

ITEM 7a

Corporate Scrutiny and Governance Board 19 January 2016

Annual Report on Private Fostering April 2014 to March 2015

Members considered a report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People about Private Fostering in Derby in terms of numbers and the services provided to those children, their families and carers. Members were informed that this is a statutory area of work for children's services and the report is a statutory requirement.

Members discussed the situations in which a child or young person might find themselves in a private fostering arrangement. It was recognised that many of these arrangements may be unreported due to the extra difficulties and stress that could arise for the carers in these circumstances and the lack of incentive for them to report this. It was also recognised that not all cases may be reported by GPs.

The Board resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that:

- 1. Any future work done with commissioners in relation to GP contracts should consider the statutory reporting of any private foster care arrangements to the Local Authority; and**
- 2. The possibility of developing incentives to encourage carers who are involved in a private foster caring arrangement be explored.**