

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A NON-KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	ANNUAL FOSTERING REPORT - APRIL 2014-2015
Members Present	Councillors: AW Johnson (Leader), H Bramer, J Lester, PM Morgan (Deputy Leader), GJ Powell, PD Price, P Rone.
Date of Decision:	21 January 2016
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To review fostering service performance and approve related documents.
Decision:	<p>THAT:</p> <p>(a) the activity, quality and impact of Herefordshire Council's fostering service as detailed in appendix a to this report, be reviewed and any additional actions to support improvement identified;</p> <p>(b) the Herefordshire foster carers charter (appendix B) be approved;</p> <p>(c) the guide for young people that are looked after (appendix C) be approved; and</p> <p>(d) The statement of purpose (appendix D) be approved</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	<p>It is a statutory responsibility for Cabinet to receive an annual fostering report, and approve the related documents to have oversight of the direction and priorities for Herefordshire children and ensure they receive good quality care from Herefordshire foster carers who are supported to keep children safe, enjoy a healthy lifestyle and attain good educational outcomes. The foster carer's charter evidences the participation and engagement of foster carers in helping to improve outcomes for children. It provides clarity around expectations and communication about concerns between Herefordshire fostering service to enable carers to look after complex children. The process stimulated foster carer representative roles and subsequently the setting up of a foster carers association. Increased communication and increased fundraising activity results in more support for children, carers and birth children of foster families.</p>
Options Considered:	<p>It is open to Cabinet to identify further actions to address and under performance or drive improvement but in doing so regard must be had to the availability of resources.</p> <p>There are no alternatives to adopting the Herefordshire foster carers' charter and guide for young people looked after because</p>

	they have been drawn up following engagement and consultation with Herefordshire foster carers and looked after children to shape the service they needed from Herefordshire Council.
Conflict of Interest ■ (See below)	
Date the decision is due to take effect:	27 January 2016

<p>COUNCILLOR P MORGAN:..... Date: 21 January 2016 DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p>
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- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

And

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.