

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	27 March 2019
<b>Title:</b>	Statement of Purpose of the Hampshire Fostering Service Adoption Service and Residential Homes
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Helen Gunniss

**Tel:** 01962 846432

**Email:** Helen.gunniss@hants.gov.uk

#### 1. Recommendation(s)

1.1. That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the updated Statements of Purpose for the Fostering Service, Adoption Service and Children's Homes.

#### 2. Executive Summary

2.1. National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services and Adoption Services, and the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 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.

2.2. The purpose 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 Member, highlighting the key parts of the document that have been revised since it was last presented.

#### 3. Contextual information

3.1. The Regulations and Guidance for Fostering Services, 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.

3.2. 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:

- i) Any person working for the purposes of the service;
- ii) Any foster/adoptive parent or prospective foster/adoptive parent
- iii) Any child placed within any of the services; and
- iv) The parent of any such child.

3.3. A children’s version of the Statement of Purpose is also available.

3.4. The proposals in this report are expected to support the County Council’s Strategic Plan as follows:

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity.  
 People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives.  
 People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment.  
 People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities.

#### **4. Finance**

4.1. Not applicable

#### **5. Performance**

5.1. Ofsted assesses the extent to which each Statement of Purpose is an accurate reflection of the service provided.

#### **6. Consultation and Equalities**

6.1. The proposal in this report does not require consultation and equality and diversity objectives are not considered to be adversely affected by the proposal. The Statements of Purpose ensure that all needs are met and address the protected characteristics where relevant.

#### **7. Revisions to the Statement of Purpose:**

7.1. The revisions to the Statements of Purpose are summarised in the table below and then described in more detail in the paragraphs that follow.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Changes to the 2019/20 Statements of Purpose</b>
Fostering Service	Restructure of the Connected Carers Assessment Team to social workers based in districts with children’s social workers.
Amani Children’s Home	No change except for greater clarity around emergency admissions in Section 22 Care Planning. The below statement is included in all the children’s homes Statements of Purpose this year except The Mead which is outlined below.  Emergency placements will only be considered if:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no alternative placement option.</li> <li>• We have the relevant details of the child's behavioural patterns and contact arrangements received in advance.</li> <li>• The Social Worker or a person known to the child or young person accompanies them to the home and where possible ensures that they have sufficient clothing and belongings.</li> <li>• The child (and parents where appropriate) must be consulted about the placement</li> </ul>
Berry View Children's Home	No change except to the emergency admissions section.
Candle Lodge Children's Home	No change except to the emergency admissions section.
Crofton House Children's Home	No change except to the emergency admissions section.
Cypress Lodge Children's Home	No change except to the emergency admissions section.
Ferne Lodge Children's Home	No change except to the emergency admissions section.
The Mead Children's Home	The Mead's Statement of Purpose now covers that it will be specialising in emergencies, short-term assessment and reunification placements.
Abenrise Children's Home	Abenrise is a new 4 bedded home. Its Statement of Purpose describes that the home will provide 4 beds for children between the ages of 10 and 17 years.
Swanwick Lodge Secure Unit	Change to the 'Responsible Individual' following a senior management restructure.
Firvale Respite Home	The Statement of Purpose has been updated to reflect changes to staffing personnel, training and qualifications and a change to the 'Responsible Individual'.
Adoption Service	The new Regional Adoption Agency, Adopt South, is now described in the Statement of Purpose which will provide some adoption services on behalf of Hampshire County Council, including the recruitment

	of new adopters and adoption panels.
--	--------------------------------------

## **7.2. Fostering Service**

- 7.2.1 The Fostering Service uses the Statement of Purpose as a competitive positioning tool, which benchmarks local authority and independent services (see Appendix 1).
- 7.2.2 This is useful in recruitment terms as prospective carers can compare services more easily and our flexibility and responsiveness are highlighted to promote Hampshire's position.
- 7.2.3 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.
- 7.2.4 There is a revision in the structure of the Connected Carers Assessment Team. Whilst the role of managing work and monitoring remains under the Fostering Service, the assessing Social Workers are now based within Children's Teams to allow for more effective joint working.
- 7.2.5 There is a statement from the chair of Hampshire Fostering Network (HFN) which highlights the achievements of HFN during 2018 - 2019.
- 7.2.6 Finally, an update is provided on fostering recruitment and events undertaken during the year and promoting Hampshire's position as a successful fostering agency.

## **7.3. Children's Residential Care**

- 7.3.1 The information within the Statement of Purpose is used to identify that the home is the right home for the child and that the home will be able to respond effectively to the child's needs. Hampshire has eight children's homes for local children. They are all mixed sex homes; seven provide 4 beds and one has 5 beds. They are located throughout Hampshire, currently accommodating a maximum of 33 children.
- 7.3.2 Following feedback from Ofsted, all Statements of Purpose for the eight children's homes have been amended to provide greater clarity around emergency admissions and The Mead will be specialising in emergencies, short-term assessment and reunification placements.
  - Amani is a new home in the New Forest area. The home opened in Summer 2017 and accommodates four children and young people aged between 10-17 years. (Appendix 2)
  - Berry View is a new home located in the Test Valley area. The home opened in late summer 2017 and accommodates four children and young people aged between 10-17 years. (Appendix 3)

- Candle Lodge is a new home in the Eastleigh district. The home opened in Summer 2017 and accommodates four children and young people aged between 10-17 years. (Appendix 4)
- Crofton House is a new home in the Havant area. The home opened in Summer 2017 and accommodates four children and young people aged between 10-17 years. (Appendix 5)
- Cypress Lodge is located in the Basingstoke area and accommodates four children and young people aged between 10-17 years. (Appendix 6)
- Ferne Lodge is a new home in the Fareham area. The home opened in Summer 2017 and accommodates four children and young people aged between 10-17 years. (Appendix 7)
- The Mead is located in East Hampshire. This five bedded home accommodates children and young people aged between 10-17 years. (Appendix 8)
- Abenrise is a new home in the Winchester district. The home opened in December 2018 and accommodates four children and young people aged between 10 – 17 years. (Appendix 9)

7.3.3 The Statements of Purpose for Children's Homes have been updated to reflect changes to staffing personnel, training and qualifications.

#### **7.4 Swanwick Lodge Secure Children's Home**

7.4.1 Swanwick Lodge is a secure children's home. It is a national resource with young people being placed at Swanwick Lodge from across the UK. It accommodates up to 16 young people of either gender who need to be placed in a secure setting to safeguard their welfare. Young people are subject to a court order which permits the restriction of their liberty. 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. Swanwick Lodge is a self-financing business unit.

7.4.2 The home is currently undergoing an extensive building upgrade which has resulted in a reduction of beds to 8 whilst the works are undertaken. The full reopening of 16 beds will be in February 2020.

7.4.3 The upgrade includes; new doors, windows, CCTV upgrade and media centres for all bedrooms and is due for completion in early 2020. (Appendix 10).

7.4.4 The only change is to the Responsible Individual following a restructure in the senior management.

#### **7.5 Overnight Respite Home**

7.5.1 As part of the continuum of overnight resources supporting children and young people with complex learning difficulties (including autism) and their

families, Hampshire County Council has one residential home offering overnight respite. Firvale is located in Basingstoke, owned by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT), and jointly funded and managed by the County Council and HHFT. It is registered to accommodate up to nine children/young people (Appendix 11).

- 7.5.2 Children with disabilities are assessed by qualified children's social workers against Hampshire County Council's eligibility criteria. The County Allocation Panel (CAP) approves individual children/young people for overnight respite, where the need for it has been assessed.
- 7.5.3 The Statement of Purpose for the overnight respite home has been updated to reflect changes to staffing personnel, training and qualifications and a change to the 'Responsible Individual'.

## **7.6 Adoption Service**

- 7.6.1 The Adoption Service Statement of Purpose sets out the core aims and objectives of Hampshire's Adoption Service. (Appendix 12) It explains the range of services that are provided to children, prospective adopters, adoptive parents, adopted adults and birth parents through the different strands of the adoption agency.
- 7.6.2 The principles and standards within the Statement of Purpose apply to all agency placements.
- 7.6.3 The Statement of Purpose reflects the emphasis that the Adoption Service places on the welfare of Hampshire's children who require adoptive placements, the importance of minimising delay for children and meeting statutory timescales. In addition, the support services that are being offered to children and adoptive families post-adoption which continues to be a growing area in Hampshire's adoption agency are described.
- 7.6.4 There is a revision to this document to introduce the new Regional Adoption Agency, Adopt South, which will provide some adoption services on behalf of Hampshire County Council, including the recruitment of new adopters and adoption panels.

## **8 Future direction**

- 8.1.1 The Statements of Purpose will drive the delivery of the Adoption, Fostering and Children's Residential homes for 2019-20. As required they will be updated in one year to reflect the development of services and needs.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Statement of Purpose Executive Member Report		09 May 2018
Statement of Purpose Executive Member Report		19 June 2017
Statement of Purpose Executive Member Report	7377	25 May 2016
Statement of Purpose Executive Member Report	5788	23 July 2015
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Children Act	1989/2004	
Care Standards Act	2000	
Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations	2011	
Children's Home Regulations	2015	

**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>
Fostering Services: National Minimum Standards	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fostering-services-national-minimum-standards">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fostering-services-national-minimum-standards</a>

<p>Short Breaks: Statutory guidance on how to safeguard and promote the welfare of disabled children using short breaks</p>	<p><a href="https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00183-2010">https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00183-2010</a></p>
<p>Short Breaks: Advice for Local Authorities</p>	<p><a href="http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/short%20breaks%20-%20advice%20for%20local%20authorities.pdf">http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/s/short%20breaks%20-%20advice%20for%20local%20authorities.pdf</a></p>
<p>Children's Homes:</p>	<p><a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/541/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/541/contents/made</a></p>
<p>Adoption: National Minimum Standards</p>	<p><a href="#">Adoption: national minimum standards - Publications - GOV.UK</a></p>
<p>Assessment and Approval of Foster Carers</p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275764/20130522statutory_guidance_eassessment_and_approval_of_foster_carers_final.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275764/20130522statutory_guidance_eassessment_and_approval_of_foster_carers_final.pdf</a></p>
<p>Adoption: Statutory Guidance 2013</p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-statutory-guidance-2013">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-statutory-guidance-2013</a></p>



## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

8.2 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

8.2.1 The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;

8.2.2 Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

8.2.3 Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **8.3 Equalities Impact Assessment:**

Not considered to be adversely affected.

### **9 Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

9.1 Not considered to be adversely affected.

### **10 Climate Change:**

10.1.1 How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Not considered to be adversely affected.

10.1.2 How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Not considered to be adversely affected.