
Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Committee

20 July 2021

Fostering Service Redesign – Phase 2

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

On 30 June 2021 this Committee considered a report on the Fostering Initiative. This included details on Phase 1 of the Fostering Initiative that was implemented on 1 April 2021 to raise rates of allowance payments to foster parents with multiple children and the proposals to carry out a wider service review of the Fostering Service (Phase 2).

The Committee heard that the aim of Phase 2 was to increase the number of in house foster placements to ensure children could be placed closer to home, that their different ranges of needs could be met and therefore provide them with better outcomes and opportunities.

The Committee welcomed the update on the Fostering Initiative and requested that the outcomes of the review and proposed Phase 2 improvements were brought to a future Committee meeting to assess how these proposals would provide an improved service for children and foster carers.

The report attached at Appendix 1 details the proposals for phase 2 of the Fostering Service Redesign. Following this meeting, the Committee’s views on the proposals will be provided to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People for consideration ahead of taking a decision in March 2022.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to scrutinise the proposed redesign of the fostering service as set out in the draft decision report (Appendix 1) and assess whether these will achieve better outcomes for children and families in line with the Council’s priorities and Children First Transformation Programme.

Areas for scrutiny include:

- 1) Assurance that the aims of the proposal are deliverable and that there is a clear timeframe for this
- 2) How implementation of the proposal will be carried out and monitored/evaluated
- 3) The mitigations for any risks or issues identified and whether these provide assurance that any potential adverse impacts are understood and being addressed.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate.

Details

The background and context of this item for scrutiny are set out in the appended report (listed below), including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

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Appendix 1: Draft Decision Report: Fostering Service Redesign

Appendix to Decision Report: Further Analysis of the Fostering Review Proposal

Background papers

None