

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Annual Report and Statement of Purpose of the West Berkshire Fostering Service
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	4 September 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2877 and ID2880

Purpose of Report: To report on the work of the adoption team and to enable Members to scrutinise the operation of the Fostering Service.

Recommended Action: To agree report.

Reason for decision to be taken: To comply with the Care Standards Act 2000 and the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services 2003. The department has a statutory responsibility to report on the work of the Fostering service to Elected Members on a six monthly basis and also to agree the Statement of Purpose for this service.

Other options considered: N/A

Key background documentation: N/A

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Irene Neill - Tel (0118) 971 2671
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Contact Officer Details	
Name:	June Kemp
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Implications

Policy:	The report is in line with the Council's policies regarding Looked After Children
Financial:	None
Personnel:	N/A
Legal/Procurement:	The report complies with the legal requirements of the Care Standards Act
Property:	N/A
Risk Management:	N/A

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes	Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:			
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)			
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia			<input type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Councillor Gordon Lundie

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Councillor Brian Bedwell

Ward Members: All Members

Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor David Allen

Local Stakeholders:

Officers Consulted:

Trade Union:

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 This report has been produced in line with the Fostering Services Regulations.
- 1.2 This is circulated on an annual basis to inform the Council of the team's activities regarding the recruitment, assessment and approval of foster carers.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 2.1 There is no decision to be made and therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 As this report meets the exception criteria set out in the Individual Decision making protocol this decision can be made by the Portfolio Holder under delegated authority.

Appendices

Appendix A – West Berkshire Fostering Service Annual Report – April 2013 to March 2014

Appendix B – Fostering Service Statement of Purpose 2014-2015