

## **Corporate Parenting Board**

**4 July 2013**

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

Good and Safe Placements for Looked After Children – A progress report on Fostering and Adoption Activity and Outcomes in York

### **Summary**

1. This report provides an update to the Board on York's progress, through the delivery of its fostering and adoption services, in delivering good and safe placements to children who require alternative care.

### **Background**

2. The council's placement strategy focuses upon children being placed with local foster families, where practicable. For children, who can not return to the care of their parents or extended family, there is an explicit commitment to seeking adoption families, in which they will have the opportunity to grow up in a new permanent, loving family.

The fostering and adoption services are registered with Ofsted as the regulatory authority. There is an extensive legislative base underpinned by regulation, national minimum standards and an inspection framework.

The adoption and fostering regulations require that each service report on a regular basis to the Director of Children's Services and the Cabinet member with responsibility for Children's Services. The reports for the annual review of the adoption service and the quarterly report of the fostering service for period January to March 2013 are submitted for consideration (appendices A and B).

## **Consultation**

3. The work of each of the officers reporting to the Board is undertaken with consultation with service users e.g. foster carers, adopters, looked after children and care leavers. Feedback from York Area Foster Carers Association, Show Me That I Matter and I Matter Too (representatives of all looked after children) is regularly sought and incorporated into the service development.

## **Options**

4. There are no options for decision, as the information provided is intended to develop the knowledge for the Board of the experience of looked after children.

## **Analysis**

5. Not applicable

## **Council Plan**

6. The Corporate Parenting Board will be ensuring that the work of partners for looked after children contributes to the aims of
  - The Children and Young People's Plan
  - Building strong communities
  - Protecting vulnerable people

Through the positive outcomes for looked after children, the aim is for them to be able to benefit from and contribute to

- Get York moving
- Create jobs and grow the economy
- Protect the environment

## **7. Implications**

- **Financial:** Not applicable
- **Human Resources:** Not applicable
- **Equalities:** Not applicable

- **Legal** : Not applicable
- **Crime and Disorder:** Not applicable
- **Information Technology:** Not applicable
- **Property** : Not applicable
- **Other:** Not applicable

**Risk Management**

8. Not applicable

**Recommendations**

9. It is recommended that the Board receives the reports regarding the adoption and fostering services from the Director of Adults, Children and Education relating to the progress of the department and its key partners in progressing the actions to achieve York’s vision for looked after children.

Reason: To develop the Board’s knowledge and experience of looked after children

**Contact Details**

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**Report Approved**

 Yes

**Date** 25/06/2013

**Specialist Implications Officer’s:** Not applicable

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

**Annexes:**

**Adoption Service Report 2013, Appendix A**

**Fostering Service Report January to March 2013, Appendix B**