

24 October 2024		ITEM: 12
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Fostering and Adoption Annual Panel Report 2023-2024		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: None	
Report of: Peter Turner – Panel Chair		
Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon – Assistant Director Children’s Social Care and Early Help		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy – Executive 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 and Adoption Panel’s annual activity and performance.

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Members of the Committee are invited to review and comment on Thurrock’s Fostering and Adoption Panel annual performance.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** The Fostering and Adoption Annual Panel Report complies with Local Authority Adoption Services (England) Regulations 2003. The regulations were amended in 2005 by The Local Authority Adoption Service (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2005. These regulations do not create a requirement for there to be an annual report, but this is best practice and the latest report is attached.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1** Thurrock’s Fostering and Adoption Annual Panel Report 2023-2024 is attached.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1** Members of the Committee are aware of how Thurrock Council are meeting its statutory duties in relation to Fostering and Adoption.

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
Head of Financial Management

All costs associated with Children Looked After are contained within the Placement budget of £24.416m.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Petrena Sharpe
Safeguarding Team Leader
Law and Governance

The Children Act 1989 (as amended) sets out the Local Authority's duties in providing services to children in need. Statutory guidance sets out the functions and responsibilities of local authorities in delivering Fostering and Adoption services.

The respective National Minimum Standards (NMS) as issued by the Care Standards Act 2000 sets the standards by which providers, commissioners and users can judge the quality of such services. This also provides the framework of standards used by Ofsted to register, inspect and regulate them.

National Minimum Standards 2011 at 25.7 states: "The executive side of the local authority or the independent foster service's provider/trustees, board members or management committee members: monitor the management and outcomes of the services in order to satisfy themselves that the service is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children"

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Natalie Smith Head of Community Development,
Community Development Team

The Fostering and Adoption Panel 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. Panel members are from diverse backgrounds and heritage to reflect the characteristics of our Looked After Children as well as our foster carers and adopters. Thurrock Council welcomes applications from prospective carers irrespective of characteristics including age, sex, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation and disability.

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 and Adoption Annual Panel Report 2022-2023

Report Author:

Peter Turner – Panel Chair