

Decision Maker: **PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES**

Date: **For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by Children, Education and Families PDS Committee meeting; 26 January 2021**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **PRIVATE FOSTERING ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

Contact Officer: Vicky West, Head of Adoption, Fostering and Resources, and Children with Disabilities.

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Chief Officer: Director: Children's Social Care (ECHS)

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

1.1 The Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011 requires the Fostering Agency to produce a report on fostering activity (including private fostering) to the Agency Executive and an updated Statement of Purpose on an annual basis.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **The Education, Children and Families Sub-Committee is asked to:**

- i) **Consider the content and comment upon the annual report of the Private Fostering Agency;**
- ii) **Recommend that the annual report be endorsed by the Portfolio Holder for Care Services**

2.2 **The Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families is asked to endorse the annual report**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: 833120
 4. Total current budget for this head: £4,947,160 (within the Fostering Budget)
 5. Source of funding: Revenue Support Grant
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 3
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 Standard 25.7 of the National Minimum Standards 2011 requires the Fostering Agency to produce a report on fostering activity (including private fostering) to the Agency Executive, to:

- Receive written reports on the management, outcomes and financial state of the agency;
- Monitor the management and outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the agency is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children;
- Satisfy itself that the agency is complying with the conditions of registration.

3.2 KEY THEMES

- In this financial year we have continued to promote the Bromley Private Fostering APP and we have achieved 12000 downloads within this financial year.
- In this financial year we have received 29 notifications compared to 25 in the previous year and from a more diverse source of notifications for example housing, hospital and faith group. In 2019-2020 we had, 27 children in private fostering arrangements, 14 were on-going arrangements from the previous year and 13 were new arrangements.
- In this financial year we run training sessions (4) in April 2019, July 2019, September 2019, November 2019, January 2020 with a total of 75 attendees.
- The lead officer has increased the number of Training Sessions, providing in-depth training and advice to the children's workforce practitioners supporting Bromley's new social work academy.

3.3 The annual activity report of the Fostering Agency is attached as Appendix 1.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The production of an annual report and updated statement of purpose is a statutory requirement in the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy, Financial and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	