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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

28 February 2024

PRESENT: - Cllr T Foster (Chairman), Cllr L Yeadon (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Longcake, Cllr C Patterson, Cllr C Ross, Cllr K Vickers, and Cllr D Wells

Mr Howsam

The meeting was held at the F36, Church Square House.

32 **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Cllr K Vickers substituted for Cllr Armiger.

33 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DECLARATIONS OF WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS (IF ANY).**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal or personal and prejudicial interests.

No whip was declared.

34 **TO TAKE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2023 AS A CORRECT RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of this panel held on 6 December 2023, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairman.

35 **PUBLIC SPEAKING REQUESTS, IF ANY.**

There were no public speaking requests.

36 **FOSTERING ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE - FOSTERING ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT 2022-23. DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND SENIOR COLLEAGUES**

The Chairman welcomed Tom Hewis, Assistant Director - Children's Standards & Regulation, and Anna Heath, Lead Officer Fostering and Commissioning, to the meeting.

The Chairman explained that Tom and Anna had been invited by the panel to update members on the Fostering Annual Business Report 2022-23, and the provisions of fostering services across North Lincolnshire.

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Tom and Anna delivered a wide-ranging presentation on the report and the service, describing the outcome of the October 2022 Ofsted inspection, ongoing work to recruit and train foster carers, the supported accommodation scheme, and other efforts to deliver an excellent local service within North Lincolnshire, reducing the need for external placements.

The Chairman then led a discussion on the presentation, with the panel asking questions about the assessment process for prospective foster carers, specialist carers for children with complex needs, practical arrangements for fostering, and educational outcomes for young people in foster care. Tom and Anna responded accordingly, confirming that there were many examples of young people proceeding to further and higher education. Anna clarified the situation around complex commissioning, confirming that regional arrangements were in place, although they were rarely required locally.

Resolved – (a) That Tom Hewis and Anna Heath be thanked for the presentation and for responding to Members' questions; and (b) that the report and presentation be noted and welcomed.

37 ADDED ITEM, IF ANY

There was no added item for consideration at the meeting.

38 ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MUST BE SPECIFIED.

The Chairman reminded the panel that an additional public meeting had been scheduled at 11am on 25 March 2024, to discuss SEND provision. A site visit to Oasis Academy – Henderson Avenue had also been proposed, to hear about their work in promoting and delivering the Imagination Library. Members were invited to attend if their diaries permitted.

Resolved – That the Chairman, Vice-Chair, and Mr Howsam attend the site visit on behalf of the panel, and the invitation remain open to other members of the Children's Scrutiny Panel.