

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SCRUTINY

Date of Meeting:	14 February 2012
Report of:	Lorraine Butcher, Strategic Director Children, Families & Adults
Subject/Title:	Response to Fostering Task & Finish Recommendations
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report is a formal response to the Recommendations from the Task & Finish Group in respect of the Fostering Service.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 For information and discussion

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 n/a

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 n/a

6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - Health

- 6.1 n/a

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 8.1

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 The recommendations contained within the Task and Finish Groups Report provides opportunities to increase not only the numbers in house foster carers but also the support available to them. A failure to implement some of the recommendations may result in poor recruitment/retention of carers and an increased pressure on the external placements budget.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The Task and Finish Group completed its report in April 2011. A previous recommendation had been made by the Residential Task & Finish Group.

“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 midpoint 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.

Responses to the recommendations contained in the report are attached as Appendix 1.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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