

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
11 OCTOBER 2018**

**FOSTERING AND KINSHIP SERVICE,
ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Recommendation

- 1. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note the contents of the Executive Summary of the Fostering and Kinship Service Annual Report 2017 - 2018.**

Background

2. The Fostering and Kinship Service is required to compile report to meet the statutory requirements as set out under:
3. Regulation 35 of the Fostering Regulations 2011 which requires the manager of the fostering service to review the quality of care that the fostering service provides by maintaining a system which monitors matters set out in Schedule 6 of the regulations at appropriate intervals.
4. Standard 25.7 of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering 2011 requires the manager to provide a quarterly report to the executive side of the Local Authority to enable them to monitor the management and outcomes of the service so that they can be satisfied that the service is providing good outcomes for children and young people.
5. Attached is the executive summary of the 2017 – 2018 Report.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Name: Barbara Carter, Group Manager, Fostering and Kinship Service

Tel: 01905 763763

Email: bcarter@worcestershire.gov.uk

Fostering and Kinship Annual Report 2017 -2018

Executive Summary

- 17 mainstream households approved which was less than the target of 25. High dropout following the Skills to Foster Course (STFC) and this will need monitoring next year.
- 31 households booked to attend STFC during 2018 – 2019 and the number of courses has been increased to meet this demand
- Refreshed recruitment material with a focus on "the best job in the world"
- 55 referrals throughout the year for 6 Placement Plus placements. Demands outstrips what we are currently able to provide and this is an area of development for next year
- Reduction in the number of viabilities on family members for children who were the subject of proceedings. This was after discussion with the courts and agreement reached on the number and timing of viabilities
- Number of full assessments on family members similar to last year with approximately 60% leading to a permanent placement for a child
- Increase during 2017 – 2018 of the number of children placed in house from 316 in March 2017 to 345 in March 2018. This was due to a significant increase (47) of children placed with family and friends carers.
- At the end of March 2018 61% of children in fostering placements were placed in house a rise of 4%. This compares to 62% in the West Midlands
- Agreement was given for 67 placements under Reg 24 this year involving 60 children with 7 children being placed on 2 occasions
- 17 mainstream house approved, 21 resignations and 2 terminations of approval
- 46 family and friends households approved with 23 resignations
- 5 households were not approved where children had been placed under Reg 24. 2 of these were not approved as courts had made alternative order between presentation at panel and minutes going to the Agency Decision Maker (ADM). Of the other 3 household 2 appealed to the Independent Reviewing Mechanism (IRM) although one then withdrew. There was a majority recommendation from the IRM on the other appeal and although this

was taken into consideration the ADM did not approve. The third household appealed to WCC and this will be heard at panel next quarter.

- There was a further appeal to WCC from family and friends applicants where there were no children in placement. They were subsequently approved as it was clear that they had taken action to address the concerns raised at panel.
- There were no appeals to the IRM or WCC by mainstream applicants
- 93% of foster carers annual reviews were in timescale
- There was 1 Post Allegation review to panel this year with the carers being re approved
- We have seen 12% of placements ending in an unplanned way with in house carers and 20.7% in IFAs, 87 children and young people in total. Two thirds of these involved children over 12 years with 20 moving to residential provision. Main reasons given are carers struggling to manage behaviour and keep young people safe. Resilience of fostering household remains a major factor in placement stability.
- 6 allegations against carers, 5 lead to Position of Trust meetings. All allegations were unsubstantiated. One set of carers resigned, the issues were dealt with annual reviews for 2 other households and 3 are subject to post allegation reviews which will be presented to panel next year.