

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	11 November 2024
Title of Report:	Foster For Plymouth Recruitment
Lead Member:	Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Director of Children's Services)
Author:	Karen Blake (Head of Service)
Contact Email:	karen.blake@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the revitalised and enhanced approach to Foster Carer Recruitment in order to increase in house fostering sufficiency and introduces the national fostering film, "Everything" which was launched in Plymouth on 18 October and followed with our own promotional material, which is presented at Cabinet today.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Cabinet agree to support the recruitment campaign by sharing the promotional material, spreading the word across networks and advocating for Foster for Plymouth.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Do nothing – would not increase the number of in house foster carers.

We continue to develop our marketing strategy and offer to attract more prospective foster carers.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This recommendation aligns to the Council's mission and values of Democracy, Responsibility, Fairness and Cooperation as set out in the Corporate Plan.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

This work is critical to the work undertaken to increase in house fostering sufficiency and reduce the overall placement budget. On top of the placement costs, there will be a positive financial impact if we are able to place a greater number of our children in care in or close to Plymouth as there will be reduced travel and costs for the child, their family, the social worker and Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO).

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Financial Risks

If we are not able to increase the number of in-house foster carers to provide local, family based care for Plymouth's Cared for Children the medium term financial plan will not be achieved. There is a risk that despite the time and financial investment, there will not be a sufficient increase in foster carers to meet demand.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There will be a positive environmental impact if we are able to place a greater number of our children in care in or close to Plymouth as there will be reduced travel for the child, their family, the social worker and IRO.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

N/A.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
		If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Karen Blake (Head of Service)

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 30/10/2024

Cabinet Member approval: Approved via email by Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications)

Date approved: 31/10/2024