

# **Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015 - Agenda Item 10**

## **Councillor Lisa Pilgrim - Assistant Executive Member Update - January 2015 to February 2015**

### **1) Adoption**

- IAAM's- we will know in March if we have been successful in finding a family for the sibling group identified via IAAM's. All is hopeful.
- Adoption Southwest

### **2) Fostering**

- The recruitment and retention strategy was taken to the Children's Champion Group at the end of January. I would like to thank colleagues for submitting their comments. The strategy is now in the process of being finalised.
- Issues regarding the SPA were highlighted at the meeting with Agilisys with regard to the number of fostering enquiries received. A revised process has been put in place and a mystery shopper exercise will take place to ensure that all is running smoothly. It was also agreed that a revised process should be drafted to ensure that calls are handled correctly, particularly if a member of the fostering team is not available.

### **3) Invest to Save**

- The tenders have been evaluated and we are waiting for references, health and safety checks etc. before offering the contract. We should be in a position to confirm by the Panel meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. John Wilkinson, our Assistant Director who was leading on this for us, has a new role within transformation but I am pleased to say that he will still be involved with this project.

### **4) Care Leavers**

- In the last report I updated members of the partnership work being undertaken to support our young people into work/apprenticeships and that work was needed to keep them there.
  - Entry level wages can prove a challenge when you are supporting yourself and work is being done to assess affordability and to look at what is needed and what can be done for our young people. This work

is currently being undertaken and a further meeting is arranged for the 5<sup>th</sup> March. As Corporate Parents it is vital that we provide the support that any parent would do!

- There is also continued support to raise the profile of Care Leavers and a need to positively discriminate when the commissioning of contracts takes place. HR undertook to raise this at the councils Leadership Team meeting.
  
- Accomodation- I have only visited two Care Leavers and I would like to thank them for their hospitality. Once I have visited the other 3, I will update you.

I am more than happy to take questions re the above.

Regards,

Cllr Lisa Pilgrim