

14 September 2021		ITEM: 7
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Fostering Statement of Purpose		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Dan Jones Service Manager Adoption, Fostering and Placements		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon, Interim Assistant Director Children's Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director Of Children's Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report is to update members of the Committee on Thurrock Council's Fostering Statement of Purpose which is reviewed annually

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Members of the Committee are informed about Thurrock's Fostering Statement of Purpose

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 National Minimum Standards (NMS) are applicable to the provision of fostering services. The NMS, together with Regulations relevant to the placement of children in foster care such as the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 (the 2011 Regulations), form the basis of the regulatory framework under the Care Standards Act 2000 (CSA) for the conduct of fostering services. Standard 16 of the Minimum Standards relates to the Fostering Statement of Purpose, which should ensure that Children, their parents, and foster carers are assured of our capacity to carry out this work.

2.2 Members are advised that the Fostering Statement of Purpose should be reviewed annually and the current statement is attached.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Thurrock's fostering statement of purpose 2020-2021 is attached.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 Members of the Committee are aware of the Thurrock Fostering Service and confirm the Council is meeting its statutory duties in relation to fostering.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 None

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 None

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

There are no financial implications

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal (Social Care and Education)

The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, amended by The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review and Fostering Services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013;

- provides the regulatory framework for fostering service providers including the need for a statement of purpose, management of the service and conduct

National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Fostering Services – together with the regulations relevant to the placement of children in foster care, provide the framework for the conduct of fostering services.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager, Community Development and Equalities

The Fostering Service is committed to practice which promotes inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy. Staff members are from diverse backgrounds and heritage and are able to promote equality and diversity. Recruitment materials are developed to attract foster carers from all communities to encourage applications irrespective of age, sex, gender re-assignment, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation and disability. We encourage foster carers from many different backgrounds to suit the diverse needs of children requiring alternative homes.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

- None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 - Thurrock Fostering Statement of Purpose

Report Author:

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Children's Services

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Strategic Lead Children Looked After and Placements