

REVIEW INTO FOSTERING: Caring for Our Children: Enhancing Fostering Provision and Support

Committee name	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ryan Dell, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Scoping Report
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The Children, Families & Education Select Committee have agreed to undertake its next review into the topic of fostering.

The attached draft scoping report sets out initial aims, objectives and Terms of Reference of the review.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee agree this scoping report.

(Note: Terms of Reference/ timetable for review etc... can always be amended as the review progresses, if agreed by the Committee)

Terms of Reference

The following Terms of Reference are suggested for the review, subject to any changes agreed by the Committee:

1. To understand the needs and experiences of children in foster care through examining demographics, underrepresented groups, placement types, placement stability, educational attainment, wellbeing and emerging trends.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of current recruitment and retention strategies, and support available to foster carers, including the impact of the new fostering offer.
3. To identify barriers to fostering for potential carers and children in care, and to identify opportunities for improvement.
4. To formulate recommendations to Cabinet aimed at strengthening Hillingdon's fostering provision, thereby improving outcomes for children in care.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

This review aims to assess the effectiveness of the new fostering offer in Hillingdon and will explore opportunities for improvement through a focus on recruitment and retention; support for foster carers; and outcomes for children in care.

The review will also assist in recruiting more foster carers; raising awareness of the benefits of fostering; and highlighting the positive outcomes it can have for young people.

The review also aims to ensure that the service is responsive, inclusive and aligned with Corporate Parenting responsibilities so that all children in care can live in stable, loving homes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

APPENDICES

Draft scoping report