

**Open Report on behalf of the Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning</b>
Date:	<b>03 September 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Fostering Services Annual Report 2012</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>02083</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members about the work of the Fostering Service in accordance with the requirements of the Care Standards Act 2000, Fostering Services Regulations 2002, 2011, and Fostering Services National Minimum Standards 2010, to provide a clear, written annual report setting out the aims and objectives of the Fostering Service and what facilities and services they provide.

This report sets out the relevant performance information and identifies the key developments within the service over the last 12 months 2011/2012.

Approval is required for the Fostering Services Annual report from the Executive Councillor, to authorise publication on the Lincolnshire County Council website.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Executive Councillor is recommended to approve the Fostering Services Annual Report 2012.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. Not to approve the Annual Report.
2. To accept the Annual Report subject to amendments.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

The Annual Report is a requirement under the Regulations and Standards which form the basis of the regulatory framework, The Care Standards Act 2000.

Approval of the Annual Report will achieve compliance with the National Minimum Standards and the Regulations applicable to Local Authority Fostering

Services.

Not to approve the Annual Report will put the Local Authority in breach of the regulatory requirement.

## **1. Background**

In recognition of the highly specialised nature of Fostering, Lincolnshire's Children's Services operate a discrete Fostering Service, on a countywide basis from three localities. The Annual Report thus presents the performance of the service to the Executive Committee, Portfolio Holder and Elected Members.

## **2. Conclusion**

The report attached at Appendix A contains a range of information about the Fostering Service in relation to performance indicators and measuring good outcomes; the work of the Fostering Service; and various regulations relating to the Fostering Service. The Annual Report fulfils the requirements of Standard 1 of the Fostering Services Minimum Standards (Care Standards Act 2000) and Regulations 3 and 4 of the Fostering Services Regulations, 2002, 2011.

The report when approved will be placed on the Lincolnshire County Council Fostering website. Members of the Fostering Panel and staff working in the Fostering Service have been consulted.

## **3. Legal Comments:**

The recommendation is lawful and within the remit of the Executive. Not to approve the Annual Report would put the Council in breach of its obligations under the Fostering Services Regulations 2002, 2011.

## **4. Resource Comments:**

There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

## **5. Consultation**

### **a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

n/a

### **b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

Yes

### **c) Scrutiny Comments**

This has not been considered by a scrutiny committee.

#### **d) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

n/a

### **6. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Fostering Services Annual Report

### **7. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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