

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	ENDORSEMENT OF STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE: ADOPTION, FOSTERING AND PRIVATE FOSTERING SERVICES
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	20 DECEMBER 2010
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
None	

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

The Care Standards Act 2002, the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Children (Private Arrangement For Fostering Regulations) 2005, and their associated regulations require that the following documents are submitted to City Council Senior Officers and Members for ratification.

- I. Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose
- II. Fostering Agency Statement of Purpose.
- III. Private Fostering Statement of Purpose.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To approve the Statements of Purpose for the Council's Adoption, Fostering and Private Fostering Services as set out in Appendices 1-3.

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Compliance with this requirement is checked by Ofsted during their inspections of these three service areas. These documents are issued to key stakeholders on an annual basis, including foster carers, private foster carers, adopters and relevant professionals.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2. It is a statutory requirement that these Statements of Purpose are endorsed by the Council.

### **DETAIL**

3. Adoption  
This Statement of Purpose has been produced to meet Southampton's Adoption Agency's obligations under the Adoption Act 1976, The Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the National Adoption Standards 2003. ***It provides a clear statement of the aims and objectives of our Adoption Service and sets out our strategy for meeting those aims and objectives.***
4. The Statement also provides details of:
  - The services provided by the Agency
  - The management structure of the Service
  - The Adoption Service staffing structure
  - The numbers, relevant qualifications and experience of Adoption Agency

staff

- The procedures and processes for recruiting, training, approving, reviewing and supporting Adopters
- Work with Children
- Work with Adults
- Adoption Panels and the role of the IRM
- Monitoring and quality assurance mechanisms
- Complaints Procedure

5. Fostering

This Statement of Purpose has been produced to meet Southampton's Fostering Services obligations under the Fostering Services Regulations 2002, National Minimum Standards 2002. Southampton Foster Care Services seeks to ensure that there is a range and choice of high quality family placements available to meet the individual needs of children looked after who are unable to live with their own families. The service seeks to ensure safe, supportive and successful care for all children in family placements including those placed with family and friends and to maximise quality of care by offering support and training to all carers.

6. The Statement provides details of:

- The Services provided
- The management structure
- The fostering service staffing structure
- The aims and objectives, principles and standards of care
- The numbers, relevant qualifications and experience of staff
- Numbers of foster carers
- Numbers of children placed
- Numbers of complaints and their outcomes
- The procedures and processes for recruiting, approving, training, supporting and reviewing carers

7. Private Fostering

This document is a description of private fostering arrangements within Southampton City Council and is separate from the Fostering Agency Statement of Purpose. This Statement of Purpose is designed to meet the needs of the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering, Standard 1, and to provide a clear guide to the service for professionals, the public, council members and external organisations.

8. This document describes private fostering arrangements, the assessment processes and the support and advice offered to private foster carers, privately fostered children and their parents within Southampton City Council. Southampton City Council's private fostering service aims to promote awareness raising, increase notification rates, increase the number of private fostering arrangements being assessed and privately fostered children's welfare being safeguarded and promoted. This will be achieved by implementing The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005, The Children Act 1989, and Guidance on Private Fostering and National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering.

9. All three documents will be available to view on the City Council Website.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

10. None

### **Revenue**

11. The Statements of purpose will be implemented using existing budgets for these services within the Children's Services & Learning Portfolio.

### **Property**

12. None

### **Other**

13. None

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

14. See above. Statutory powers in respect of these services are referred to in the main body of the report.

### **Other Legal Implications:**

15. All services delivered in accordance with the Statements of Purpose for each relevant area are delivered having regard to the requirements of Equalities legislation including the Equalities Act 2010.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

16. The adoption and fostering services are an integral part of the statutory social work services delivered by the Safeguarding Division of the Children, Schools and Learning Directorate. The services delivered in accordance with these Statements of Purpose support the Council's aspiration to address Priority 4 of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12, namely to "...improve outcomes for key groups of children and young people, especially children in care and care leavers..."

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**KEY DECISION**

No

**WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:**

N/A

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

### **Appendices**

1.	Adoption Statement of Purpose
2.	Fostering Statement of Purpose
3.	Private Fostering Statement of Purpose

### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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### **Other Background Documents**

**Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

None