



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee
1 December 2015**

ITEM 5

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and
Young People

Fostering Statement of Purpose

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services require that the Fostering Agency is required to produce a Statement of Purpose which is updated once a year.
- 1.2 The current Statement of Purpose is attached at Appendix two.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the Fostering Statement of Purpose.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To comply with guidance and regulations and National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Appendix two contains the updated Fostering Statement of Purpose and has been written to be understood by children and young people. Corporate Parenting committee considered the previous version in January 2015 and this updated version reflects the changes during 2015.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not applicable

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Hazel Lymbery; Director of Specialist Services, 01332 642669 hazel.lymbery@derby.gov.uk
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Sally Penrose; Head of Fostering and Adoption, 01332 643817 sally.penrose@derby.gov.uk Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Fostering Statement of Purpose

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 The cost of providing the Fostering Service is contained within fixed cost-centre budgets. A budget increase in 2015-16 allowed fostering allowances to be up-rated to keep pace with the recommended national minimum rate.

Any increase in the shortfall of in-house placements has a direct financial effect due to the much higher placement costs in the independent sector. It is therefore essential increase the recruitment and retention of foster carers.

In the event of an appeal to the IRM the cost falls on the fostering service provider. The fee is around £2500 for each case.

Legal

2.1 The fostering function of the Council is regulated by the 1989 Children Act and the Associated Fostering Regulations, guidance and the minimum standards published in 2011

Personnel

3.1 The service is managed by a Head of Fostering and Adoption, in addition there are three team managers who have relevant social work and management qualifications and a fully qualified team of 16 FTE social workers in three teams.

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4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

5.1 The service continues to give due consideration to race, gender, culture, sexual orientation, religion, and disability in relation to children being placed and for adults who apply to become foster carers. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and further efforts will be made this year to recruit carers from BME communities and carers for disabled children.

Health and Safety

6.1 This is considered at all stages of the recruitment, assessment, training and support of foster carers. All the managers in the service have completed mandatory Health and Safety training.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None arising from this report

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None arising from this report

Risk Management

9.1 None arising from this report

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 Corporate and departmental objectives are pursued through business plans and individual performance plans throughout the service. The report contributes to the Council aspirations:

Good quality services that meet local need”

and the objectives:

“All people in Derby will enjoy achieving their learning potential”

“All people in Derby will enjoy being safe and feeling safe”.