

2 July 2019		ITEM: 9
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Fostering and Adoption Annual Panel Report		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: N/A	
Report of: Dan Jones, Service Manager Adoption, Fostering and Placements		
Accountable Assistant Director: Sheila Murphy, Assistant Director of Children's Services		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report is to provide members of the Committee with an update on Thurrock's Adoption and Fostering Panel.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the members of the Committee are informed about the function and activities of Thurrock's Adoption and Fostering Panel.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 This Reports sets out the function and work undertaken by Thurrock's Adoption and Fostering Panel in the last year.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Thurrock's Adoption and Fostering Panel Annual Report 2018/19 is attached at appendix 1.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 Members of the Committee are aware of how the Thurrock Council are meetings its statutory duties in relation to Adoption.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

None

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

None

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications Verified by: **Michelle Hall**
Management Accountant

There are no financial Implications to this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications Verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Deputy Head of Legal Social Care & Education

Children Act 1989 (as amended);

- sets out the duties for local authorities in terms of services to be provided to children in need
- makes provisions with respect to fostering
- establishes the principle that children are best looked after within their families.

Care Standards Act 2000 (as amended) and National Minimum Standards (NMS)

- NMS for Adoption are issued under this Act – together with the adoption regulations, they provide the framework for the conduct of adoption agencies and adoption support agencies
- NMS for Fostering Services – together with the regulations relevant to the placement of children in foster care, these NMS provide the framework for the conduct of fostering services
- NMS are used by Ofsted during inspections.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications Verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

The Adoption and Fostering Panel is committed to practice which promotes inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory

policy.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder

None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1 - Thurrock Adoption and Fostering Panel Annual Report 2018/19

Report Author:

Dan Jones

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Children's Service