



**Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board**

**Date: 23 January 2024**

**Title of report: Fostering Report October 2022 to March 2023**

**Purpose of report:**

The purpose of the report is to inform the Corporate Parenting Board about the work undertaken by the fostering service. Reporting periods for our annual report are usually in line with financial reporting periods (April to March), however the services provided an eighteen-month report to October 2021 due to an Ofsted Monitoring visit, and a further report following 12-month period between October 2021 and September 2022.

This report covers the six-month period between October 2022 and March 2023 to realign the reporting period and enable the service to provide comparative date from national and regional service reporting in future reports.

<p><b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £500k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions.</b></p>	<p><b>Not Applicable</b></p>
<p><b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b></p>	<p><b>Key Decision – No</b> <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b></p>
<p><b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b></p>	<p><b>Not Applicable – for information only.</b></p>
<p><b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b></p> <p><b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b></p> <p><b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b></p>	<p><b>Kieran Lord- Service Director, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships. Children's Services.</b></p> <p><b>9.1.2023</b></p> <p><b>No</b></p> <p><b>No</b></p>

Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllr Kendrick

**Electoral wards affected: N/A**

**Ward councillors consulted: N/A**

**Public or private: Public**

**Has GDPR been considered? Yes**

## Summary

The report updates the Board on activity in relation to the recruitment and retention of foster carers and developments within the service.

Kirklees Fostering Service and our team of foster carers work in partnership to ensure children live in safe, nurturing family homes where they can achieve their potential and enjoy their childhood.

This six month Report provides a summary of the performance of the Fostering Service during the past year looking at work undertaken by our:

- Recruitment Team
- Connected Persons' Team
- Fostering Support Team
- Fostering Panel

### 1. Information required to take a decision

For information only, no decision required

### 2. Implications for the Council

#### 3.1 Working with People

The Service works with foster carers and across the council and wider partnership.

#### 2.2 Working with Partners

The Service works with partners to deliver outcomes for children and young people, within the Council and across the wider partnership

#### 2.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable

#### 2.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable

#### 2.5 Improving outcomes for children

A key priority for Kirklees Council is to ensure that children can be brought up safely with their birth parents or within their wider extended family

network. Where it is identified that children cannot remain within their family, the fostering service contributes to improving outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people who are looked after. The Fostering Service aims to support and expand our Fostering Services to ensure more fostering homes for our children looked after in Kirklees

## **2.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees**

Not applicable

## **2.7 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

## **3 Consultation**

Not applicable

## **4 Engagement**

Not applicable

## **5 Next steps and timelines**

Fostering Annual report for 2023-2024 to be timetabled for Corporate Parenting Board in 2024

## **6 Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted

## **7 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

Not applicable.

## **8 Contact officer**

Anna Gledhill, Head of Homes for Children. 01484 221000 extension 71493  
email: [anna.gledhill@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:anna.gledhill@kirklees.gov.uk)

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

Not applicable

## **10 Service Director responsible**

Kieran Lord, Service Director, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships