

**London Borough of Hillingdon**

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

2010/11

**DRAFT REVIEW SCOPING REPORT**

**Fostering Recruitment & Retention of Foster Carers**  
**How does the Council recruit and retain foster carers to  
provide appropriate placements for looked after children?**

**Aim of Review**

To review the statutory duties of the Council in recruiting and retaining foster carers to provide sufficient and appropriate local foster placements for looked after children.

**Terms of Reference/Key Tasks**

1. To review the recruitment and retention strategies in relation to fostering.
2. To review the publicity and advertising strategy to attract sufficient local applicants for fostering.
3. To investigate the method of first response to applicants interested in fostering to ensure a prompt and helpful response is offered.
4. To ensure prompt and thorough assessments are undertaken of suitable applicants for fostering.
5. To ensure a comprehensive post approval support and training programme is offered to all Hillingdon foster carers
6. To develop a strategy that offers a suitable range of local, culturally diverse foster carers in line with the new Sufficiency Guidelines.
7. To ensure a robust post-approval process that monitors the continued suitability of all Hillingdon approved foster carers.
8. To examine best practice elsewhere through partnership and consortia networking.
9. To present to Cabinet the Committee's findings and any recommendation to enhance the efficiency of the Service.

**Methodology**

The Policy and Overview Committee is to receive reports, presentations and hear from witnesses.

**Documentation**

- Information on the structure and process of the fostering service and the roles and responsibilities of any partner agencies.
- Data on looked after children and their placements
- Information on the work of the Fostering Panel
- Evidence of national and local policy and practice

**Proposed Timeframe and Milestone (to be finalised once witnesses agree and dates set)**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
TBC	Approve scoping report for the review
TBC	A detailed presentation from the Head of Service and key managers. Background and context of the Fostering Service and safeguarding arrangements. Description of the issues, and practice from a local and national perspective.  <b>Witnesses Session 1:</b> Independent Chairman Panel Member/s
TBC	<b>Witness Session 2:</b> Foster Carer Foster Child/ren
TBC	Consider and comment on draft report
TBC	Agree final report.