

## FOSTERING REVIEW: DRAFT FINAL REPORT

<b>Committee name</b>	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Ryan Dell, Democratic Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A – Updated scoping report Appendix B – Guidance on undertaking policy reviews
<b>Ward</b>	All

### HEADLINES

This report presents the Committee with a draft of the final report for its review into fostering.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Select Committee:**

- 1. Agree the final report for its review into fostering;**
- 2. Delegate any final wording amendments to the Democratic Services Officer in conjunction with the Chair and in consultation with the Opposition Lead; and**
- 3. Agree the review's submission to Cabinet thereafter.**

*Note: To assist Members, Democratic Services will share the draft report separately to the Committee when ready in advance of the meeting.*

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### **1) Scoping report – looking at the original parameters of the review**

The updated review scoping report is attached so Members can be reminded of the original Terms of Reference as set out below, and whether the Committee has met these:

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 Cared for Children, and to identify opportunities for improvement.
4. To formulate recommendations to Cabinet aimed at strengthening Hillingdon's fostering provision, thereby improving outcomes for Cared for Children.

#### **2) Policy review guidance**

Members are asked to consider whether draft findings and recommendations:

- Meet the initial aims/ objectives of the review (as above)
- Be SMART, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
- Not be a short-term fix, but a lasting outcome
- Consider the financial aspect, e.g. cost neutral, provide savings or if at a cost, then affordable – and if possible aligned with the MTFF (budget planning process)
- Are based on a broad evidence base as possible and ‘user or resident’ insight
- Not create additional bureaucracy, e.g. if it relates to a policy, then to seek to review or amend existing policies (unless there is an absolute imperative for a new policy)
- If publicity or wider engagement or education is recommended, to target such communications as best as possible rather than generally
- Consider ‘conclusions’ as well as any specific recommendations.

## **RESIDENT BENEFIT**

This review aims to help improve the fostering offer, to improve outcomes for young people and foster carers.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None at this stage, pending any committee recommendations.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None at this stage, pending any committee recommendations.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Updated scoping report

Appendix B – Guidance on undertaking policy reviews