

**Open Report on behalf of Peter Duxbury, Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Cllr Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor</b>
Date:	<b>3 October 2011</b>
Subject:	<b>Fostering Services Annual Report</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>01922</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.

The report sets out the relevant performance information and identifies the key developments within the service over the last twelve months 2010/2011.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Executive Councillor is recommended to approve the Annual Report.

**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 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 Children's Services operate a discrete Fostering Service, on a countywide basis from three localities. This 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 an 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?**

Cllr Bradwell

### **c) Scrutiny Comments**

This matter has not been referred to Scrutiny.

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

n/a

## 6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Fostering Service 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.

The name of the contact officer is Janice Spencer, Head of Regulated Services, who can be contacted on telephone number 01522 554476 or by email: [Janice.Spencer@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Janice.Spencer@lincolnshire.gov.uk)