
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

15 January 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Pat Seaman

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Children Services

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title:

Coventry Fostering Service Annual Report 2022/23

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet Member about the work undertaken by the Fostering Service between April 2022 and March 2023.

The performance of Coventry's Fostering Service is critical to delivery of high-quality local placements that can meet the diverse needs of Coventry's looked after children.

The report summarises the activity of the service over the past 12 months. It highlights the work of the service to recruit, assess and support foster carers and the success in retaining foster carers over the past 12 months. It details the work with connected persons foster carers as part of the Coventry Family Valued Project and the start of the Fostering Excellence Project which builds on the previous success of the Fostering Transformation Project between 2016 and 2021.

Recommendations:

- 1. The Fostering Service Annual Report 2022/23 is accepted.**

Other useful background papers:

- None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny? No

List of Appendices included:

Coventry City Council Fostering Annual report

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None.

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

Yes. Corporate Parenting Board, 9 November 2023

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Coventry City Council Fostering Annual Report

1. Context (or background)

1.1 Each local authority in England is obliged by Fostering National Minimum Standard 25.7 to provide a written report on the management, outcomes and financial position of the fostering service. This Annual Report is provided to meet this obligation.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Cabinet Member is requested to:

Analyse and endorse the work completed in this area of work.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 The report contains a summary of consultation and engagement with foster carers during the year.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 This is an annual report and work will continue in this area over the next 12 months.

5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer

5.1 Financial implications

5.1.1 Costs relating to the service are held within Coventry City Council's budgets. These are managed through the usual internal budgetary control process and there are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Legal implications

The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 state that the fostering service provider must compile a written statement in relation to the fostering service ("the statement of purpose") which consists of— (a) a statement of the aims and objectives of the fostering service, and (b) a statement as to the services and facilities (including any parent and child arrangements) provided by the fostering service.

The fostering service provider must provide a copy of the statement of purpose to the Chief Inspector, place a copy on their website (if they have one), and make copies available, upon request, to— (a) any person working for the purposes of the fostering service, (b) any foster parent or prospective foster parent of the fostering service, (c) any child placed with a foster parent by the fostering service, and (d) the parent of any such child.

Under Statutory Guidance the fostering service must compile a Statement of Purpose, which sets out the aims and objectives of the service as a whole, and the services, and facilities which are provided (including the provision of any "parent and child arrangements"). The statement must be reviewed and updated as necessary, but at least annually and published on the provider's website (if they have one), with a copy provided to Ofsted

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The fostering service contributes to the wellbeing of children through arranging a fostering placement for a child whose own family is unable to provide care. It supports a key element of Corporate Parenting – that of securing appropriate family placements for looked after children’, as an effective means of giving them the best life chances possible.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Risks are monitored through oversight by the Children’s Services Leadership Team. The approval of foster carers is overseen by the fostering panel and agency decision maker. The service is subject to oversight by colleagues across the council including finance, human resources and complaints. Ameliorative action is promptly taken in the light of any issues identified.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

This is crucial to the Council’s Corporate Parenting responsibilities. This report has also been reviewed by the Corporate Parenting Board.

6.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Equality of opportunity is a key part of fostering work. This is considered in the annual report.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report author(s):

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Contributor/ approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved

Katherine Robinson	Operational Lead	Fostering Service		22/8/23
Angela Whitrick	Strategic Lead	Looked after children		30/8/23
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance		08/01/2024
Names of approvers for submission:				
Finance: Nicola David	Lead Accountant	Finance		22/8/23
Finance: Sarah Kinsell	Finance Manager	Finance		5/1/2024
Legal: Safda Mahmood	Team Leader and Solicitor	Law and Governance		5/1/2024
Director: Neil Macdonald	Director	Children's Services		4/9/23
Member: Councillor P Seamen	Cabinet Member	Children & Young People		13/9/23

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