

Record of Delegated Decisions by Officers

1. Subject of decision

North East Pathfinder (Foster with North East) Collaboration

This decision has been delegated to one or more officer(s) under:

(a) A specific express authorisation was given to the Director of Children's Services by Cabinet on 26 June 2023 to take all necessary steps to implement Cabinet's decision for the Authority to become a member of the North East Pathfinder (Foster with North East) Collaboration. (Min ref.CAB21/23)

(b) a general authorisation to take such decisions **and**, the effect of the decision is to:

(i) grant a permission or licence;

(ii) affect the rights of an individual; or

(iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position.

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Director of Children's Services

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive Summary

In response to the Independent Care Review published February 2021 and the launch of the Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy; 'Stable Homes, Built on love' in February 23, the Department for Education (DfE) has committed to recruiting 9,000 foster carers by 2026. The Department is seeking to deliver a holistic package of intervention on a regional basis to support the greatest sufficiency pressures and put in place end-to-end improvements that support boosting foster carer numbers. Subsequently the DfE have selected the North East as the UK's national pilot pathfinder region for a fully-funded, 1 year project to improve foster carer recruitment and retention and have selected Together for Children Sunderland as the regional implementation lead.

6. Decision(s)

To enter into and sign the North East Pathfinder (Foster with North East) Collaboration Agreement.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

By entering into the Collaboration Agreement, the Authority will become part of the North East Pathfinder (Foster with North East) Collaboration and will implement the decision taken by Cabinet on 26 June 2023 to become part of the collaboration pilot project.

Legal services have advised on the Collaboration Agreement and have confirmed that the Agreement is satisfactory and that it can be entered into.

8. Date Decision Made

30 August 2023

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes, the call-in period expires at 5.00pm on 6 September 2023

10. Date of Publication

30 August 2023

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

After 5.00pm on 6 September 2023

Note: The North East Pathfinder (Foster with North East) Collaboration Agreement relating to this officer delegated Record of Decision is Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.