

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CABINET MEMBER

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR FOSTERING 2021/22

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Member approval of the revised Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22 and the Young Persons Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Fostering Service is required by the Fostering Services: National Minimum Standards (NMS) 2011 and Regulation 3 of the Fostering Services Regulations 2011 to have in place a Statement of Purpose that is reviewed on a regular basis and updated as appropriate.
- 2.2 The Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2020/21 was approved in October 2020. The key revisions to the 2021/22 versions are summarised as follows:

Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22:

- Section 1: Introduction and Context page 4 has been updated to reflect the current children in care figures
- Section 5: Capacity page 13 has been updated to reflect the current number of foster families and the number of children living within the provisions
- Section 6: Recruitment, Preparation and Assessment of Foster Carers page 13 has been updated to reflect the recruitment strategy
- Section 7: Support and Supervision of Foster Carers page 19 now reflects the implementation of virtual support. Page 21 now reflects the 2021/22 recommended fostering allowance rates. Page 25 has been updated to demonstrate the impact of and response to Covid-19

There have been no other major revisions made to this document.

Young Person's Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22:

There have been no major revisions made to this document.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To approve the changes made to the Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22 and the Young Person's Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Fostering Services regulations require that the Statement of Purpose is reviewed annually and updated to reflect any changes in staffing, practice or procedures.
- 4.2 An updated and approved Statement of Purpose is a requirement for the service to continue to meet its regulatory requirements. It may be accepted without changes, or amendments as deemed appropriate by the Cabinet Member will be included in the Statement of Purpose.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 All foster carers receive a weekly fostering allowance which is designed to cover the cost of caring for a fostered child. This includes food, clothes, toiletries, travel and all other expenses incurred. Annually, a National Minimal Allowance is published and the expectation is that local authorities offer this as a minimum. The recommended allowance rates within this Statement of Purpose are in line with 2021 National Minimum Allowances.
- 5.2 There will be a financial cost that we have to apply and therefore will have to be accounted for.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

- 6.1 None

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant stakeholders as appropriate. There are no conflicts of interest.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the changes to the Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22 and the Young People's Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22 and Young Person's Statement of Purpose for Fostering 2021/22