

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
21 JULY 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director, People and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
Contact Officer(s):	Fiona Van Den Hout, Head of Service Fostering and Supervised Contact	Tel. 01223 518739

Report from the Foster Carer Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Fiona Van Den Hout	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of survey ; and • Raise any queries they have with the lead officers 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform council of the themes and feedback collected through a Foster carer survey launched in June
- 2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.2 to receive statutory reports in relation to the adoption, fostering, commissioning, looked after children services and children's homes with a view to recommending any changes.
- 2.3 This reports to the Children in Care Pledge by focussing on respect for children in care and care leavers

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 survey outcome report is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The service requested the Foster Carer Association support service improvement and development through a survey asking for foster carer feedback for both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Local Authority foster carers.

4.3 Based on feedback previously received individually from foster carers, the service worked alongside both chairs to develop the following key questions which align to the overall service aims to improve the recruitment of carers who can provide safe and loving local homes for our children in care, the retention of foster carers and maximise the participation of foster carers in all the work that we do:

- Do you feel fully supported by the Fostering Service/Local Authority?
- What improvements or changes within the Fostering Service Department would assist you to reach your full potential in your role as a foster carer?
- As a foster Carer do you feel your thoughts, opinions and experiences are valued and taken into consideration when decisions/plans are being made for the child/young person in your care?
- What changes / strategies do you think would improve the lives of the young people in your care?
- Would you be willing/available to share your experiences/commitment to the young people in your care to others?
- There are a high percentage of children and young people; teenagers and those exhibiting challenging behaviour who are being placed with IFA's. In your opinion, what does the service need to do to encourage and empower in house foster carers to be more confident and step out of their comfort zone to care for these young people?
- As a Foster Carer, if you had a magic wand what would your three wishes be that you would like to see the Fostering Service implement?
- Would you recommend other potential carers to join the LA in their fostering journey? Whether this be new carers or others transferring from an IFA
- Do you feel satisfied with the way that your Fostering Service works to retain and support its existing carers?
- Please select ALL relevant criteria from the list below, you may fall into two categories e.g. Foster and Adoptive Parent.

4.4 Feedback received has been valuable in its challenge to the service and in identifying carers who wish to work alongside the Foster Carer Committee (FCC), for example on our training or mentorship scheme. Over the coming months we will continue to work in partnership with the Fostering Committee/Association Chairs and our foster carers to address the comments received.

4.5 The service anticipates that some actions will be easily addressed whilst others, the FCC will work towards. Responsive and regular communication channels with our foster carers is a priority and their voices are valued. Given this, we will reissue the survey in February/March 2022 to measure the progress made.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 Foster carer views will feed into the key priorities of the service

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Corporate Parenting Committee members have a duty to review the performance of Children's Social Care.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

Legal Implications

9.2 There are no legal implications associated with this report

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no equalities implications associated with this report

9.4 Other Implications

This report relates to the services provided for children in care and care leavers and ties into the Pledge and Charter that the local authority respects the differing wants and needs for all.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 - Foster Carer survey

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