

**TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING
31 JULY 2019**

**APPROVAL OF THE FOSTERING SERVICE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE APRIL 2019 –
MARCH 2020 AND FOSTERING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2018 – MARCH
2019**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: PEOPLE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the decision is to approve the April 2019 – March 2020 Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service and the Fostering Service Annual Report April 2018 – March 2019.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 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)].

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **That the Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service 2019 - 20 [annex 1] and the Fostering Service Annual Report 2018 – 19 [annex 2] are APPROVED.**

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 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.

6 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 6.1 The relevant staff from the Family Placement Team have contributed to this Review.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The relevant legal issues are addressed within the body of the report.

Director of Finance

- 7.2 The Director of Finance is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.3 There is an Equality Impact Assessment

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 7.4 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

- 7.5 The Children's Social Care Management Team has considered and endorsed the Statement of Purpose and Annual Report in May 2019.

8 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 8.1 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.

Method of Consultation

- 8.2

Representations Received

- 8.3 There have been no representations received.

Background Papers

Fostering Service Statement of Purpose 2019 - 2020 [annex 1]

Fostering Service Annual Report 2018 – 2019 [annex 2]

Contact for further information

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