



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Sub Commission  
14 February 2012**

# ITEM 5

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and  
Young People

**Report on the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of the Fostering Service on  
2 December 2011 and the consequent Action Plan.**

## **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The full report is attached as Appendix 2.

The report gives a very positive set of findings; the “good” standard found in the previous inspection in 2008 has been maintained and in effect improved as the inspection regime has strengthened its criteria.

The service provision is found to be strong in all areas. Positive comments were recorded by the young people; the foster carers themselves and colleagues in other agencies and social work teams.

1.2 **Response to the recommendations to secure further improvement**

- i) Ensure the manager undertakes training directly related to managing a fostering service.

**Response**

This has already been implemented and is part of the managers MIP.

- ii) Ensure children know how to contact Children’s Rights Director.

**Response**

This will be included in the independent reviewing officers checklist and in the update of the children’s handbook.

- iii) Ensure where gaps are identified the fostering service ensure the Placement Plan sets out any additional training, resource or support required.

**Response**

We will amend the Placement Plan documentation to ensure that this information – currently held in the matching document is included and transferred across to the new document.

- iv) Ensure fostering carers are given the opportunity to attend and be heard at all panel meetings at which their approval is being discussed.

## **Response**

We will review our process of annual reviews to achieve the recommendation. There are a number of possible models and we will consult carers and other agencies as to how to achieve the outcome in a cost effective manner.

- v) Ensure the reviews of each carer include an appraisal of performance against clear and consistent standards and the effectiveness of training and development is evaluated with regard to every carer.

## **Response**

We will review our statutory review documentation to ensure these issues are highlighted where existing and amended where necessary.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the responses to be noted and progress reported in the Fostering Agency quarterly reports.
- 2.2 That the social workers, foster carers and managers be commended for this excellent outcome in which their hard work has been recognised.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 N/A

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 See Appendix 2 Ofsted Report

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 N/A

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

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| <b>Legal officer</b><br><b>Financial officer</b><br><b>Human Resources officer</b><br><b>Service Director(s)</b><br><b>Other(s)</b> | Katie Harris – Director of Specialist Services |
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| <b>For more information contact:</b><br><b>Background papers:</b><br><b>List of appendices:</b> | Name 01332 642669 e-mail katie.harris @derby.gov.uk<br>None<br>Appendix 1 – Implications<br>Appendix 2 – Derby City Council Fostering Service Inspection Report for local authority fostering agency |
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| <b>IMPLICATIONS</b> |
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1 None

**Legal**

2.1 None

**Personnel**

3.1 None

**Equalities Impact**

4.1 None

**Health and Safety**

5.1 None

**Environmental Sustainability**

6.1 None

**Asset Management**

7.1 None

**Risk Management**

8.1 None

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

9.1 None

