budget.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

The fostering service is delivered within the available budget. There are no significant implications from this report.

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

None

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

Consideration of this report meets the statutory requirements placed on the fostering service.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

None

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

None

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

None

3.7 Public Health Implications

None

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Source Documents	Location
Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2017 – 2020 Item 8, Appendix 1	https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/632/Committee/4/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx