

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Corporate Parenting Panel – 1 June 2017

Subject: **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE – FOSTERING SERVICE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

Summary: Kent Fostering have updated the Statement of Purpose for the fostering service to reflect the current business plan and comply with the National Minimum Standards (2011) (**Standard 16**) and Fostering Regulations (2011).

Recommendation: The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** on the updated Statement of Purpose for the Kent Fostering Service.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Fostering Regulations (2011) Part 2 set out the Local Authority's duty in providing a statement of purpose:

- The fostering service provider must compile a written statement in relation to the fostering service ("the statement of purpose") which consists of:-
 - a statement of the aims and objectives of the fostering service, and
 - statement as to the services and facilities (including any parent and child arrangements) provided by the fostering service.
- The fostering service provider must provide a copy of the statement of purpose to the Chief Inspector, place a copy on their website (if they have one), and make copies available, upon request, to:
 - any person working for the purposes of the fostering service,
 - any foster parent or prospective foster parent of the fostering service,
 - any child placed with a foster parent by the fostering service, and
 - the parent of any such child.

1.2 The National Minimum Standards (2011) require the fostering service to have a clear statement of purpose setting out the aims and objectives of the services and facilities it provides.

1.3 The Statement of Purpose must be available and understood by foster carers and staff and is reflected in any policy, procedures and guidance (**Standard 16.1**).

- 1.4 The aims and objectives of the Statement of Purpose are child focused and show how the service will meet outcomes for children (**Standard 16.2**).
- 1.5 The Statement of Purpose includes our pledge to children and young people, who are provided with Childrens Guide at the point of placement (**Standard 16.3**).

2. Body of the report

- 2.1 The Statement of Purpose was last updated in 2014. There have been significant changes in the past two years in the vision and direction for the Kent Fostering service. It is important that all Kent Fostering documents reflect the current updated branding and vision for the service.
- 2.2 The updated Statement of Purpose reflects the significant progress of the fostering service and was identified as an action from the fostering business plan. The updated Statement of Purpose has been written by the Head of the Fostering Service, supported by the Practice Development Officer for fostering.
- 2.3 The Statement of Purpose will be updated on Tri x (the central electronic system for all KCC policies and procedures) to be accessible to all staff, local authorities, foster carers, children and their families.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The Statement of Purpose covers the aims and objectives of the Kent Fostering service and our pledge to children. It covers the scope of the recruitment of foster carers, through to assessment, approval at panel and the commitment to ongoing support and training. Included are the recent updates to the structure of the service including the Fostering Review Team.

4 Recommendation:

4.1 Recommendation: The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** on the updated Statement of Purpose for the Kent Fostering Service.

5. Background Documents

- 5.1 The previous fostering Statement of Purpose (2014) can be accessed on Tri x at:[http://kentchildcare.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/fost_state_policy.pdf?zoom_highlight=fostering+statement+of+purpose#search="fostering_statement_of_purpose"](http://kentchildcare.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/fost_state_policy.pdf?zoom_highlight=fostering+statement+of+purpose#search=)

6. Contact details

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