

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Executive Director for Children & Public Health

to

Cabinet

on

25th February 2020

Report prepared by: Chris Sandercombe, Interim Head of Service

Agenda
Item No.

Adoption & Fostering Statements of Purpose

People Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet Member: Councillor Anne Jones
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

That Cabinet reviews the updated Statements of Purpose for Adoption & Fostering in line with Standard 18.3 of the Adoption National Minimum Standards and Standard 16 of the Fostering National Minimum Standards.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet approves the updated Statements of Purpose, as at Appendices 1 & 2

3. Background

3.1 The provision, standards and operations of the adoption service is governed by:

- The Local Authority Adoption Services (England) Regulations 2003 (updated 2005);
- The Adoption Agencies regulations 2005 (updated 2013 & 2014);
- The Adoption Agencies and Independent Review of Determinations (amendment) regulations 2011;
- The Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential amendments) Regulations 2012;
- The Adoption Minimum Standards 2011.

3.2 National Minimum Standard 25.6 states that the Executive side of the Local Authority should:

- a) receive written reports on the management and outcomes of the agency twice a year;
- b) monitor the management and outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the agency is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children and/or service users;
- c) satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of registration.

3.3 Fostering National Minimum Standard 18.3 requires that that the Executive side of the Local Authority formally approves the Statement of Purpose and reviews it at least annually.

The provision, standard and operations of the Fostering service is governed by:

- The Local Authority Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 (updated 2013)
- Fostering minimum Standards 2011 and the
- Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Volume 4, 2011

3.2 National Minimum Standard 25.7 states that the Executive side of the Local Authority

- a) receive written reports on the management and financial state of the fostering service every 3 months
- b) monitor the management and outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the service is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children and/or service users
- c) Satisfy themselves that the provider is complying with the conditions of registration.

The report, the Journey of the Child, previously presented to full Cabinet in October 2018 gave a full update of the activities of the adoption and fostering services

4. Other Options

This is a statutory requirement

5. Reasons for Recommendations

The Adoption and Fostering Statements of Purpose have been updated and require cabinet approval

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

Development of the fostering and adoption services in Southend will ensure that Southend children receive the most appropriate and high quality care at the right level and at the right time, to give them the best possible opportunities in life.

6.2 Financial Implications

None

6.3 Legal Implications

This is a statutory requirement to update annually.

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

None, however we undertake regular consultations with adopters and foster carers which inform future development

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

Both the fostering and adoption services must ensure that equality and diversity are at the heart of all services provided

6.8 Risk Assessment

N/A

6.9 Value for Money

N/A

6.10 Community Safety Implications

N/A

6.11 Environmental Impact

N/A

7. Background Papers

Cabinet have already seen the annual Journey of the Child report which gave full details of the activities of both services. This report is purely to approve the updated Statements of Purpose for the coming year.

8. Appendices

App 1: Statement of Purpose – Fostering

App 2: Statement of Purpose - Adoption