

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY</b>  <b>REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMISSION</b>  <b>Recruitment and retention of foster carers in Hackney Review</b>  Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission – 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018  Cabinet – 16 July 2018  Council – 18 July 2018	<b>Classification</b>  Public	<b>Enclosures</b>  <b>Appendix 1</b> Recruitment and retention of foster carers in Hackney Scrutiny Review - Report  <b>Appendix 2</b> Executive Response
	<b>Ward(s) affected</b>  All	

### Introduction

The Commission agreed to conduct a review of the recruitment and retention of foster carers in Hackney because for a number of years the Children’s Social Care Bi-Annual Report has highlighted that there had been difficulty in recruiting and retaining local in-house foster carers.

This scrutiny review sought to identify those policies and practices which may assist the local authority to increase recruitment and retention of in-house foster carers in Hackney. The aim was to identify and assess the challenges which impede the recruitment and retention of foster carers in Hackney and to identify those policies and practices which can help to overcome them.

The review was conducted through a scrutiny-in-a-day exercise, which allowed a short but focused review of the evidence. Five themes emerged from the evidence we collected:

- Local policy and practice;
- Comparative policy and practice;
- Specialist insight;
- The views of foster carers;
- The views of looked after children in foster care.

The review indicated that the level of support provided to foster carers by both professionals and their peers was of particular importance to retaining them in the service. In this respect, as Corporate Parents the Council, local councillors and council officers all have a duty to make sure that foster carers are recognised and valued for their work, and properly supported for their role in caring for some of the most vulnerable children in our community. The Commission made a number of recommendations to extend the corporate offer to foster carers to better enable them to support our looked after children in Hackney.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Council is requested to note the Commission's report and the response to it from the Executive.**

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