

REVIEW INTO FOSTERING: WITNESS SESSION ONE

Committee name	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ryan Dell, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Updated scoping report Officer report – TO FOLLOW
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The Select Committee have agreed to undertake its next review into the topic of fostering.

It is intended that the review will assess the effectiveness of the new fostering offer and explore opportunities for further improvement through a focus on recruitment and retention; support for foster carers; and outcomes for children in care.

Officers are in attendance to answer questions from Members, and an updated scoping report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee ask questions of officers as part of its review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Please see the attached updated scoping report and officer report.

Lines of Enquiry

Lines of enquiry can be expanded as the review progresses or included in relevant witness session reports. However, lines of enquiry may include:

- Council-run fostering services and commissioned providers
- Recruitment and retention of foster carers
- Placement stability
- Outcomes for children in foster care (including their transition to independence/ Staying Close/ Staying Put)
- Support services for children in foster care including social work, health and education
- Support services for foster carers (e.g. Mockingbird) including training, respite and financial packages

Implications on related Council policies

A statutory role of the Select Committees is to undertake reviews and make recommendations to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction. Reviews selected should be consistent with the Council's policy and budgetary framework.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

None at this stage, pending any findings and recommendations devised in the final report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any recommendations developed as a result of this review may have financial implications and these will be assessed at that stage.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The key pieces of legislation are as follows:

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011
- Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- National Minimum Standards (NMS)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

APPENDICES

Updated scoping report
Officer report – **TO FOLLOW**