

(iii) ADOPTION SERVICE AND FOSTERING SERVICE - UPDATE ON ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (AN106-2010)

At a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 10th June, 2010, members considered Report No 259-2010 by the Director of Social Work reporting on the findings of the Care Commission inspection of the Council's Adoption Service. Members remitted to the Director of Social Work to report back on the actions relating to the service engagement strategy which also includes the Fostering Service.

In relation to the strategy, the service has ensured that all staff are now fully aware of the Social Work Department's "User Involvement Strategy", and are aware of the expectations of staff within this strategy. Additionally, staff have been reminded about how the service already currently implements the strategy ie:-

- the development of questionnaires for adopters and fosterers at various stages of the adoption and fostering process;
- an adopter/fosterer being a member of the Adoption/Fostering Panel;
- Adopters'/fosterers' involvement in the delivery of training;
- children of an appropriate age expressing their views about adoption/fostering through their involvement in the completion of the "Form E" Permanence report about them;
- children and birth families being given the opportunity to attend the Adoption/Fostering and Permanence Panel;
- the development of an Adopters'/Fosterers' support group;
- the Adopters'/Fosterers' newsletter;

In general, staff have additionally been encouraged to ensure that all service users' views are communicated, to ensure that their views can contribute to the positive development of the service.

The Committee is asked to note the above.