

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee/Panel:</b>	Children and Families Advisory Panel
<b>Date:</b>	29 May 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Fostering Service Ofsted Report; findings and action plan
<b>Reference:</b>	3870
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to share with the Panel Hampshire's Fostering Service Inspection Report from the recent Ofsted inspection undertaken in February 2012. (Full Inspection report is attached.)
- 1.2. In considering the Ofsted report members are asked to note the findings and acknowledge the action plan against the recommendations outlined in the report.

### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Ofsted is required by the Care Standards Act 2000 to conduct an inspection of all agencies registered to provide care to children and young people.
- 2.2. Hampshire Fostering Service is a registered provider under the Fostering Services Regulations 2011 and the Fostering Service National Minimum Standards (NMS).
- 2.3. Ofsted conduct a three yearly inspection of Hampshire's Fostering Service against the required Regulations, Guidance and National Minimum Standards

### 3. Performance

- 3.1 The Ofsted Inspection found that the service was lead by experienced and knowledgeable managers and that the service was organised in an effective way. They considered that outcomes for children were constantly considered through robust monitoring systems and the service evidenced good outcomes for children in health and education. The inspectors considered that there were excellent systems in place for consulting with children and young people in foster care.

3.2 The overall rating for Hampshire Fostering Service from the Ofsted Inspection is 'Good' which means the provision of service is strong. They also highlighted two areas of practice as Outstanding;

- 'Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do'
- 'Helping children make a positive contribution'.

The Outstanding rating denotes that the provision of these services is of an exceptionally high quality.

3.3 All other areas of service were rated as 'Good'

3.4 The inspection made three recommendations for improvement :

- Ensure that foster carers' reviews are conducted at intervals of not more than a year. (*Breach of Regulation 28(2)*)
- Ensure that children are encouraged to keep memorabilia of their time in placement (*NMS 26.7*)
- Ensure that all employees' full employment history, together with a satisfactory written explanation of any gaps in employment, is obtained during the interview process. (*Breach of Regulation 5 (Schedule 1).*)

All of which are being managed through the Ofsted Report Action Plan which is attached to this report.

#### **4. Recommendation:**

4.1 That the Panel notes the findings and acknowledges the action plan against the recommendations outlined in the report.

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

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

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

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

**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. N/A

**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