

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE (FORMAL)	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
20 JULY 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Nicola Curley Director for Children’s Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Sue King Fostering Service Manager	Tel. 01733 864001

ANNUAL FOSTERING REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Sue King	Deadline date:
<p>It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the content of the report; 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 about the activity of the fostering service in 2021 - 2022

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 Please see attached the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Annual Report 2021-2022

4.1.1

4.1.2 The reporting period of 2021- 2022 represents the first full year of operations for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fostering Service, which launched on 1 December 2020.

4.1.3 Some of the core roles and functions of our fostering services have continued to remain separate, for example Cambridgeshire staff supervise Cambridgeshire foster carers, and Peterborough staff supervise Peterborough carers. There is a combined recruitment and assessment function, supervision and support function and a combined dedicated team that undertakes independent household reviews and monitors practice to ensure quality and compliance with the Fostering National Minimum Standards.

4.1.4 The report outlines the development of the key areas of the service and the progress made in each.

4.2 During the year, the Fostering Service has experienced the lifting of the Coronavirus restrictions, and the impact of this is referenced where relevant.

4.2.1

Key Performance

4.2.2

In this reporting period, the service recruited 15 new fostering households.

4.2.3

As of 31 March 2022, there are a further 6 new fostering assessments in progress. This work will carry over into 2022/23.

4.2.4

In this reporting period, 12 fostering households resigned from fostering leaving an overall net gain of 3 households.

4.2.5

1 Foster Carer household transferred to an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) from Peterborough.

4.2.6

On 31 March 2022 of the 244 children and young people in care living with Foster Carers, 139 (58%) were living with in house carers who were supported by the fostering service as opposed to 42% living with Independent Foster Agencies.

4.2.7

There was a total of 45 assessments of Special Guardianship applicants completed in the reporting period.

There was a total of 2 Private Fostering assessments completed in the reporting period.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 There is no significant impact anticipated as this is an Annual Report.

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.

Other Implications

9.4 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 Fostering Service Annual Report 2021 – 2022

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