

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting8th September 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Family and Friends Care Policy

2. Record of the Decision

Members were reminded that one of the approved recommendations of the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of Child Placements was that the authority needed to develop a Kinship Care Policy.

In March 2011 the Department for Education (DfE) published 'Family and Friends Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities' which set out the context of local policy requirements and required each local authority children's services to publish a policy on family and friends care by 30th September 2011.

It was explained that family and friends care related to a set of circumstances where children and young people who, because they were unable to live with their parents, were being brought up by members of their extended families, friends or other people who were connected with them. Since the publication of the DfE guidance the term 'kinship care', had been replaced by 'family and friends care'.

A draft Family and Friends Care Policy had been developed in line with the recommendations arising from the EIT review, and closely followed the requirements of the DfE statutory guidance. A copy of the Policy was presented to members as was copy of the related Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

It was noted that a copy of the Policy would be sent to every member of the Council. It was also suggested that a copy be sent to local Members of Parliament.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the Family and Friends Care Policy be adopted by the council, subject to any final modifications arising from the consultation process.

2. a protocol be developed with local housing providers, setting out arrangements to support family and friend carers.

3. Reasons for the Decision

There was a requirement within the Family and Friends Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities that each local authority children's services must, in collaboration with local partners, publish no later than 30th September 2011 a policy setting out its approach towards promoting and supporting the needs of children living with family and friends carers.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday 16 September 2011

Proper Officer
12 September 2011