

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Children's and Education Policy and Accountability Committee

Date: 25th March 2024

Subject: Private Fostering Report

Report author: Amana Gordon, Operational Director of Children and Young People Service

Responsible Director: Jacqui McShannon, Strategic Director of Children's Services

SUMMARY

Presentation for the Committee to provide an overview of and background to Private Fostering - what it means in practice, the challenges to identification, what we are doing to raise awareness and continuous improvement activity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For the Committee to note and comment on the report.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	Ensure private foster carers are offered the necessary support and guidance to help build a shared prosperity by focusing on improving outcomes for children.
Creating a compassionate council	Ensure private foster carers are offered necessary support and guidance and that privately fostered children are protected from harm.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	Raise awareness in communities about private fostering, the legal requirement of notification and support offered.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	By early identification of private fostering placements, support can be offered earlier preventing possible statutory involvement.
Taking pride in H&F	Agencies working together to support

	marginalised members of the community.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	This is an issue that is important especially to children and young people and we look for ways that we can contribute to this.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

Research into Private Fostering, Department for Children Schools and Families, March 2010.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

1. The Operational Director of Children and Young People Service, Amana Gordon will present an overview of Private Fostering, our duties as a Council and community, challenges we face, and further support needed.
2. The presentation will cover:
 - Definition of Private Fostering
 - Legislation and legal duties
 - Expectations around best practice and challenges
 - Local context
 - Next steps

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A

Private Fostering presentation