

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 10 September 2019
Title of report: Annual Private Fostering Report

Purpose of report

To provide information to Corporate Parenting Board in relation to the number of children and young people Privately Fostered in the District on an annual basis. To also provide assurance relating to awareness raising in relation to Private Fostering, and the referral mechanisms that are in place for both professionals and members of the public to use.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	NA
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane (for Mel Meggs) – 2.9.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	NA
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick Childrens Portfolio

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

(Have you considered GDPR?)

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

1. Summary

Private fostering is an arrangement whereby a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if the child has a disability) (S.66 Children Act 1989) is placed for 28 days or more in the care of someone who is not the child's parent(s) or a 'connected person'.

A connected person is defined as a 'relative, friend or other person connected with a child'. The latter is likely to include person(s) who have a pre-existing relationship with the child, for example, a teacher who knows the child in a professional capacity.

Private foster carers can be from the extended family, for example, a cousin or a great aunt, but cannot be a relative as defined under the Children Act 1989, section 105:

A relative under the Children Act 1989 is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent'.

The local authority must be notified if a child is living with someone who is not their parent or a 'connected person' for longer than 28 days. The local authority need to be satisfied that the placement is suitable and the child is safe. To be defined as 'private fostering', the child must be living with that person for longer than 28 days and this should be continuous but can include occasional short breaks.

National Minimum Standard 7.9 states:

The local authority provides a written report each year, for consideration by the Director of Children's Services, which includes an evaluation of the outcomes of its work in relation to privately fostered children within its area.

2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required, this report is submitted at the request of the Chair to monitor the number of children who are privately fostered in the District, and to also update the board re specific awareness raising activity taking place related to Private Fostering.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Not applicable

3.2 Working with Partners

To raise awareness of what Private Fostering

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable

3.4 Improving Outcomes for Children

This information is provided at the request of Corporate Parenting Board to outline the work undertaken in relation to Private Fostering and ensure board are aware of the number of children and young people who have this legal status.

3.5 Reducing demand of services

Not applicable

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Not applicable

3.7 **Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

4. **Next steps**

A report will be submitted to the Corporate Parenting Board annually and a similar report will also be presented annually to the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board.

5. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

6. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

7. **Contact officer**

Andy Quinlan Service Manager Fostering

8. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Attached

Private Fostering Annual Report

Private Fostering Pathway

Private Fostering Action Plan

9. **Service Director responsible**

Elaine McShane, Service Director (Child Protection and Family Support)