



Leicester
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED
ALL**

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

**Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet**

**8th January 2006
19th February 2006**

**REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF PRIVATE FOSTERING BY THE
COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL CARE INSPECTION**

Report of the Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services

1. Purpose or Report

This report is to advise Members of the outcome of the inspection of the Leicester City private fostering service, by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The inspection was conducted between 18th and 22nd September 2006.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The private fostering service is subject to annual inspection by CSCI. These are to ensure that the council's services to privately fostered children and their carers comply with the National Minimum Standards and Regulations for Private Fostering 2005 and the Children Acts 2004 and 2005. This was the first such inspection.
- 2.2 The methodology for the inspection is similar to that used in relation to both the fostering and adoption inspections and includes questionnaires sent out to service users, file reading and interviews with service users (including by telephone) and staff. The evaluation of the service is organised according to the Every Child Matters outcomes criteria, with scoring according to the individual National Minimum Standards and Regulations.
- 2.3 There is no City Council 'Private Fostering Service' as such and the inspection therefore judged the local authority arrangements for carrying out this work. Overall, the arrangements were judged to be 'excellent', with six out of the seven standards met and one, nearly met.

2.4 Children and Young People's Services launched a new set of Procedures, Practice Guidance and paperwork relating to private fostering, in August 2006, to ensure that the Department is meeting the standards and regulations. In conjunction with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board new publicity materials and information for professionals on private fostering have also been introduced. The inspectors were only able to track cases that had been managed under the previous system. CSCI had some concerns that safeguarding processes may not always have been rigorously followed under the old arrangements and therefore made a recommendation that that all existing private fostering arrangements be reviewed to ensure that all arrangements were appropriate. This review is being carried out.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the CSCI report of the private fostering arrangements and the excellent outcome of this inspection.
- 3.2 That staff are commended for their hard work and contribution to the positive report.

4. Headline Financial and Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are potential additional resource requirements to implement some of the recommendations arising from the inspection. These will need to be met by re-prioritising and reconfiguring existing budgets and other resources or by including them within future budget proposals. (Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, Ext 8800)
- 4.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. (Kamal Adatia, Barrister, Ext 7044)

5. Report Author / Officer to contact:

Mark Tingley, Service Manager, Placements,
Family Support & Safeguarding Services,
Children & Young People's Services, (0116) 299 5810

Andrew Bunyan, Service Director,
Family Support & Safeguarding Services,
Children & Young People's Services (0116) 252 8306

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)