

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	31 May 2012
Title:	Statement of Purpose of the Hampshire Fostering Service, Adoption Service and Residential Children's Homes
Reference:	3570
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to agree the updated Statement of Purpose of the Fostering Service, Adoption Service and Children's Homes and highlight the key parts of the documents that have been revised since they were last presented.
- 1.2. National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services, Children's Homes and for Adoption Services require that the registered provider (in the case of a local authority, the elected members) formally approves the Statement of Purpose of Services, and reviews, updates and modifies it where necessary, at least annually.
- 1.3. The aim of this report, therefore, is to present the updated Statement of Purpose of Hampshire's Fostering, Adoption Services and Children's Homes (see Appendices) for approval by the Executive Lead Member, highlighting the key parts of the document that have been revised since it was last presented. The complete set of the Statement of Purpose will be placed for reference in a folder in the Members' library.
- 1.4. Provision of fostering services and children's homes in Hampshire supports the Corporate Priorities and enables and encourages all children and young people who are looked after by Hampshire Children's Services to stay safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, provide a positive contribution, and achieve economic well-being, in line with the Every Child Matters' five outcomes (Children Act 2004).

2. Contextual information

2.1 The Regulations and Guidance for Fostering Service, Adoption Services and for Children's Homes state that the service provider (in this instance, Hampshire Children's Services Department) shall compile, in relation to the service, a written statement referred to as The Statement of Purpose, which shall consist of:

- a) a statement of the aims and objectives of the service; and
- b) a statement as to the services and facilities to be provided by the service.

2.2 The provider is responsible for providing a copy of the Statement of Purpose to Ofsted, the body which inspects the services, and the following key stakeholders:

- a) any person working for the purposes of the service;
- b) any foster/ adoptive parent or prospective foster/ adoptive parent;
- c) any child placed within any of the services; and
- d) the parent of any such child.

2.3 Children's guides are produced for each service so that children and young people have the relevant information about the service they are receiving.

2.4 The proposals in this report are expected to support the County Council's corporate priorities as follows:

"Making Hampshire safer and more secure for all" – by enabling as many of Hampshire's children as possible, who are looked after, to remain in their local communities and to fully participate in and contribute to the life of those communities.

"Maximising well-being" – by ensuring that Hampshire's children who are looked after are provided with good quality family based care placements that meet their needs and enable them to move successfully through their transition to independence.

"Enhancing our quality of place" – through provision of high quality services that target those children who are the most vulnerable.

3. Finance

3.1. Not applicable

4. Performance

4.1. Revisions to the Statement of Purpose are highlighted below.

Fostering Services:

4.2 The fostering service uses the statement of purpose as a competitive positioning tool, which benchmarks local authority and independent

services. This is useful in recruitment terms as prospective carers can compare services more easily and is also helpful for placement commissioning.

- 4.3 References to the fostering service and descriptions and diagrams of how the service is structured are presented in a way that is appropriate to the audience who are reading the statement of purpose and understanding how the fostering service operates.
- 4.4 There were significant changes in the previous year's statement of purpose due to the restructuring of the service and the availability of new data. There are no significant changes in the Fostering Statement of Purpose for the year 2012- 2013

Children's Homes:

- 4.5 Children's homes must have a Statement of Purpose that sets out the home's overall ethos, values and principles, which play a core part in promoting children's safety and welfare. They should be child focussed and able to demonstrate how the care offered to each child by the home will address their social, emotional, educational and behavioural needs. It must set out details of the home's aims and objectives and the services and facilities provided and must be regularly kept under review and revised whenever necessary.
- 4.6 Hampshire has six children's homes for local children whose needs cannot be met within a family environment. They are all mixed sex units and range from 4-7 beds located throughout Hampshire, accommodating a total of 34 children. There are also three short break units providing overnight short breaks for children with disabilities in the county. In addition there is a secure children's home for 16 children. This is a national resource and accommodates children under both criminal and welfare orders.
- Godbey House is located in Hayling Island. This six bedded unit accommodates children from the younger age range 12 – 14.
 - Glendalyn Children's Home is in New Milton. This accommodates seven young people, either on a full time or shared care arrangement.
 - Milesdown Children's Home is in Winchester. This is a six bedded unit and caters for children aged between 13-17.
 - The Green House is located in Chandlers Ford and accommodates six children aged between 13-17.
 - The Mead is located in Odiham. This home has had a major refurbishment and has reduced from accommodating six children to five. Children are aged between 13-17, which is a change to the Statement of Purpose.

- Cypress Lodge is our smallest children's home located in Basingstoke and accommodates four children aged between 12-16
- 4.7 Swanwick Lodge is a secure children's home. It accommodates 12 children through a contract with the Youth Justice Board and has provision for a further four beds for children who need to be secured for their own safety, under section 25 of the Children Act. Both criminal and welfare beds are a national resource and the home is a self financing business unit. The unit is subject to the same regulations and inspection regime as open children's homes but with some additional requirements which are specific to its secure setting.
- 4.8 There are three respite care units for children with disabilities:
- Sunbeams is located in Aldershot. This is a four bedded unit which accommodates a range of children with disabilities between the age of 0 - 18.
 - Firvale is located in Basingstoke. This is a nine bedded unit managed in conjunction with Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The unit accommodates a range of children with disabilities between the age of 0 - 18.
 - Merrydale is located in Kings Worthy. This is a thirteen bedded unit which accommodates a range of children with disabilities between the age of 0-18.

There are no significant changes to the Statement of Purpose of these homes.

Adoption Service:

- 4.9 The adoption service uses the Statement of Purpose as a position statement explaining the important principles which underpin the service. The Statement of Purpose is available to the public on our adoption website and to other partner organisations.
- 4.10 Hampshire County Council acts as an Adoption Agency to provide adoption services as required under the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005, and the Adoption National Minimum Standards (Care Standards Act 2000).
- 4.11 The Agency aims to fulfil its range of duties and responsibilities under the above legislation and the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004 in meeting the needs of those children who have or may be adopted, their birth parents and guardians and those people who are or may be adoptive parents.

- 4.12 There has been little change to the 2012-13 Statement of Purpose as the previous Statement of Purpose 2011-2012 was significantly changed to incorporate the restructuring of the service.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. This report presents the updated Statement of Purpose of Hampshire's Fostering Service, Adoption Service and Children's Homes.
- 5.2. Ongoing work is taking place to develop Hampshire's Fostering, Adoption services and Children's Homes and the Statement of Purpose for each service will be revised at appropriate times in order to reflect these developments.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the updated Statement of Purpose of the Fostering Service, Adoption Service and Residential Children's Homes.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
The Fostering Services Regulations	2002	
The Children Act	2004	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. A race and equality impact assessment has been considered in the development of this report and no adverse impact has been identified.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. N/A

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? N/A
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? N/A

Statements of Purpose

See separate folder containing:

Hampshire Fostering Service

Hampshire Adoption Service

Hampshire Residential:

Children's Homes:	Cypress Lodge
	Glendalyn
	Godbey House
	Green House, The
	Mead, The
	Milesdown
Secure Unit:	Swanwick Lodge
Respite Units:	Firvale
	Merrydale
	Sunbeam