

FOSTER CARER REPORTING TO THE CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMITTEE

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 15 July 2020

From: Fiona Van Den Hout
Head of Service, Corporate Parenting

Electoral division(s): All

Outcome: Provide an opportunity for the Cambridgeshire Foster Care Association to contribute to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee meetings.

Recommendation: The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider the attendance of the Cambridgeshire Foster Care Association chairperson or their representative at Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee meetings as an observer. They will be invited to make a contribution at the absolute discretion of the Chair.
- b) consider accepting a report from the Cambridgeshire Foster Care Association at each of its meetings.

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Summary:

We would like the Sub-Committee to hear directly from the Foster Care Association about the work that they do to support children who live with the Council's foster carers.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The revision of the fostering service structure in November 2018 included a recognition of the need to re-establish a formal link with Cambridgeshire's foster carers to provide a mechanism for seeking foster carer views on service improvement and in order to promote positive outcomes for the children in the Council's care. Consequently, Cambridgeshire's Foster Care Association was re-established and has been functioning for over a year.
- 1.2 A Foster Care Association is a voluntary organisation that is run by foster carers for foster carers with the aim of bringing foster carers together, providing them with a stronger voice that can influence and develop services for them and crucially for the children in their care.
- 1.3 An overview of Cambridgeshire's Foster Care Association is attached at Appendix 1 detailing membership, aims and initiatives.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 This proposal requests members of the Sub-Committee to consider whether the voice of foster carers should be included in formal Sub-Committee meetings in this way in order to provide a mechanism to hear the views of foster carers on topics or issues that relate to children in their care.
- 2.2 This proposal has been discussed informally with the chairperson of the association who has confirmed that they would welcome this opportunity, which is closely aligned to their aims. It is further proposed that the Cambridgeshire Foster Care Association is invited to submit a report to Sub-Committee meetings, supported by the Lead Fostering Manager.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 **The best start for Cambridgeshire's children**
The work of foster carers supports the best start for Cambridgeshire's children in care

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 **Resource Implications**
There are no significant implications

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications

Source Documents	Location
None	N/A