

## Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 18 January 2017

Electoral Division affected: All
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### Report of the Fostering sub group

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

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### Executive Summary

At the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 7 September 2016 members were advised that the marketing to support foster carers recruitment would benefit from a review from the Committee to identify other potential resources which could be used and how the influence of the Committee could support the marketing and promotion of foster caring.

In addition it was suggested by the Corporate Director of Operations & Delivery that it may be of benefit to look at the overall issue of fostering in different ways by identifying additional support requirements such as a respite model or where there are those who would like to become a foster carer but unable to do so on a full time basis to agree to work and support young people to stay with family.

It transpired that the Committee was only able to resource one sub group and therefore the original issue relating to the promotion of fostering was taken forward. It was agreed that the second suggestion would be progressed at a later date

Attached at Appendix A is the draft report of the Fostering sub group

### Recommendation

1. The Committee is asked to approve the report of the Fostering sub group
2. The suggestion of a second sub group proposed at the meeting on 7 September be progressed separately and discussions to take place between the Chair of the CSSC, the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board and the Corporate Director of Operations & Delivery to agree the most appropriate way forward.

### Background and Advice

At the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 7 September 2016 received a report from Barbara Bath, Head of Service Adoption, Fostering & Residential YOT which outlined the services delivered by Fostering and Adoption in

Lancashire and provided information on the challenges faced by the service. Following a discussion members were advised that the marketing to support foster carers recruitment would benefit from a review from the Committee to identify other potential resources which could be used and how the influence of the Committee could support the marketing and promotion of foster caring.

In addition it was suggested by the Corporate Director of Operations & Delivery that it may be of benefit to look at the overall issue of fostering in different ways by identifying additional support requirements such as a respite model or where there are those who would like to become a foster carer but unable to do so on a full time basis to agree to work and support young people to stay with family.

The Committee resolved to undertake both sub group reviews and membership was sought. However it became apparent that the Committee was only able to resource one sub group and therefore the original issue relating to the promotion of fostering was taken forward. It was agreed that the second suggestion would be progressed at a later date

A sub group as formed and members gathered information and evidence from a number of sources. Attached at Appendix A is the draft report of the Fostering sub group

## **Consultations**

n/a

## **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## **Risk management**

There are no significant risk implications contained within this report

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
n/a	n/a	n/a

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate