

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

FOSTERING SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

To update Cabinet in relation to the North Lincolnshire Fostering Service.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Fostering Service regularly reviews business and reports to the “executive side” of the Council. This includes work undertaken under the auspice of our collective role as a Corporate Parent.

There has been ongoing recruitment activity this year with the service achieving the ambitious target set for new carers approved. All those carers have been assessed and approved within regulation timescales with the majority being under 6 months. The service has 119 approved foster carers; the highest number of approved carers than previous years.

Foster care retention is very high in North Lincolnshire.

The Ofsted Annual Data set identifies positive practice and progress within North Lincolnshire Fostering Service.

The majority of feedback from foster carers collated throughout the last year has been positive.

The Council has agreed fostering friendly Human Resource policies to support employee’s who also wish to be foster carers.

The Council has developed a Foster Care Ambassador scheme. North Lincolnshire Council employees are invited to train as foster carer ambassadors and support the recruitment of foster carers.

Foster carer “shaping the future” events were held in August and October 2015. Events were attended by foster carers and staff from across the Council. The events focused on innovation for the future including the development of a new foster care charter, strengthening the partnership with carers and improving business support processes.

Links have been established with local businesses and employers through the North Lincolnshire Business Partnership Network promoting the foster carer friendly employer scheme across North Lincolnshire.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The report is for information.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

The report informs Cabinet of the work of the fostering service.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

There are no resource implications in relation to this report.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

This report is for information.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 Children and carers are consulted.

7.2 There are no conflicts of interest declared.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Cabinet welcomes the updated on the progress of the Fostering Service.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: Mick Gibbs

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Nil