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To: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
Date: 10 June 2014

**APPROVAL OF THE PRIVATE FOSTERING SERVICE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
2014-2015**

Director of Children, Young People & Learning

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The purpose of the decision is to approve the Statement of Purpose for Private Fostering Services for 2014 – 2015.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Statement of Purpose for Private Fostering Services 20143 - 2015 [annex 1] is APPROVED.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The compilation and annual review of the Statement of Purpose for the Private Fostering Service is a requirement under the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering, July 2005, Standard 1.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. It is a requirement of the Minimum Standards that the local authority has a written Statement of Purpose in place for Private Fostering Services.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 This Statement of Purpose is a description of private fostering arrangements within Bracknell Forest, and is separate from the mainstream Fostering Services Statement of Purpose . The Statement sets out the Council's key duties in relation to private fostering and how these will be met. These duties include:

- Raising awareness of the legal requirement for private foster carers to notify the Council.
- Providing training and support for staff.
- Ensuring that there are sound arrangements for the assessment of private foster carers and privately fostered children.
- Providing support and advice to private foster carers and to privately fostered children and their parents.
- To provide an annual report to the LSCB.

- 5.2 Comprehensive information regarding all regulations governing private fostering arrangements is contained in the Bracknell Forest Private Fostering Policy, 2009 which details all the actions required under the Children Act Regulations 2005 and includes full details of the legislative requirements, together with comprehensive practice guidance for social workers dealing with the notification and supervision of private fostering arrangements. It also sets out the actions required to ensure that

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these children are properly safeguarded with regard to the child protection matters, standards of care and welfare concerns. See: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/private-fostering-policy.pdf>

- 5.3 The Private Fostering Service was last inspected by Ofsted in 2008 when the provision was found to be good. The Department of Education now advise that private fostering will no longer be inspected as a discrete service but will be included in the wider inspection of Children's Social Care provision.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are set out within the attached policies accompanying this report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that based on current needs and demand, sufficient resources exist to meet the statement of purpose.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Has been undertaken and attached at Annex 2.

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 this policy.

Background Papers

The Statement of Purpose for Private Fostering Services 2013-14 [**annex 1**].

Equality Impact Assessment [**annex 2**].

See also: Bracknell Forest Policy, Procedure and Practice Guidance for Private Fostering, March 2009, at

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/private-fostering-policy.pdf>

National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering, at

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/privatefostering/>

Contact for further information

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