

**Report for:** Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel - 14 July 2025

**Title:** Private Fostering Annual Report 2024/25

**Report authorised by:** Ann Graham, Corporate Director Children's Services

**Lead Officer:** Sandy Bansil

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** N/A

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 The report provides an oversight of the activity in 2024/25 in regard to private fostering.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**  
N/A

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Members note the contents of the report

**4. Reasons for decision**

N/A

**5. Alternative options considered**

N/A

**6. Background information**

- 6.1 Following the Laming Report (2003), regulations relating to Private Fostering were amended and strengthened by Section (44) of the Children Act (2004). The following year two further documents were published: The National Minimum Standards (NMS) (2005) and the (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulation (2005), which clearly set out the role of the Local Authority, the Parent and the Private Foster carer and related professionals.
- 6.2 Under Standard (7.9) of the National Minimum Standards for private fostering, local authorities are expected to effectively monitor the way in which it discharges its duties and functions in relation to private fostering, including to provide a written report each year, for consideration by the Director of Children's Services, which includes an evaluation of the outcomes of its work in relation to privately

fostered children within its area. (Supporting Criteria 7.9 NMS for Private Fostering).

- 6.3 Section (7.10) the National Minimum Standards requires local authorities to report annually to the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board about how it satisfies itself that the health of privately fostered children in its area is satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted including how the local authority cooperates with other agencies to do this.

**7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2026 High level Strategic outcomes?**

N/A

**8. Carbon and Climate Change**

N/A

**9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

N/A

**10. Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Annual report 2024/25

**11. Background papers**

N/A