



**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD  
4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2004**

**MIDDLESBROUGH FAMILY PLACEMENT PANEL -  
ACTIVITY REPORT FOR APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2004**

**BRENDA THOMPSON - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SOCIAL  
SERVICES & HEALTH**

**JAN DOUGLAS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL  
SERVICES**

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of the activity of Middlesbrough's Family Placement Panel during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Detailed information on the legal requirements relating to the Family Placement Panel, and on its functions and membership, have been presented to this meeting in the preceding report.

**ACTIVITY FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2004**

3. During this period, the Family Placement Panel met on 13 occasions. The matters considered by the panel are often complex and at times meetings can be lengthy and demanding. Panel members receive the papers in advance of each meeting and need to read them thoroughly prior to the meeting in order to participate effectively in the discussion.

4. The number of items considered in each category during the year was as follows:

Number of adopters approved	4
Number of children whose adoption plans were approved	11
Number of children who were matched with adoptive parents	13
Number of foster carers approved	2
Number of foster carers who were de-registered	3
Number of foster carers who were re-assessed and re-approved	2
Number of children whose long-term fostering plans were approved	3
Number of children who were matched with long-term foster carers	7
Number of foster carer reviews that were considered	40
Number of reports presented for consultation on a specific issue	1
Number of reports presented for approval of a change of plan for a child	8
Number of reports presented for approval of a change of approval category for adopters	2
Total number of items considered	96

5. The National Minimum Standards for Adoption Services contain the requirement that there should be an annual joint training day with the agency's adoption staff and this will be held during the next 6 months. In view of the many changes which will be required as a result of the Adoption and Children Act when it is implemented in September 2005, the provision of training on the implications of this Act will be essential.

## **OPTION APPRAISAL**

6. Not applicable to this piece of work.

## **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS**

7. There are no immediate financial or legal implications in this report. There are no specific ward implications as the work of the Family Placement Panel covers the whole of Middlesbrough.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board note the contents of this report.

## **REASONS**

9. This recommendation is supported by the following reasons:
  - (a) Standard 17.3 of the National Minimum Standards for Local Authority Adoption Services in England requires the executive side of the Council to receive written reports on the management and outcomes of the adoption service every 6 months.
  - (b) It is important that elected members are aware of the work of the Family Placement Panel in order that they can effectively fulfil their responsibilities as Corporate Parents to children looked after.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- (a) the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003
- (b) National Minimum Standards for Local Authority Adoption Services in England
- (c) the Fostering Services Regulations 2002
- (d) the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services

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