



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 its introduction in exceptional circumstances, with the aim that it could prevent some placements breaking down and aid the retention of foster carers.

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