

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board
Date: 23rd November 2021
Title of report: Fostering Annual Report

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report as set out in regulations is to inform the Corporate Parenting Board of the work undertaken by the fostering service between April 2020 and September 2021. The report updates the Board on activity in relation to the recruitment and retention of foster carers and developments within the service.

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	Tom Brailsford
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: None

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**

Kirklees Council's fostering service undertakes an annual report to reflect upon its performance and set targets for the forthcoming year. This report reflects the fostering service's activities for the 18 months from April 2020.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

No decision is required, this report is submitted at the request of the Board.

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People** Not applicable

3.2 **Working with Partners** Not applicable

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 inform as to the work undertaken regarding recruitment and retention of foster carers. By increasing numbers of in-house carers, we reduce the need for children to be placed with Independent Fostering Agencies, often outside of the borough. The carers are approved by us and we are responsible for their training and development, so as to offer placements that are appropriate and of excellent quality.

3.5 **Reducing demand of services**

Not applicable

3.6 **Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Increasing numbers of in house carers reduces the cost of placements, as we are less reliant on Independent Fostering Agencies and higher costs. This means that Kirklees' children can remain within their locality and maintain meaningful relationships with their family, peers, schools and professionals.

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

n/a

5. **Next steps**

N/A

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

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

Not applicable

8. **Contact officer**

Anna Gledhill, Service Manager for Quality Assurance and Social Work Practice Lead

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

N/A.

10. **Service Director responsible**

Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)