

Corporate Parenting Board

Thursday 22nd July 2021

Private Fostering Annual Report

Choose an item.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s):

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Amy Bartram/ Paula Golding

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation: Members are requested to review the work undertaken around Private Fostering over the past year and consider the action plan identified for the coming year.

Reason for Recommendation:

The Children Act 1989 Private Fostering Guidance identifies that the Local authority must monitor the way in which they discharge their functions under part 9 of the Children Act 1989 in respect of Private Fostering. An annual report should provide an evaluation of the work undertaken in respect of privately fostered children within the Local Authority area. The Annual report should provide evidence that the welfare of privately fostered children is safeguarded and promoted in co-operation with other agencies.

1. Executive Summary

The number of children identified as being privately fostered remains a small cohort. There have been improvements in timeliness of visits and assessments following notification of private fostering arrangements, but further improvement to be made.

Currently BCP private fostering team are commissioned to undertake private fostering assessments for overseas students within language schools who are residing in Dorset Council area. The Covid 19 pandemic has had an impact on the number of children in language schools who have been privately fostered and the length of some of these arrangements.

There has been updated communications within Children's Services and Partners around Private Fostering and notification of arrangements to the Local Authority.

There have been no Prohibitions or Disqualifications for Private Fostering arrangements.

There is an action plan in place for the year 2021/2022 identifying how we can strengthen current arrangements and communication with partners.

2. Financial Implications

None identified

3. Well-being and Health Implications

None identified

4. Climate implications

None identified

5. Other Implications

None identified

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: N/A

Residual Risk: N/A

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

N/A

8. Appendices

N/A

9. Background Papers

Private Fostering Annual Report attached.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.