

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 July 2023	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Fostering Annual Report 2022-2023	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Alasdair Smith, Director of Children and Families	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the corporate parenting committee note the annual report of Southwark Fostering Service

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The purpose of the annual report document is to report on the activity of the Fostering Service fulfilling obligations in the Fostering Services Regulations (2011) to review and improve the quality of care, and National Minimum Standards (2011) to report to the executive side of the local authority. It will cover: performance and developments in Southwark's delivery of fostering services; how the council is compliant with key national minimum standards; and the service offered to those seeking to foster and those children in care who are fostered.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Southwark Fostering Service continues to provide good quality care for a significant proportion of children and young people in care to the council. The Fostering Annual Report for 2022-2023 sets out in the Appendix the key areas for consideration.

Policy framework implications

4. There are no policy framework implications.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

5. Southwark is committed to ensuring children looked after by its fostering service, from all parts of the community, are enabled to live close to their communities as far as possible and appropriate and with families able to meet most of their needs.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

6. Southwark foster carers are a diverse group in respect of ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality and disability. They are the heart of our services for children in care. The service is highly committed to challenging all forms of discrimination and seeking to uphold and have an action plan to address anti-racist practice and the commitments of Southwark stands together.

Health impact statement

7. There are no health impact issues.

Climate change implications

8. There are no climate change implications.

Resource implications

9. There are no resource implications.

Legal implications

10. There are no legal implications.

Financial implications

11. There are no financial implications.

Consultation

12. No consultation was undertaken in the preparation of the report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

13. No supplementary advice is required.

Strategic Director of Finance

14. No supplementary advice is required.

Other officers

15. No further officer comment is required.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

16. The compilation of finalised year-end data can only be initiated once the

end of the last month in the municipal year has passed. The delay in finalising the report was ensuring that it contained full and accurate data on the work of the Fostering Service in 2022-2023.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

17. The Corporate Parenting Committee should be provided with the most current information on delivery of services and outcomes for children in care and Care Leavers, so that it can hold services accountable for work to improve the lives of our children and young people, and direct the ongoing delivery of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. The Fostering Service is a key part of delivering this service for children in Southwark and it vital to present this report to the committee in a timely way.
18. The consequences of delayed reporting to the committee could potentially lessen the informed deliberations of the Committees work planning for the future municipal year.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Fostering service Annual Report 2022-23

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	
Report Author	Khalil Campbell, Fostering Service Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	14 July 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	14 July 2023	