



Corporate Parenting Board

6 January 2016

Report title	Wolverhampton Fostering Annual Report April 2014 to March 2015	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett Service Director Children and Young People	
Originating service	Looked After Children	
Accountable employee(s)	Daphne Atkinson	Senior Social Work Manager
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The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to receive, observe, and provide feedback the Fostering Annual Report for 2014/2015.

1.0 Purpose

To enable the Corporate Parenting Board to have a clear understanding of the work undertaken by the Fostering Service between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015

2.0 Background

2.1 The Fostering Service Annual Report, which is attached, highlights the work of the Fostering Service for the period April 2014 to March 2015. Under the Fostering Service Regulations 2011, the Fostering Service must provide the executive side of the Council with written activities of the Fostering Service.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

3.1 The report shows continuity and improvements in the recruitment process of foster carers through targeted marketing activity. The contact and enquiries now reflect more consistently the true nature of interest to the service, and has helped to provide a better evaluation of the marketing and communication strategy. The service is striving to meet targets to increase the number of local foster placements for Wolverhampton children, which will help to reduce the reliance on expensive Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements. Placements have on the whole remained stable, with consistent supportive innovation such as Keep Foster Carers Trained and Supported (KEEP) an evidence-based intervention model, which is being funded by the Department for Education.

3.2 The Fostering Service is helped in supporting carers and children through partnerships with Schools and Health. The Fostering Service commissions the services of an independent organisation to provide additional support to carers through workshops, support groups and individual work with carers.

Within Children's Services, there are effective working relationships between the Looked After Children's teams and Locality teams.

3.3 The intention is to continue to expand the foster carer community and develop specialist fostering provision within the service.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 The approved budget for 2014/15 for the Fostering Service is £5.5 million.

4.2 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

[NM/15122015/O]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 Under the Fostering Service Regulations 2011, which came into effect on 1 April

2011, the Fostering Service must provide the executive side of the Council with written reports on the activities of the Fostering Service.
[TC/15122015/S]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 The Council wants to have continuous improvements in securing local foster placements, for children from all backgrounds including those of ethnic minority communities, and disabled children and their families, to ensure equality of access to services for all Wolverhampton children who are looked after by the local authority.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no identified environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no known human resources implications

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no known corporate landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 The full report is attached