

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to Cabinet

Date: 25 June 2019



**Subject:** BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST INDEPENDENT FOSTERING AGENCY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019/20 INCORPORATING ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE OFSTED INSPECTION OF IFA JANUARY 2019

**Report of:** Chief Executive - Birmingham Children's Trust

**Relevant Cabinet Member:** Cllr Kate Booth - Children's Wellbeing

**Relevant O & S Chair(s):** Cllr Kath Scott - Chair of the Education and Children's Social Care

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 006590/2019		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

## **1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The January 2019 Ofsted inspection of Birmingham Children's Trust Fostering Agency judged that the service "requires improvement to be good" with respect to the overall experience and progress of children and young people, how well children and young people are helped and protected, and the effectiveness of leaders and managers.
- 1.2 In response to Ofsted's findings, Birmingham Children's Trust has drawn up a Fostering Development Plan 2019/20 (attached). The development plan complements the Trust's overarching Development Plan for 2019/20, which was agreed by Cabinet on 16 April 2019.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to approve the attached Development Plan 2019/20, which responds to the findings of the Ofsted inspection of fostering services in January 2019.

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 The January 2019, Ofsted inspection of Birmingham Children's Trust Fostering Agency judged that the service "requires improvement to be good" with respect to the overall experience and progress of children and young people, how well children and young people are helped and protected, and the effectiveness of leaders and managers.
- 3.2 Ofsted concluded that Birmingham Children's Trust, with respect to its Fostering Agency, is not yet delivering "good" help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.
- 3.3 In response to Ofsted's findings, Birmingham Children's Trust has drawn up a Fostering Development Plan 2019/20 (attached). The plan complements the Trust's overarching Development Plan for 2019/20, which was agreed by Cabinet on 16 April.
- 3.4 In order to improve its effectiveness, the Fostering Service has based its development plan around three strategic priorities: sufficiency, regulation, and transformation.
- 3.5 Ofsted's full report was published 14 March 2019 and is also attached.

## **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 The development plan responds to the specific recommendations in the report.

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 The Development Plan has been drawn up by Birmingham Children's Trust working with the City Council.

## **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 The plan is an iterative plan. It will be regularly monitored, reviewed and updated. It will sit alongside the Trust's contractual key performance indicators.

## **7 Compliance Issues:**

### **7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

- 7.1.1 The Plan supports the Council Plan 2018–2022 and particularly outcome 2 'Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in' and its related priorities.

### **7.2 Legal Implications**

- 7.2.1 The inspection was carried out by regulatory inspectors under the Care Standards Act 2000, using the Social Care Common Inspection Framework.

### **7.3 Financial Implications**

- 7.3.1 Planned activities will be funded from existing budgets and any new activities will be underpinned by business cases.

### **7.4 Public Sector Equality Duty**

- 7.4.1 The work of the Trust is focused on the city's most vulnerable families, children and young people. The service considers the individual characteristics of children and young people when matching to foster carers. In turn that is a factor in our foster carer recruitment and assessment activity.

## **8 List of Appendices accompanying this Report:**

1. Fostering Development Plan 2019/20
2. Ofsted's inspection report on Birmingham Children's Trust Fostering Agency

## **9 Background Documents**