

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S FOSTERING SERVICE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview Committee arising from the committee's review around recruitment and retention within the Council's fostering service.

Information

2. At the meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee held on 17 March 2025, members considered the report from the task and finish scrutiny review that had been carried out around recruitment and retention within the Council's fostering service. The report is attached as **Appendix A**. At the meeting it was resolved:

“That the recommendations from the scrutiny review around recruitment and retention within the Council's Fostering Service, as detailed in the report, be endorsed, and referred to Cabinet for consideration.”

3. In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview Committee. In providing this response the Cabinet is asked to state whether or not they accept each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take in response to each recommendation.
4. The responses to the recommendations from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families are set out in the table at **Appendix B**.

Other Options Considered

5. None. In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview Committee.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. To detail the response of the Cabinet Member for Children and Families on the recommendations arising from the Children and Families Select Committee's review around recruitment and retention within the Council's fostering service.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability, and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

8. There are no direct financial implications relating to the recommendations of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the recommendations from the Children and Families Select Committee's review around recruitment and retention within the Council's fostering service be received.
- 2) That the response to the recommendations arising from the Children and Families Select Committee's review around recruitment and retention within the Council's fostering service be approved.

COUNCILLOR RORY GREEN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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Constitutional Comments (EKH 16/07/2025)

9. Pursuant to the Nottinghamshire County Council constitution Cabinet has the delegated authority to receive this report and make the recommendation contained within it

Financial Comments (SH 28/07/25)

10. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report. Costs of initiatives aimed at recruitment and retention within the Council's Fostering Service will be met within the annual budget of the Children and Families portfolio and subject to further approval if additional funding is required. The portfolio budget is £188.3 million for 2025/26, with a £0.1 million underspend being forecast for the year.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act.

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All