

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

Report to:	Cllr Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor
Date:	3 October 2011
Subject:	Fostering Services Statement of Purpose
Decision Reference:	01923
Key decision?	Yes

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 Statement of Purpose 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 Statement of Purpose.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Not to approve the Statement of Purpose.
2. To accept the Statement of Purpose subject to amendments.

Reasons for Recommendation:

The Statement of Purpose is a requirement under the Regulations and Standards which form the basis of the regulatory framework, The Care Standards Act 2000. Approval of the Statement of Purpose will achieve compliance with National Minimum Standards and the Regulations applicable to Local Authority Fostering Services.

Not to approve the Statement of Purpose 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 Statement of Purpose 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 Statement of Purpose 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 a Statement of Purpose 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 Statement of Purpose

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