

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	6 June 2011
Report of:	Children and Families Scrutiny Committee
Subject/Title:	Review of the Fostering Service
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Hilda Gaddum

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 That the report be received and the Children and Families Portfolio Holder undertake to come back to a future meeting of Cabinet with a formal response to each recommendation.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To progress the findings of the Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group who reviewed the Fostering 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 Cabinets 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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