

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

**APPROVAL OF THE FOSTERING SERVICE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE 2014 - 2015
AND FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2013- 2014
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The purpose of the decision is to approve the 2014 – 2015 Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service and the Fostering Service Annual Report 2013 – 2014.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service 2014 - 15 [annex 1] and the Fostering Service Annual Report 2013 – 14 [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 .

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, all of which can be met from within existing resources

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained and addressed within the main body of the policy documents attached to this report.

Borough Treasurer

UNRESTRICTED

- 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 3.

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 .

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 2014-2015. **[annex 1]**

Fostering Service Annual Report 2013 – 2014 **[annex 2]**

Equality Impact Assessment **[annex 3]**

Contact for further information

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