

Question to Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee – 4 October 2022

1. Given that recruiting more foster carers in Surrey is a key plank of SCC's Sufficiency strategy I would like to understand:
 - how many new (and returning) foster carers (located in Surrey) have been recruited in the 12 months to 28 September 2022?
 - how many existing foster carers (located in Surrey) have stepped down in the 12 months to 28 September 2022?

2. At July's CFLLC meeting the Director – Corporate Parenting advised that SCC was undertaking a benchmarking study on the allowances and terms and condition of Surrey foster carers, in comparison with geographic and statistical neighbours.
 - When will this study report?
 - Which Committees/Boards and Members will receive the study report?
 - Will the report be discussed with the Surrey Foster Carers' Association?
 - When it is anticipated that recommendations arising from the report will be developed, and when are they planned to be implemented?

3. In respect of Home to School Transport for SEND children as at 28 September 2022:
 - How many SEND children are awaiting a transport decision?
 - i. What % of the total applications (on time and late) for SEND children received so far does this number represent?
 - ii. How many of these cases met the transport application deadline?
 - iii. How many of these cases were considered late applications?
 - iv. How many applications for the current school year have so far been rejected?

4. In respect of Home to School Transport for mainstream children as at 28 September 2022:
 - How many mainstream children are awaiting a transport decision?
 - i. What % of the total applications (on time and late) for mainstream children received so far does this number represent?
 - ii. How many of these cases met the transport application deadline?
 - iii. How many of these cases were considered late applications?
 - iv. How many applications for the current school year have so far been rejected?

Fiona Davidson

Response

Question 1 Response:

- In that period 20 mainstream fostering households have been approved, offering homes for up to 28 children. In addition, 38 Connected Persons foster households have been approved for 57 children known to them.
- In the same period there were 34 resignations (of whom 5 were from Connected Persons foster carers).

Question 2 Response:

The benchmarking was completed on 18 July 2022. The findings informed some recommendations to the Service about possible options for allowances and fees and these were sent to the Surrey County Fostering Association (SCFA) on 20 July 2022 for consultation. We met with the Association on 3 August 2022 to hear views, clarify issues and answer questions. The Association also provided written feedback.

Taking account of feedback from SCFA and from colleagues, the initial recommendations have been developed to a set of proposals which are being costed with finance colleagues. This costing exercise will conclude on 30 September 2022. At the same time a business case is being developed, to indicate how the investment needed could be funded, and the impact this is likely to have on recruitment and retention of Surrey foster carers (and therefore a potential reduction in the use of Independent Fostering Agency carers).

This business case, including the proposals, will be presented to the CFLL Leadership Team on 26 October 2022, and an update provided to the Corporate Parenting Committee and the Select Committee once agreed.

Question 3 Response:

337

- 10%
- 0
- All 337 were late applications received between 1st July – 30th Sept
- 11.

Question 4 Response:

435

- 15%
- 1
- 434 were late application received between 1st July – 30th Sept
- 64.

**Liz Bowes, Chairman – Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture
Select Committee**