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**Fostering Service  
Annual Report 2019 / 20 & Statement of Purpose**

**Children, Young People & Schools  
Scrutiny Commission**

**Date: 29 Sept 2020**

**Lead director: Martin Samuels**

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## **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: David Thrussell, Head of Service Corporate Parenting
- Author contact details: 0116 4541657
- Report version number: 1

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the activity and performance of the council Fostering Service from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, together with the Annual Statement of Purpose.
- 1.2 The Fostering Service is essential in supporting our delivery of high-quality care and support for our looked after children, allowing them to live and thrive in a family home.
- 1.3 The service allows our children and young people to live in safe, stable and appropriately matched foster families.
- 1.4 Our aim for children who are cared for is that that they will have a clear understanding of why they are looked after by the local authority, be given an opportunity to make sense of their experiences, knowing who is there to support them to achieve their goals and lead successful lives.
- 1.5 We are committed to supporting our foster families and continue to develop our support offer. More information about the fostering service and the support offered can be found in our Foster Carers Handbook available at [www.leicester.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/fostering)

## **2. Recommended actions/decision**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Commission are asked to note and approve the Fostering Service Annual Report and Statement of Purpose for 2019-20.

### **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

- 3.1 The report has been prepared in consultation with the Service Manager for the Fostering Service and shared with relevant stakeholders in the mainstream Fostering and Kinship Teams, and the Children's Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team. The report contains some direct quotations from foster carers who have been supported by the Fostering Service over the past year.

### **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

- 4.1 This is a covering report for the attached Fostering Service Annual Report 2019/20 and Statement of Purpose.

### **5. Detailed report**

- 5.1 Please refer to the attached main reports. If you have any questions about the information contained in this Annual Report or the Statement of Purpose, please contact the Fostering Team on 0116 454 4510.

### **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

#### **6.1 Financial implications**

- 6.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report  
Martin Judson, Head of Finance

Adult Services / Education and Children's Services  
Tel 37 4101

#### **6.2 Legal implications**

- 6.2.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

Pretty Patel, Head of Law  
Tel 37 1457

### **6.3 Equalities implications**

- 6.3.1 The Equality Act expects us to show due regard to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations. Our public sector duty expects us to demonstrate how we do this, and included within this is how we undertake decisions, what information we are informed by and what impacts we have taken into consideration to address needs now and in the future.
- 6.3.2 The aims, objectives and services provided by the Leicester City Council fostering service as detailed in the annual report and activity refer to the support provided to children across all protected characteristics, the service continues to attract applicants with a range of heritages. The Fostering Service's aim is to maintain a sufficiently large and diverse range of foster carers, short-breaks carers and independent visitors to match diverse service needs.
- 6.3.3 The service also advances equality of opportunity and fosters good relations by encouraging and publicising fostering services to enable all members of the community to consider fostering as a positive option and to recruit from a wide variety of backgrounds to meet children's individual needs.
- 6.3.4 In addition, the service helps to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by recruiting foster carers who will respect the diverse cultures and lifestyles within society and who will bring up children who will respect these differences. Potentially, children will come from a wide range of backgrounds; all have different family situations, experiences, and will all need different types of care.
- 6.3.5 When developing the new marketing, recruitment and communications strategy, including the launch of a new brand, more targeted recruitment of underrepresented communities, and a digital transformation of application, recruitment and approval process. Equality considerations need to be embedded throughout the process going forward and equality impact assessments completed as appropriate. It is important to ensure that any consultation findings feed into the relevant equality impact assessment and

inform any proposals.

- 6.3.6 The Equality Impact Assessment is an iterative document which should be revisited throughout the decision-making process and should, ultimately, also take into account any consultation findings. The findings of the Equality Impact Assessment should be shared, throughout the process, with decision makers in order to inform their considerations and decision making. Where any potential disproportionate negative equalities impacts are identified in relation to a protected characteristic/s, steps should be identified and taken to reduce or remove that impact.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer,  
Tel 37 4148

#### **6.4 Climate Emergency implications**

- 6.4.1 There are no significant climate change implications associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Environment Team  
Tel 37 2284

#### **6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)**

- 6.5.1 None

#### **7. Background information and other papers:**

- 7.1 Fostering Service Annual Report & Statement of Purpose 2019/20.

#### **8. Summary of appendices:**

- 8.1 None

**9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

9.1 No

**10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

10.1 No