



Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 23 April 2024

Title of report: Fostering Diagnostic Report March 2024

Purpose of report: To inform the Board about the findings and recommendations of the Department of Education Fostering Diagnostic Visit that took place in February 2024.

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.	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	10.04.24 Kieran Lord No No
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

The Fosterlink Advisor carried out a diagnostic visit to Kirklees Local Authority on 7th, 8th and 14th February 2024.

The project stems from a national shortage of suitable foster carers to meet the growing population of children in care, with the aim to offer in-depth, diagnostic support to local authority fostering service that specifically focuses on recruitment and approval practices.

A full report was completed and this document will provide an overview of the findings and recommendations.

2. Information required to take a decision

For information only, no decision required.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Service works with foster carers and potential foster carers across Kirklees and the West Yorkshire region.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Service works with partners to deliver outcomes for children and young people Looked After, by Kirklees Council.

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The fostering service are committed to doing all we can to provide outstanding services, for all our children and young people who come into our care. We are committed to providing children and young people with high quality parenting, care and the right support, to enable them to aspire, achieve and live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives through our foster carers. We recognise that to achieve this ambition we need to build our fostering community and increase the number of in-house foster carers in Kirklees.

Our ambition to provide the right homes for all our children and wherever possible to provide family-based care is supported by the findings and recommendations in this report.

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

4 Consultation

Not applicable

5 Engagement

Not applicable

6 Next steps and timelines

That the report informs the Fostering recruitment and retention strategy 2024-27 and the Fostering recruitment and marketing action plan 2024.

7 Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

8 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable

9 Contact officer

Lucy Fearnley, Team Manager for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

Sara Miles, Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

10 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

11 Service Director responsible

Kieran Lord, Service Director, Resources, Improvements and Partnerships