

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Executive Director, Children and Public Health

to

Cabinet

On

13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Agenda  
Item No.

Report prepared by: Jo Hines, Service Manager

---

## Fostering and Adoption Statements of Purpose

Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): People  
Cabinet Member: Councillor Burton

---

### 1. Purpose of Report

To enable Cabinet to review the updated statements of purpose for the Fostering Service and Adoption Service.

### 2. Recommendations

That the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose and Adoption Service Statement of Purpose are endorsed.

### 3. Background

It is a statutory requirement that the fostering and adoption services have statements of purpose. The statements of purpose are required to be updated by the Service and endorsed by Cabinet on an annual basis.

The Southend Fostering Service is part of Southend Borough Council and is a 'Local Authority Fostering Service' as recognised by The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 (as amended 2013). The statement of purpose confirms service compliance with National Minimum Standards for the recruitment, assessment, approval, and training of foster carers. It outlines training foster carers are expected to attend to maintain their status as approved foster carers and briefly details the types of foster placement it provides.

Southend Adoption Service is part of Southend Borough Council. The statement of purpose sets out clearly the aims and objectives of the Southend Adoption Agency as required by Schedule I of the Local Authority Adoption Services (England) Regulations 2003 (amended 2005, 2013 and 2014) and the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005,

amended by the Adoption Agencies and Independent Review of Determinations (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential amendments) Regulations 2012 and the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011.

#### **4. Other Options**

There is a statutory requirement for the statements of purpose to be endorsed by Cabinet. No alternative option is available if the services are to continue to operate.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendations**

See above

#### **6. Corporate Implications**

##### **6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map**

Safe and Well: We protect and improve the quality of life for everyone in our community, including the vulnerable.

##### **6.2 Financial Implications**

Children Services are currently working with a fostering improvement plan and aim to use this to drive both recruitment of foster carers and savings which includes working towards a new payment / support offer.

##### **6.3 Legal Implications**

If the statements of purpose are not reviewed and endorsed, the Council will be unable to provide an authorised Fostering and Adoption Service in compliance with the requirements of:

- The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011(as amended 2013) made under the Children Act 1989 and the Care Standards Act 2000
- Fostering Services National Minimum Standards 2011
- Schedule I of the Local Authority Adoption Services (England)Regulations 2003 (amended 2005, 2013 and 2014) made under the Adoption Act 1976 as amended by the Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005, amended by the Adoption Agencies and Independent Review of Determinations (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential amendments) Regulations 2012 made under Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011.

##### **6.4 People Implications**

None identified

## 6.5 Property Implications

None identified

## 6.6 Consultation

Not required

## 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The statements of purpose identify a commitment to equality and diversity.

## 6.8 Risk Assessment

None identified

## 6.9 Value for Money

None identified

## 6.10 Community Safety Implications

None identified

## 6.11 Environmental Impact

None identified

## **7. Background Papers**

**None**

## **8. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Fostering Service Statement of Purpose

Appendix 2 - Adoption Service Statement of Purpose