

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
13th July 2006

**MIDDLESBROUGH FAMILY
PLACEMENT PANEL – ACTIVITY
REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2005
TO MARCH 2006**

**JAN BRUNTON - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

**PAUL THOMPSON – EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEARNING &
SKILLS**

**TERRY REDMAYNE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

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 1st October 2005 to 31st March 2006.

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 1ST OCTOBER 2005 TO 31ST MARCH 2006

3. The Family Placement Panel met on 10 occasions during this period. 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 this 6 month period were as follows:

Number of adopters approved	3
Number of children whose adoption plans were approved	14
Number of children who were matched with adoptive parents	10
Number of foster carers approved	2
Number of foster carers who were de-registered	2
Number of children whose long-term fostering plans were approved	4
Number of children who were matched with long-term foster carers	4
Number of foster carer reviews that were considered	34
Number of reports presented for consultation on a specific issue	1
Total numbers of items considered	74

5. It will be noted that 2 foster carers were de-registered during this period. The reasons for these de-registrations are as follows:
 - ◆ Resigned due to change in family circumstances
 - ◆ De-registered following an allegation of physical abuse
6. For comparison purposes, the table overleaf shows items considered by the Panel over an 18 month period:

	Oct 04 to Mar 05	Apr 05 to Sept 05	Oct 05 to Mar 06
Number of panel meetings held	11	11	10
Number of adopters approved	8	10	3
Number of children whose adoption plans were approved	9	8	14
Number of children who were matched with adoptive parents	9	7	10
Number of foster carers approved	0	3	2
Number of reports presented for approval of a change of registration category for foster carers	1	0	0
Number of foster carers who were de-registered	5	6	2
Number of children whose long-term fostering plans were approved	3	4	4
Number of children who were matched with long-term foster carers	8	14	4
Number of foster carer reviews that were considered	37	28	34
Number of reports presented for approval of a change of plan for a child	10	3	0
Number of reports presented for consultation on a specific issue	0	0	1
Total numbers of items considered	90	83	74

7. It will be noted that the number of new foster carers approved during the last 18 months has been low. The recruitment of foster carers is a national problem however there are specific issues in Middlesbrough, some of which are related to our payments structure. Work will continue within the Children, Families & Learning Department during 2006/7 to try to address this issue as part of a general review of services to children looked after.

OPTION APPRAISAL

8. Not applicable to this piece of work.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

9. 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

10. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the information relating to the Family Placement Panel.

REASONS

11. 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 Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005
- (d) the Fostering Services Regulations 2002
- (e) the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services

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