

18 July 2023		ITEM: 7
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Fostering Statement of Purpose		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key decision	
Report of: Liz Shields – Service Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon –Assistant Director Children’s Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy – Corporate Director of Children’s Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report is to update members of the Committee on Thurrock Council’s Fostering Statement of Purpose which is reviewed annually.

The Statement of Purpose is required by the National Minimum Standards for Fostering¹ under Standard 16. Key sections are:

- 16.1) The fostering service has a clear statement of purpose which is available to, and understood by, foster carers, staff and children, and is reflected in any policies, procedures and guidance. It is available to the responsible authority and any parent or person with parental responsibility.
- 16.2) The aims and objectives of the Statement of Purpose are child focused and show how the service will meet outcomes for children.

Member are invited to review the Fostering Statement of Purpose against the requirements of the National Minimum Standard 16.

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Members of the Committee review and note Thurrock’s Fostering Statement of Purpose

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192705/NMS_Fostering_Services.pdf

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Fostering Service compiles an annual Statement of Purpose, which sets out the aims and objectives of the service and how this impacts children and their families. As such it forms the basis for all the other policies relating to fostering.
- 2.2 The Statement of Purpose is a public facing document and should enable parents, carers, and young people to understand how the Fostering Service operate in Thurrock. All members of the fostering service and Foster Carers should conduct their work in line with the Statement of Purpose and the policies it supports
- 2.2 Members are advised that the Fostering Statement of Purpose should be reviewed annually in line with the statutory guidance, and the current statement is attached.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Thurrock's Fostering statement of purpose 2023-2024 is attached.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The Thurrock Fostering Statement of Purpose is a key document that is required under the National Minimum Standards. Members are invited to review and provide comment on this.

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

- 5.1 None

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

- 6.1 None

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead Finance

Funding is provided through Children Services annual budget.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal (Social Care and Education)

The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 as amended requires the Local Authority to prepare a statement of purpose which consists of-
a) a statement of the aims and objectives of the fostering service, and
b) a statement as to the services and facilities (including any parent and child arrangements) provided by the fostering service. The regulations require this document to be reviewed. The Fostering Services statutory guidance provides that this review should be at least annually and published on the website.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon, Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer**

The Fostering Service is committed to practice which promotes equality, diversity and inclusion, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy. Staff members are from diverse backgrounds and heritage. Marketing and recruitment materials are designed to ensure foster carers irrespective of characteristics including age, sex, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation and disability are welcomed.

All information regarding Community Equality Impact Assessments can be found here: <https://intranet.thurrock.gov.uk/services/diversity-and-equality/ceia/>

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e., Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

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 Fostering Statement of Purpose

Report Author:

Liz Shields – Service Manager