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TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
Date 13 JULY 2017

**APPROVAL OF THE FOSTERING SERVICE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE APRIL 2017 –
MARCH 2018 AND FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2016 – MARCH
2017**

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The purpose of the decision is to approve the April 2017 – March 2018 Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service and the Fostering Service Annual Report April 2016 – March 2017.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service 2017 - 18 [annex 1] and the Fostering Service Annual Report 2016 – 17 [annex 2] are APPROVED.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, published by the Secretary of State for Health under section 23(1) of the Care Standards Act 2000 place a requirement on Fostering Services to produce a Statement of Purpose, with a clear statement on the aims and objectives of the service and what facilities they provide. The minimum standards state that “The registered provider [in the case of the local authority, the elected members] formally approves the Statement of Purpose of the Fostering Service, and reviews, updates and modifies it where necessary, at least annually” [Standard 1(1.3)].

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None, the completion of the Statement of Purpose is a legal requirement under the Care Standards Act 2000, 23 [1], National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services Regulations, Standard 1. As this is a legal requirement no alternative options have been considered.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Statement of Purpose is in essence an updating of regulation requirements for Bracknell Forest’s practice and procedures in relation to fostering services

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are addressed within the body of the report.

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Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.3 There is an Equality Impact Assessment

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The strategic risk identified is that if the service does not complete an annual review of the Statement of Purpose the Council will be in breach of the National Minimum Standards. There are no changes completed or proposed in the content of the service that will constitute a strategic risk.

Other Officers

- 6.5 The Children's Social Care Management Team has considered and endorsed the Statement of Purpose and Annual Report in June 2017.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The relevant staff from the Family Placement Service have contributed to the Statement of Purpose. A copy of the Statement of Purpose is also provided to the Ofsted Inspectorate and it is available on the Council's public website.

Representations Received

- 7.2 There have been no representations received.

Background Papers

Fostering Service Statement of Purpose 2017 - 2018 [annex 1]
Fostering Service Annual Report 2016 – 2017 [annex 2]
Fostering Recruitment Strategy [annex 3]
Fostering Marketing Plan [annex 4]

Contact for further information

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Approved by Cllr Dr Gareth Barnard
Executive Member, Children, Young People
& Learning

Signature.....

Date: 11 July 2017

Approved by Nikki Edwards
Director, Children, Young People
& Learning

Signature.....

Date: 11 July 2017