

24 October 2024		ITEM: 10
Corporate Parenting Committee		
Fostering Statement of Purpose		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: None	
Report of: Liz Shields – Service Manager – Fostering and Adoption		
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 Statement of Purpose which is reviewed annually.

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Members of the Committee are informed about Thurrock’s Fostering Statement of Purpose and the local authority’s statutory duties and hold officers to account and scrutinise the work of the service.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Fostering Statement of Purpose complies with the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, Fostering Minimum Standards (2011) and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.

The Fostering Service compiles an annual Statement of Purpose, which sets out the aims and objectives of the service as a whole.

- 2.2 Members are advised that the Fostering Statement of Purpose should be reviewed annually, and the current statement is attached.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Thurrock’s Fostering statement of purpose 2024-2025 is attached.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

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

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 to be contained within the Placement budget of £24.416m.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Sima Khiroya
Assistant Director Financial Management and
Procurement

National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Fostering are issued under this Act – together with the fostering regulations, they provide the framework for the conduct of fostering agencies.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Natalie Smith
Head of Community Development Team

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.

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