



Leicester
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED
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FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

**Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet**

**13th September 2005
26th September 2005**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL CARE INSPECTION
OF LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL FOSTERING SERVICE 2005**

Report of the Corporate Director of Social Care and Health

1. Purpose or Report

- 1.1 This report summarises for Social Services Scrutiny Committee the outcome of the CSCI Inspection of the Leicester City Council Fostering Service, which took place in June 2005.

2. Summary

- 2.1 All independent and local authority fostering services fall under the inspection responsibilities of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). These services are subject to annual inspections to establish if each is meeting the standards required by the Care Standards Act 2000, the Fostering Services Regulations 2001 and the amended Children Act 1989.
- 2.2 The National Minimum Standards and Regulations, provide the benchmark against which CSCI make judgements as to the performance of fostering services. Fostering service providers are expected to meet all of the National Minimum Standards. The performance of the fostering service influences the overall assessment by CSCI of the department and therefore a positive inspection contributes to a positive evaluation by the CSCI.
- 2.3 The inspection this year was extremely positive. The inspection measured the service against 'Every Child Matters' criteria and emphasised case tracking in its methodology.
- 2.4 Of the standards inspected, all either met, or exceeded the relevant standards. There were no Notices of Statutory Requirements, although the inspectors did suggest four 'Good Practice Recommendations'.
- 2.5 The service was particularly commended for its work in matching children to placements, which has benefited from the overall reduction

in the number of looked after children. In addition to this the fostering service was seen to do excellent work in meeting the needs of black and Asian children in foster care and in promoting educational achievement. The fostering service case records were also seen to be of a high standard.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet note the Final Report of the Commission for Social Care Inspection Report of the Leicester City Council Fostering Service.
- 3.2 That the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet note that the suggested 'Good Practice Recommendations' will be considered by the fostering service and implemented as appropriate.

4. Headline Financial and Legal Implications

- 4.1 The continuing implementation of the National Minimum Standards do result in additional costs, (e.g. administration, additional social work monitoring and support of foster placements, production of written material to evidence practice and fostering panel costs). These costs will be met from the Revenue budget and Choice Protects grants. (Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, SC&H – Ext 8800)
- 4.2 There are no legal implications arising from this Report. (Guy Goodman, Assistant Head of Legal Services – Ext 7054)

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DECISION STATUS

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