

# Annual Fostering Report

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Report of: The Director of Children & Families

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## What is this report about?

### Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The Leeds City Council Fostering Service is registered with OfSTED and regulated under the National Care Standards Act 2000 and Fostering Regulation, 2011, and National Minimum Standard for Fostering.
- This report provides an overview of the work of the Fostering Service during the 2020/21 financial year.
- Leeds City Council is committed to all children who are looked after living in a family context where ever possible. Where a child's family are unable to offer care for a child, a child maybe placed with a foster family. The Fostering Service is responsible for ensuring that foster families are recruited, supported and enabled to care for children in the care of Leeds City Council.

## Recommendations

- a) That Executive Board adopts this year's Fostering Report and service priorities for next year and notes that this recommendation will be implemented during 2021-22.
- b) That Executive Board notes and supports the Fostering Services plans to continue to increase the range of carers and placements available and notes that this recommendation will be implemented during 2021-22.
- c) Note the responsible officer is the Deputy Head of Service, Corporate Parenting.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

This report is a requirement of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering.

### What impact will this proposal have?

#### Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted?      Yes      No

- 1 This report covers the activity of a service that works across the whole city. There are no ward specific impacts.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 2 The service regularly consults with carers, young people and partners.

### What are the resource implications?

- 3 The report does not request any new or additional resources.

### What are the legal implications?

- 4 Under the National Minimum Standards for Fostering, given statutory force by the Care Standards Act 2000, the Council is required to produce an annual report on its Fostering Service. This report meets that requirement.

### What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 5 The Fostering Service is a key part of our strategy to accommodate children who cannot live with their families. If we are unable to provide sufficient placements this will have an adverse effect on outcomes for children and the finances of the Council.

### Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth      Health and Wellbeing      Climate Emergency

- 6 This report contributes to Children's Social Work Services overall objective to improve the lives of children and families in this City.

### Options, timescales and measuring success

#### a) What other options were considered?

- 7 Not applicable.

#### b) How will success be measured?

- 8 Not applicable.

#### c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 9 Not applicable

## **Appendices**

10 Leeds City Council Fostering Service: Annual Fostering Report, April 2020 to March 2021

## **Background papers**

11 None