

<b>Item No.</b> 7.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 2 November 2015	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Corporate Parenting Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Fostering Service Annual Report 2014-15	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director, Children's Social Care	

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the corporate parenting committee accepts the annual report of Southwark Fostering Service 2014/15.

## **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.
3. The report details the work of Southwark Council fostering service from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

4. Southwark fostering service continues to provide good quality care for a significant proportion of children and young people in care to the council.
5. 2014/15 was a time of considerable change for the service that has built a good foundation for the future.
6. The recruitment of foster carers declined during 2014/15 and has led to plans for a renewed approach to increase the capacity of the fostering service and quality of care offered.

## **Community impact statement**

7. 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.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Annual Report – Southwark Fostering Service

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Rory Patterson, Director, Children's Social Care	
<b>Report Author</b>	Alasdair Smith, Head of Service, Permanence, Children's and Adults' Service	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	20 October 2015	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	20 October 2015	