



Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Executive Board

22nd June 2010

Subject: Updated Statements of Purpose for the fostering and adoption services of Leeds City Council

Electoral Wards Affected: all

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seeks elected member approval of the revised statements of purpose for Leeds City Council's Fostering and Adoption Services. The Statement of Purpose for each service is attached at appendix 1 and appendix 2 respectively. In each case the Statement of Purpose is required as part of the national minimum standards in order to be able to provide those services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Executive Board approve the Statements of Purpose for both the Fostering and Adoption services for Leeds City Council.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report seeks elected member approval of the revised statements of purpose for Leeds City Council's Fostering and Adoption Services. The Statement of Purpose for each service is attached at appendix 1 and appendix 2 respectively. In each case the Statement of Purpose is required as part of the national minimum standard in order to be able to provide those services.

2.0 Background

Adoptions

- 2.1 It is a requirement of the National Minimum Standards for Adoption Services, that an adoption service produces a statement of purpose, including its aims and objectives, a description of the service it provides and the facilities that are provided. This Statement of Purpose gives an outline of those requirements and also how the service is managed and its fitness to provide a comprehensive adoption service.
- 2.2 The Statement of Purpose has been produced in accordance with the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003, the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 and the Adoption National Minimum Standards Addendum 2005. The Adoption Agency is inspected against these standards by Ofsted.
- 2.3 The adoption agency must approve annually the statement of purpose and any updates through the 'Executive side of the council'.

Fostering

- 2.4 It is a similarly a requirement of the Fostering Services Regulations 2002 (amended 2009) and National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, that each fostering agency produces a statement of purpose, including its aims and objectives, a description of the service it provides and the facilities that are provided. This Statement of Purpose gives an outline of those requirements and also how the service is managed and its fitness to provide fostering services. It shows the policy and performance framework that underpins our work and shows how the welfare of children will be met. It also demonstrates the systems which we have set in place to recruit, train, supervise and support foster carers.
- 2.5 Elected members must formally approve the statement annually.
- 2.6 The Council's Executive Board is the most appropriate body to provide formal approval for both of these statements. The statements were last submitted to Executive Board in January 2009. The submission of the latest annual revisions were put back to June 2010 to enable a more child focused approach to the Statement of Purpose and to reflect a number of important recent staffing and structure changes within the service. These are outlined briefly in the section below.

3.0 Key Changes Since the Previous Versions

- 3.1 Since the January 2009 statements were approved, Members may wish to note in particular the following developments which are reflected in the new statements:
- Both statements of purpose have been radically overhauled to present a statement of purpose regarding services that are focused on the needs of

children. There is a policy statement , principles, values and standards of care within the statements which are intended to evidence an improved quality service for children.

- There is more detail in the statement regarding the fostering services in protecting children from harm, the provision of therapeutic services, the provision of health promotion support services, the provision of educational support services, the provision of leisure, sport, cultural and religious activity and the pathway planning service. In addition, the recruitment, assessment and support to carers is covered.
- In the adoption statement there is more information regarding adoption support services and more detailed information about the wider services provided.
- Both the statements have information about the monitoring and performance of the services.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

4.1 These implications are covered by paragraphs 2.1 – 2.3 above.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 There are no resource implications other than the already existing adoption and fostering budgets required for carrying out the services described in the statements. The statements themselves do not require extra budgetary provision.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The guidelines for both the Adoption and Fostering service Statements of Purpose detail the need to seek elected member approval annually for any updates. Approval of both these documents is therefore required.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended:
That the Executive Board approve the Statements of Purpose for both the Fostering and Adoption services for Leeds City Council.

Background Documents

14th January 2009 Executive Board Report: Statements of purpose for the fostering and adoption services of Leeds City Council

Adoption National Minimum Standards Regulations, Voluntary Adoption Agencies and Local Authorities in England and Wales 2003

Fostering Services, National Minimum Standards, Fostering Service Regulations 2002