

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
3 JULY 2013**

**APPROVAL OF THE FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013
Director of Children, Young People and Learning**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To note the Fostering Service Annual Report 2012 – 2013.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **That the Fostering Service Annual Report 2012 – 13 [annex 1] attached is noted.**

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 an annual report, with a clear statement on the aims and objectives of the service and what facilities they provide.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None. This is a statutory requirement that the Fostering Service Annual Report is approved annually.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 Revised National Minimum Standards and Guidance and Regulations of the Children Act 1989 Fostering Services came into effect on 1st April 2011. Policies and procedures have been updated to include the changes required and implementation of the new requirements is in process.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained with the main body of the report. This report meets with the requirements under the regulations to produce annual statements.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that sufficient resources exist to meet the proposals in the Fostering Service Annual Report 2012 - 2013.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.3 The service aims to achieve the best possible outcome for any child receiving services taking into account all factors of ethnicity, religion, language, culture and disability. The service also seeks to recruit carers who have a range of backgrounds and experiences so that they can meet the needs of children in their care. These outcomes have remained the same since the EIA completed in 2010.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The strategic risk identified is that if the service does not complete an annual review 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

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Family Placement Service, Children's Services Management Team and the Department Management Team. A copy of the Annual Report 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 Annual Report 2012 – 2013 [**annex 1**]

Contact for further information

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