

## **KINSHIP CARE AND CHILDREN CARED FOR BY UNOFFICIAL CARERS**

**Report By: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SAFEGUARDING AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To consider and inform Scrutiny Committee of the percentage of children in Kinship Care Placements and the position regarding children cared for by unofficial carers.

### **Financial Implications**

2. None

### **Background**

3. At the Scrutiny Committee held on 18/11/08 Item 29 Performance Digest questions were asked regarding the percentage of looked after children fostered by relatives and friends, and in particular how many children were cared for by unofficial carers.

### **Current Position**

4. There are currently 152 looked after children and of these 19 are in Kinship placements which is 12.5% of the total.
5. There are 2 children in Private Foster Placements.
6. There is no information held by the Directorate on children cared for by unofficial carers.
7. In line with the Private Fostering Regulations 2005 children whom the department become aware of in unofficial placements ie being cared for by friends or relatives other than immediate family relatives would be subject to an assessment under the private fostering regulations.
8. Following an inspection last year there has been a campaign with schools and staff to raise awareness of children who should be subject to the Private fostering regulations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Scrutiny Committee note this report**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified