

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
17 JULY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg Executive Director Children and Young People's Service	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, and Children's Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Sara Graves, Service Director, Children's Social Care and Targeted Support Julie Mepham, Head of Service, Corporate Parenting & Fostering	

FOSTER CARER REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM:	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Committee:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of this Corporate Parenting Committee Report which updates the committee in relation to the fostering service. 2. Raises any queries they have with the lead officers. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Committee as a regular work programme item from the Peterborough City Council Fostering Service.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update about the work of the Foster Carer Committee.
 2.2 This report is for the Corporate Parenting Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.4.4.6 This report is to support the Corporate Parenting Committee to monitor the quality of care delivered by the City Council and review the performance of outcomes for children and young people in care, (d) Hold meetings with children and young people in care, frontline staff and Foster Carers to inform the committee of the standards of care and improvement outcomes for looked after children.

2.3 *How does this report link to the Children in care Promise?*

This report links to the Children in Care Promise, pledge 5, 6, 9 - We will work to keep you in a supportive and caring environment where you feel safe and happy. We will support you to maintain a healthy lifestyle and help look after your physical and mental health. We will work with you to give you all the help and support you need to make a success of moving on from care to adult life.

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 This report has been prepared to update the Corporate Parenting Committee on participation activity and collaborative working with Peterborough Foster Carers, and to provide an overview of relevant service development activity.

4.2 **Fostering Working Groups – Progress Briefing**

The Fostering Service has continued to collaborate with the Peterborough Foster Carer Committee (PFCC) to ensure their participation in the development of the service.

The Peterborough Foster Carer Committee (PFCC) continues to meet bi-monthly with the last meeting taking place on 14.05.24 which is also attended by member of staff from the fostering service.

Service staff gave a short update on the progress of staff recruitment provided by the transformation funding. Information was also given about 'Foster East', the regional fostering recruitment hub that Peterborough is part of. Committee were also updated about the Mockingbird project. Two committee members are on the Implementation Working Group for the project. Further information was provided about the progress of recruiting to the Clinical Team, and its proposed structure.

Passports – a carer raised an issue in relation to passports and the specific issues for children in care that can make it complicated to secure passports. The service raised this with senior managers who have identified a service manager in the children in care service who will lead on developing links with the passport office.

The committee has two representatives who sit on the virtual school board and take queries from foster carers forward to the board. The representatives updated the committee on the activity of the board and the virtual school. There have been staff changes. Additionally, there have been changes to the groups of children they now support including children in kinship arrangements.

Mental health and wellbeing ambassadors have met monthly with Sue King, service manager, to identify ways to support the emotional health of foster carers and their families.

They are working on a survey for foster carers and another for staff to understand the key issues for foster carer wellbeing. It will be an opportunity to see what steps can be taken to improve the situation for our foster carers.

The committee has appointed a Sharefound ambassador due to the queries about children in care savings. She has met with the Sharefound contact in the council. The plan is to produce a simplified procedure and an email inbox for all queries from foster carers.

The committee has developed a programme of activities for foster families and children for the coming year which includes the usual Christmas party and panto as well as cinema tickets for foster families. It is keen to ensure that the activities can include as many children and family members as possible.

The male support group continues to meet monthly face to face which is appreciated by the small number of people who attend.

5. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 *Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:*

In terms of environment impact, this is neutral since we are not proposing any change, but rather informing of PFCC work alongside the fostering service.

The PFCC continues to ensure that the lives of children and young people are at the centre of its work, through its continued support of the fostering community in Peterborough.

With regard to the 'Prevention, Independence and Resilience', the PFCC continues to promote fostering through meetings and social media platforms, and work alongside the service to ensure that the educational, social, emotional and health needs of children and young people are met to a high standard. This enables us to support the 'Sustainable future' our young children and young people in the city.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 None

6.2 Has this recommendation been considered by the below? If not, please provide reasoning.

- Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)
- Cabinet Policy Forum (CPF)

Please also consider whether the recommendation should also be considered by the following:

- Financial Sustainability Working Group (FSWG)
- Group Leaders' Meeting
- All Party Policy (APP)

Guidance on the items each group should see can be found here - [Meetings Pathway Guidance Link](#)

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 *N/A*

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 *None: this is an updated from the Fostering Committee only*

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 *None to be considered*

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 *None*

Legal Implications

10.2 *None*

Equalities Implications

None

Other Implications

There are no implications for children in care and Care Leavers.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

11.1 *None*

12. APPENDICES

12.1 *None*

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