

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Children and Families Scrutiny Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 12 April 2011  
**Report of:** Task and Finish Group  
**Subject/Title:** Review of the Fostering Service

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 This report encloses the final report of the Task and Finish Group who conducted a Scrutiny Review of the Fostering Service.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 (a) that the report of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group be welcomed and supported;
- (b) that the recommendations of the Group be endorsed, and referred to the Cabinet for consideration and necessary action, and that Cabinet be invited initially to comment on the details of the recommendations.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 To progress the findings of the Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group who reviewed the Family Support Services within Cheshire East.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All

### **5.0 Policy Implications**

- 5.1 Not known at this stage

### **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Not known at this stage

### **7.0 Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Not known at this stage

## **8.0 Risk Management**

8.1 Not known at this stage

## **9.0 Background and Options**

9.1 Following a previous Task and Finish Review which looked at Residential Provision in Cheshire East, a recommendation was made that –

“All Cared for Children should be placed within a family setting wherever possible and that sufficient resources are targeted at the fostering service to ensure sufficient capacity is available”

As a result, the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee at a mid-point meeting on the 16 November 2010 agreed that a review which looked in more detail at the resources and capacity of the fostering services would be appropriate. In a time of austerity and difficult decisions, the Committee felt it imperative that the Borough's most vulnerable are made a priority and that the services which support them are performing optimally. The Task and Finish Group, its Membership, Chairmanship and terms of reference were all agreed and ratified at the Committee meeting on 7 December 2010.

9.2 The final report of the Task and Finish Group is now attached for Members consideration.

## **10.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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