

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

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

**Date: 17<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. The Scrutiny Board has completed its inquiry and the draft inquiry report is attached.
2. Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised".
3. Any advice received will be reported at the Board's meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report.
4. Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations within three months.

## **Recommendations**

5. Members are asked to consider and agree the Board's report following its inquiry into Private Fostering.

## **Background documents**

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

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<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.