

## Corporate Parenting Board - 24 February 2009

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Communication from Councillors to Foster Carers	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Ann Goldsmith Director of Specialist Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Contact Officer(s) and contact details:</b>	Julie Lewis – Head of Children in Care, Children’s Services, Sandfield Centre, Sandfield Road, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 1QH Tel: 0115 9150850 E-mail: julie.lewis@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>		
<b>Relevant Council Plan theme(s):</b>		
Choose Nottingham		X
Respect for Nottingham		X
Transforming Nottingham’s Neighbourhoods		X
Supporting Nottingham People		X
Serving Nottingham Better		X
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>		
<p>In order to improve communications between the Council and foster carers, it is proposed that a letter be sent to all foster carers from their relevant ward Councillor/s.</p>		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	<p>That the Board consider the draft letter, appended to this report, with reference to the following specific questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does the draft letter contain enough information?</li> <li>• how can it be made more individual to elected members?</li> <li>• how should it be distributed?</li> <li>• how will carers access elected members?</li> <li>• should there be a similar letter to children and young people?</li> <li>• who will monitor responses/contacts/actions taken as a result of contact?</li> <li>• are there any other issues which need to be addressed?</li> </ul>	

## **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 As discussed at the Board's meeting on 26 January 2009, a letter from Councillors to foster carers within their ward has been drafted for consideration by the Board.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 To enable the Board to inform the contents of the letter.
- 2.2 The aim of the letter is to improve communications between foster carers and the Council via local elected members.

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 None

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

- 4.1 Very minor costs will be incurred in producing and circulating the letters.

## **5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)**

- 5.1 Risk management issues to be addressed include ensuring the confidentiality of children in care.

## **6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

- 6.1 None

## **7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 7.1 Minutes of the Corporate Parenting Board 26 January 2009

Dear Foster Carer

Please forgive me for addressing you in such a formal way. For understandable reasons, this letter is being passed on to you confidentially by the Children's Services Department without my knowing your name and address. This is in order to give you the opportunity of choosing whether you wish to respond or not.

I am writing to you to introduce myself and to briefly explain my responsibilities as an elected member of Nottingham City Council.

I also would like to express my appreciation for the work you as a foster carer are doing with children in our care, in order that they are provided with stability in their lives which they may previously have lacked.

If you are not already aware I am one of the councillors for the ..... ward in Nottingham City. In my role as elected member for this ward, I have corporate parenting responsibility for all children and young people looked after by the City Council. I am (as are all elected members) charged with ensuring that "children in care" are encouraged to realise their full potential in terms of socialisation, education and health.

As your local councillor, I wish to ensure that I am doing my best for those children in your care and to that end, if I can be of any assistance in helping you achieve for these children and young people please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor**

**Direct line ( : 0115**