

**CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 6 JULY
2023**

NORTH EAST PATHFINDER - FOSTER NORTH EAST

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a report on the current position in relation to the North East Pathfinder – Foster North East.

2. Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to receive updates on children's social care services and issues relating to fostering in the city.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 In response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, the government published Stable Homes, Built on Love. This paper contains a commitment to deliver a regionally focused programme for fostering recruitment and retention, and in the first instance, running this in the North East.

- 3.2 The North East Pathfinder project has three components that together create a holistic package of intervention to boost foster carer numbers:

- Regional Support Hub
- Regional Foster Carer Recruitment Campaign
- Retention Support

- 3.3 Together for Children are leading the Pathfinder Project in the region.

- 3.4 Majella McCarthy (Director of Children's Social Care) will provide a presentation at the meeting.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the report and presentation.