

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	19 June 2017
Title:	Statement of Purpose of the Hampshire Fostering Service Adoption Service and Residential Homes
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Summary

- 1.1 National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services and Adoption Services, and the Children's Homes (England) Regulations require that the registered provider (in the case of a local authority, the elected members) formally approves the Statement of Purpose of Services, and reviews, updates and modifies it where necessary, at least annually.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report, therefore, is to present the updated Statement of Purpose of Hampshire's Fostering, Adoption Services and Children's Homes (see Appendices) for approval by the Executive Member, highlighting the key parts of the document that have been revised since it was last presented.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1 The Regulations and Guidance for Fostering Services, Adoption Services and for Children's Homes state that the service provider (in this instance, Hampshire Children's Services Department) shall compile, in relation to the service, a written statement, referred to as The Statement of Purpose, which shall consist of:
 - a) A statement of the aims and objectives of the service; and
 - b) A statement as to the services and facilities to be provided by the service.
- 2.2. The provider is responsible for providing a copy of the Statement of Purpose to Ofsted, the body which inspects the services, and the following key stakeholders:

- i) Any person working for the purposes of the service;
- ii) Any foster/ adoptive parent or prospective foster/ adoptive parent
- iii) Any child placed within any of the services; and
- iv) The parent of any such child.

2.3 A children's version of the Statement of Purpose is also available.

2.4 The proposals in this report are expected to support the County Council's corporate priorities as follows:

"Making Hampshire safer and more secure for all" – by enabling as many of Hampshire's children as possible, who are looked after, to remain in their local communities and to fully participate in and contribute to the life of those communities.

"Maximising well-being" – by ensuring that Hampshire's children who are looked after are provided with good quality family based care placements that meet their needs and enable them to move successfully through their transition to independence.

"Enhancing our quality of place" – through provision of high quality services that target those children who are the most vulnerable.

3. Finance

3.1 Not applicable.

4. Performance

4.1 Ofsted assesses extent to which each Statements of Purpose is an accurate reflection of the service provided.

5. Key issues

Revisions to the Statement of Purpose:

Fostering Services:

5.1 The Fostering Service uses the Statement of Purpose as a competitive positioning tool, which benchmarks local authority and independent services. This is useful in recruitment terms as prospective carers can compare services more easily. Flexibility and responsiveness are highlighted to promote Hampshire's position.

5.2 References to the Fostering Service and descriptions and diagrams of how the service is structured are presented in a way that is appropriate to

the audience who are reading the statement of purpose and understanding how the fostering service operates.

- 5.3 The Statement outlines the training that is in place for foster carer applicants to equip them with the required skills and knowledge to look after Hampshire's children.
- 5.4 There is a statement from the chair of Hampshire Fostering Network (HFN) which highlights the achievements of HFN during 2016- 2017.
- 5.5 There is also an update on Fostering Recruitment and events undertaken during the year, promoting Hampshire's position as a successful fostering agency.

Children's Residential Care

- 5.6 The information within the Statement of Purpose is used to identify that the home is the right home for the child and that the home will be able to respond effectively to the child's needs. Hampshire currently has five children's homes for local children whose needs cannot be met within a family environment. They are all mixed sex homes and range from 4-5 beds located throughout Hampshire, currently accommodating a maximum of 21 children.
- 5.7 Hampshire is in the process of implementing a Residential Strategy that will result in eight 'open' children's homes, accommodating 33 children. During 2017 four new homes will open and two existing homes will close. The Statements of Purpose for the new homes are submitted for approval. They will be updated to reflect staff recruitment.
 - Godbey House is located in Hayling Island. This six bedded home accommodates children and young people aged between 10-17 years. Godbey House will close in 2017. Appendix 1.
 - Milesdown Children's Home is located in Winchester. This six bedded home accommodates children and young people aged between 10-17 years. During 2017 Milesdown will temporarily re-locate to Crossways Children's Home and Milesdown will close. Appendix 2.
 - The Mead is located in Odiham. This five bedded home accommodates children and young people aged between 10-17 years. Appendix 3.
 - Cypress Lodge is located in Basingstoke and accommodates four children and young people aged between 10-17 years. Appendix 4.
 - The Greenhouse Children's Home temporarily located at Crossways Children's Home in Old Basing. This four bedded home

accommodates children and young people aged between 10- 17 years. Appendix 5.

- Crofton House is located in Havant. This is a new four bedded home which will accommodate children and young people aged between 10-17 years. The Statement of Purpose has been sent to Ofsted in preparation for opening the home in 2017. Appendix 6.
- Candle Lodge is located in Chandlers Ford. This is a new four bedded home which will accommodate children and young people aged between 10-17 years. The Statement of Purpose has been sent to Ofsted in preparation for opening the home in 2017. Appendix 7.
- Ferne Lodge is located in Fareham. This is a new four bedded home which will accommodate children and young people aged between 10-17 years. The Statement of Purpose has been sent to Ofsted in preparation for opening the home in 2017. Appendix 8.
- Berry View is located in Andover. This is a new four bedded home which will accommodate children and young people aged between 10-17 years. The Statement of Purpose has been sent to Ofsted in preparation for opening the home in 2017. Appendix 9.
- Amani is located in Dibden Purlieu. This is a new four bedded home which will accommodate children and young people aged between 10-17 years. The Statement of Purpose has been prepared in preparation for the home opening in August 2017. Appendix 10.

5.8 Swanwick Lodge is a secure children's home. It accommodates up to 16 young people of either gender who need to be secured for their own safety under section 25 of the Children Act. The Youth Justice Board are able to 'spot purchase' beds for those young people who are remanded into custody or receive a custodial sentence. The unit is subject to the same regulations and inspection regime as open children's homes but with some additional requirements which are specific to its secure setting. The home is also a national resource and a self-financing business unit. Appendix 11.

5.9 The Statements of Purpose for Children's Homes have been updated to reflect changes to unit policies and procedures, staffing personnel, training and qualifications and any changes to the 'Responsible Individual' and/or 'Registered Manager' in accordance with the line management arrangements of the home.

Short Break Homes

5.10 As part of the continuum of short-break resources supporting children and young people with complex learning difficulties (including autism) and their families Hampshire County Council has three residential homes each offering programmed overnight provision. Access to the service is via a county resource panel that meets fortnightly under the chairmanship of a rotating district manager.

- Sunbeams is situated in Aldershot and can accommodate up to four children/young people overnight. Appendix 12.
- Firvale is in Basingstoke and can accommodate up to nine children/young people. It is joint funded and managed unit between Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Appendix 13.
- Merrydale is based in Winchester and is registered to accommodate up to thirteen children/young people. Appendix 14.

5.11 The Statements of Purpose for the short breaks children's homes have been updated to reflect changes to unit policies and procedures, staffing personnel, training and qualifications and a change to the 'Responsible Individual'.

Adoption Service

5.12 The Adoption Service Statement of Purpose sets out the core aims and objectives of Hampshire's Adoption Service. It explains the range of services that are provided to children, prospective adopters, adoptive parents, adopted adults and birth parents through the different strands of the adoption agency.

5.13 The principles and standards within the Statement of Purpose apply to all agency placements.

5.14 The Statement of Purpose reflects the emphasis that the Adoption Service places on the welfare of Hampshire's children who require adoptive placements, the importance of minimising delay for children and meeting statutory timescales. In addition, the support services that are being offered to children and adoptive families post-adoption which continues to be a growing area in Hampshire's adoption agency.

5.15 There are some minor revisions to this document since it was last presented. Revisions include;

- The Service Structure has been updated to reflect that there is now one Children's Adoption Team, instead of two.

- Details of Hampshire's Fostering For Adoption Policy.
- Support to birth parents and relatives being provided by a range of independent providers, instead of one provider, Barnardos.
- Services for Inter Country Adoption being commissioned from the voluntary adoption agency, The Centre for Adoption, instead of Parents And Children Together (PACT).
- The wider services offered by the Adoption Support Team.
- A section on the highlights of 2016-17.

6. Consultation and Equalities

- 6.1 The proposal in this report does not require consultation and equality and diversity objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposal.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the updated Statement of Purpose for the Fostering Service, Adoption Service and Children's Homes.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Statement of Purpose Executive Member Report	7377	25 May 2016
Statement of Purpose Executive Member Report	5788	23 July 2015
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Children Act	1989/2004	
Care Standards Act	2000	
Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations	2011	
Children's Home Regulations	2015	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Fostering Services: National Minimum Standards	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fostering-services-national-minimum-standards
Short Breaks: Statutory guidance on how to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children using short breaks	https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00183-2010
Short Breaks: Advice for Local Authorities	http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/short%20breaks%20-%20advice%20for%20local%20authorities.pdf
Children's Homes:	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/541/contents/made
Adoption: National Minimum Standards	Adoption: national minimum standards - Publications - GOV.UK
Assessment and Approval of Foster Carers	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275764/20130522statutory_guidance_assessment_and_approval_of_foster_carers_final.pdf
Adoption: Statutory Guidance 2013	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-statutory-guidance-2013

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

1.2 **Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

2.1 Not considered to be adversely affected.

3. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

3.1 Not considered to be adversely affected.

4. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? Not considered to be adversely affected.
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? Not considered to be adversely affected.