

Corporate Parenting Board

Meeting to be held on 21 September 2021

Report of the Head of Service Fostering, Adoption Lancashire & Blackpool and Residential Services

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| Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions); |
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Fostering Statement of Purpose 2020-2022

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

Lancashire County Council Fostering Service's Statement of Purpose, 2020-2022 is prepared in accordance with the Fostering Services England Regulations 2011 and National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services. The regulations and guidance set out the requirement that each fostering agency produces a Statement of Purpose, which includes its aims and objectives, a description of the service it delivers and the facilities that are offered and provided.

Lancashire County Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children within Lancashire. The Fostering Service is committed to achieving continuous improvements and delivering the best possible outcomes for our children in our care by providing a range of high quality foster families for the children to help them achieve and meet their potential within a safe and secure environment.

Lancashire's Fostering Service has developed a comprehensive service plan that incorporates priorities and objectives for the coming year as well as individual plans for each fostering service area which are further detailed below.

Our main aim is to provide an excellent fostering service that not only supports and values our foster carers but ensures that our children feel safe and well cared for within their fostering families. Whilst we are a large Fostering Service, we aim to provide local support to our fostering families and our children that is personalised to their individual needs.

Recommendation

The Board is requested to approve the Fostering Statement of Purpose 2020-2022 so that Lancashire Fostering Services are able to comply with Fostering Services England Regulations 2011 and meet minimum fostering standards and the

Fostering Service can ensure that our children and young feel safe and well cared for within their fostering families.

Background and Advice

The Statement of Purpose is required to meet Fostering Regulations and minimum standards.

The Statement of Purpose also links with the A – Z Children’s Guide for being Looked After which is provided to all children, subject to the child’s age and understanding at the point they move in with Lancashire County Council Fostering Families.

This statement is available to all members of staff, foster carers, children and birth parents and is publicly available on our fostering website. A copy of this statement is also lodged with Ofsted.

This Statement of Purpose is approved by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools.

This Statement of Purpose should be read in conjunction with Lancashire County Council's Children, Young People and Families Partnership Vision and Practice Statement.

The Statement of Purpose, Children and Parent's Guides are available on Lancashire County Council's website.