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| CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM No. 4 |
| 20 NOVEMBER 2024 | PUBLIC REPORT |

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| 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 | |

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES & PORTFOLIO HOLDER 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 advise the Corporate Parenting Committee of service changes further to the decoupling between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

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

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| Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan? | NO | If yes, date for Cabinet meeting | |
|---|----|----------------------------------|--|

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 12th September 2024 which is also attended by member of staff from the fostering service. There will also be an AGM on 3rd December 2024.

Service staff gave a short update on the staff recruitment, advising that the service has appointed two new Fostering Support Workers, a new recruitment Team Manager and Recruitment Officer as well as a Liaison worker for the Mockingbird Project. The service is now fully staffed.

Passports – There was an action at the last Corporate Parenting meeting and a discussion about passports also took place at the last Foster Carer committee meeting. There had been an action at the last Corporate Parenting Committee citing that Foster Carers should receive training in documents which are required to be collated for passports. However, it transpires that it is the role of the Childcare Social Worker to collate the passport documentation. Michaela Berry (Service Manager for Children in Care) met with a member of the Passport Office over the summer and would like to rewrite the policy on CIC applications and for PFCC to be involved. All passport applications are to be completed digitally as they are easier to track.

The Mockingbird Project is underway. The main hub carer and 5 satellite carers are in place. The new Mockingbird Liaison worker has started an induction into the service. There will be a launch of the Mockingbird Project on 4th December 2024.

The committee has developed a programme of activities for foster families and children for the coming year which will include the Christmas Party and the annual trip to the Pantomime. The foster carers are aware that the service intends to host a Long Service Carers Awards Service in February 2024.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

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.

Regarding '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.

Environment & Climate Change

The report does not identify any new projects or proposals but is an update on Foster Carer activity as part of the regular work pattern of the Corporate Parenting Committee therefore the carbon impact associated with energy and travel needs will remain minimal.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 *None*

6.2 *Suggest here other consultation(s) which could be undertaken.*

6.3 *None*

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 as this report is for information and updates only*

Equalities Implications

10.3 *None*

Other implications

10.4 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.

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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