

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

**Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Private Fostering**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. At its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 the Scrutiny Board resolved to undertake an Inquiry into Private Fostering due to concern that long term private foster care arrangements could be in place without the knowledge of the Local Authority. This presented a number of associated concerns including child exploitation, trafficking and a potential lack of support and care arrangements for both the child and the carer. The Board determined that it would consider how private foster care arrangements are identified, the regulation of private foster carers and how privately fostered children and young people are kept safe and protected.
2. The Scrutiny Board has now completed its inquiry. The report will be provided as late supplementary information prior to the Scrutiny Board meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2013.

**Recommendations**

3. Members are asked to note the information provided .

**Background documents**

4. None used<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.