

1 December 2014

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

MEMBERS' VISITS TO INDEPENDENT CHILDREN'S HOMES

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to put in place arrangements to enable Members to visit Looked After Children and Young People who are placed in externally provided children's homes and report back on these visits to the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.

Information and Advice

2. Members make regular visits (rota visits) to Nottinghamshire's children's homes. Reports on these visits are considered at Children and Young People's Committee and provide an update on Members' observations and any concerns about the homes and how these have been responded to by officers. It is proposed that from January 2015 Members will also undertake visits to externally run children's homes where Nottinghamshire's Looked After Children and Young People are placed and that the arrangements for the visits will be managed by the Group Manager, Access to Resources. Reports on these visits will be considered by the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.

Other Options Considered

3. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

4. There are currently 80 Nottinghamshire Looked After Children and young people who are placed in externally provided children's homes. As corporate parents of these children Members will have the opportunity to ensure that these children are being provided with the best possible care and to raise any concerns which can be actioned by officers in conjunction with the external providers.

Statutory and Policy Implications

5. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such

implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) approval be given to put in place arrangements for Members to visit externally provided children's homes from January 2015
- 2) reports on these visits be considered by the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 18/11/14)

6. The Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee is responsible for overseeing the County Council's responsibilities as the corporate parent of children and young people in care and may approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KLA 17/11/14)

7. There are no financial comments arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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