

Fostering Task Group – Progress on Recommendations

Report of the Director of Children's and Young People's Futures

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That the Children's Scrutiny Committee be asked to:

- (a) Note and comment on the progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the Fostering Task Group

2) Background / Introduction

- 2.1 Children's Scrutiny Committee Fostering Task Group undertook a review of the fostering service between July and September 2024. They presented their report and recommendations to a meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee on the 11th November 2024. A copy of that report is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.2 Cabinet agreed the proposed responses to the Children's Scrutiny Committee Fostering Task Group report at a meeting held on the 8th January 2025.
- 2.3 This report provides an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Fostering Task Group, attached as Appendix B.

3) Main Body / Proposal

- 3.1 On 11th November 2024, the Children's Scrutiny Committee approved the Fostering Task Group report and its recommendations (see minute *185) and agreed that it be submitted to Cabinet for a response – see Appendix A.
- 3.2 The report and recommendations of the Children's Scrutiny Committee were carefully reviewed. A response to each recommendation was provided to Cabinet and those responses were agreed.
- 3.3 A follow-up meeting took place between Foster Carers, Councillor Andrew Leadbetter Cabinet Member, senior managers and members of scrutiny on the 13th December 2024 to discuss the report. This was a very constructive meeting, key priorities for the Foster Carers present were for the Council to:
 - Address the complexity and processes in relation to payment arrangements both in relation to the software and the administrative processes in the fostering service.
 - Address the issues caused by Egress

- Recognise the achievements of foster carers through an annual celebration event.

3.4 A further meeting with foster carers has been scheduled for early March 2025.

3.5 Progress against each of the recommendations of the Fostering Task Group is set out in Appendix B.

4) Options / Alternatives

4.1 Not applicable.

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

5.1 Consultations with foster carers are ongoing.

6) Strategic Plan

6.1 This aligns to the Council's Strategic plan:

- Be ambitious for children and young people

7) Financial Considerations

7.1 There are no additional financial implications proposed in this report.

8) Legal Considerations

8.1 There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising out of this report.

10) Equality Considerations

10.1 There are no equality implications arising out of this report.

11 Risk Management Considerations

11.1 No risks have been identified.

12 Summary

- 12.1 That the Children's Scrutiny Committee be asked to note and comment on the progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the Fostering Task Group

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Electoral Division

All

Councillor Andrew Leadbetter

Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Background Paper: Fostering Task Group Report to Children's Scrutiny Committee

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File Reference: [LDS/24/37](#)

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