



Report to Children, Young People & Family Support Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Wednesday 24th November 2021

Report of: Carly Speechley, Director, Children and Families

Subject: Annual Fostering Service Report

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This is the annual report of Sheffield City Council's Fostering Service. It reports on activity and performance in the Service during 2020/21, and details developments that have taken place during the reporting year, and developments planned for the service moving through 2021/22.

The report details that between the end of March 2020 and the end of March 2021 Sheffield's looked after children population increased from 628 children to 674. The extra demand placed increased pressure on the Fostering Service while the Covid pandemic was restricting the number of care placements that some foster carers could offer, for example if they had Covid, or were clinically vulnerable. Despite this the number of children placed with in-house foster carers increased from 319 to 336, largely because of an increase in connected persons foster carer placements (children placed with relatives of friends). Including those placed with independent fostering agencies, the total number of children placed in foster placements at the end of March 2021 was 469, 70% of the looked after children population.

The service recruited 37 new mainstream foster carers in 2020/21, an increase from 32 the previous year. A key development in the Service during the year was that of the Mockingbird Family Model of Fostering

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Performance / budget monitoring report	x
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Note the activity and the performance of Sheffield City Council's Fostering Service in 2020/21

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

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