

Meeting Name:	Corporate Parenting Committee
Date:	17 July 2024
Report title:	Fostering Annual Report 2023-2024
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not Applicable
From:	Director of Children Service for the Children and Families Directorate

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the corporate parenting committee notes the annual report of Southwark Fostering Service for 2023-2024

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 2024- 2023 sets out in the Appendix the key areas for consideration.

Policy framework implications

4. The Borough Plan has a commitment to a great start in life for all children and young people in the borough. This particularly has in mind those who are in care, for whom Southwark foster carers are a key part of ensuring the Borough Plan commitment is met.

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 impacts issues

Climate change implications

8. There are no climate change implications.

Resource implications

9. There are no resource implications.

Legal/Financial implications

10. There are no legal or finance implications.

Consultation

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

12. A concurrent form the Head of Procurement is not applicable.

Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance

13. No supplementary advice is required.

Strategic Director, Finance

14. No supplementary advice is required.

Other officers

15. No further officer comment is required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark's Approach to Equality https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/equality-and-diversity/equality-objectives	Safeguarding and Care, Children and Families Directorate, Children's and Adults' Services 4 Floor, Children's and Adults' Services Tooley Street 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Helen Woolgar 0207 525 1973

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Fostering Annual Report 2023-24

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	
Report Author	Sophie James, Fostering Service Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 July 2024	
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, Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		8 July 2024