

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 22nd September 2009

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Education and Children - Councillor Pantelic

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

REFERENCES FROM EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the recommendations of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on Slough's Fostering Service Statement of Purpose 2009/10 and Slough's Adoption Service Statement of Purpose 2009/10.

2 Recommendations

The Cabinet are requested to resolve:

- (a) That the comments of the Education and Children's Service's Scrutiny Panel in respect of the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose (attached as Appendix A) and the Adoption Service Statement of Purpose (attached as Appendix B) be noted, and
- (b) That the Slough Fostering Service Statement of Purpose 2009/10 be approved.
- (c) That the Slough Adoption Service Statement of Purpose 2009/10 be approved.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

None arising from this administrative reference report.

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial

None arising from this administrative reference report.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Slough Borough Council Fostering and Adoption Service's compliance with national fostering and adoption standards is the subject of external inspection by Ofsted (under the Care Standards Act 2000 and accompanying fostering and Adoption National Minimum standards). The standards include a requirement that a statement of purpose for each service is approved by Members and reviewed annually.

There are no direct Human Rights Act implications.

5. Supporting Information

Fostering Service Statement of Purpose

- 5.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 24th June 2009 considered a report concerning Slough's Fostering Service Statement of Purpose. Under the Local Authority Fostering Service (England) Regulations 2002 it is required that the Statement of Purpose be approved annually by Members. The Assistant Director, Children's Services detailed to the Panel the key aims of the Fostering Service as set out in the Statement of Purpose and the factors of particular influence to slough's fostering department at present. Further information was presented on the service provision, standards of care and achievements from the previous year.
- 5.2 Members asked a number of questions, in particular regarding the current pressures on the service due to increased child protection activity. The Panel noted the excellent service provided by the fostering team and agreed that the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose 2009/10 be recommended for approval.

Adoption Service Statement of Purpose

- 5.3 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 10th September, 2009 considered a report which detailed Slough's Adoption Service Statement of Purpose. The adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003 require the Service to have a Statement of Purpose which is approved by Members and reviewed annually. The Group Manager, Services for Children in Care & Leaving Care outlined the main sections of the Statement. Member's noted the excellent work of the Adoption team in providing long term permanence to some of the most vulnerable members of society.

5. Appendices

Appendix A - Slough's Fostering Service Statement of Purpose
Appendix B - Slough's Adoption Service Statement of Purpose

6. Background Documents

1. Minutes of the Education and Children' Services Scrutiny Panel held on 24th June 2009