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**Customer and Workforce
Services Directorate**

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To Cabinet Member (Children and Young People)

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6th March, 2013

Our ref: C/LMK

Dear Member,

Supplementary Agenda – Meeting of the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) - Tuesday, 12th March, 2013

You should hopefully by now have received the agenda and documentation for the above meeting. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of an additional item for consideration at that meeting.

With the agreement of the Cabinet Member, Councillor O'Boyle, the following report is to be considered as urgent business at the above meeting, the reason for urgency being the need for the Cabinet Member to consider the Recommendation from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board (2) before the end of the Municipal Year.

- **Agenda Item 9. THE ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICE/FAMILY PLACEMENT SERVICE (Pages 3 - 4)**

Briefing Note of the Chief Executive

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Lara Knight
Governance Services Team Leader

Membership: Councillors J O'Boyle (Cabinet Member)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Cabinet Member (Children and Young People)

Date: 12 March 2013

Subject: The Adoption and Fostering Service/Family Placement Service

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) of the outcome of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board's consideration of The Adoption and Fostering Service/Family Placement Service at their meeting on 18th February 2013.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That consideration is given to the reintroduction of respite for foster carers in exceptional circumstances where it could prevent the breakdown of a placement and aid the retention of experienced foster carers.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Board considered a report on recent developments in the City Council's adoption and fostering service / family placements team at their meeting on 18th February.
- 3.2 The Board recognised that the service has undergone a number of changes recently and there has been an increase in the number of foster carers recruited.
- 3.3 There are also plans to introduce a range of new support mechanisms to help foster carers and improve retention.
- 3.4 Though welcoming the above, the Board felt that respite care for foster carers was an omission in this support package and have asked that the Cabinet Member explore options for it's introduction in exceptional circumstances, with the aim that it could prevent some placements breaking down and aid the retention of foster carers.

Briefing Note Author:
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