

Potential Scrutiny Topics

The following has been identified as a possible topic for the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 28 November 2023.

Topic
<p>Recruitment of Foster Carers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To review West Berkshire Council's approach to the recruitment of in-house foster carers.• To understand the barriers to recruiting foster carers and placing children in foster care• In summary, proposals under consideration include:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Creating a dedicated staff resource in Children and Family Services to provide a focus on foster care recruitment.2) Introducing an Employee Supporting Foster Care Policy in West Berkshire Council.3) Reviewing the remuneration, allowances and council tax for foster carers.4) Expanding the Independent Fostering Agency market locally.5) Bidding to be part of a Regional Fostering Recruitment partnership.• To consider how effective the approach to recruitment of in-house foster carers has been in the past, what changes are proposed and whether further changes should be considered.

Note: A scrutiny work programme planning session is planned for 19 September 2023.