

MTRP Proposal - 18/19 and Beyond - Business Case

Service Area	Children and Family Services
Unique Reference Number	CFS181913
Proposal Title	Reduction in expenditure on placements for looked after children
Version	20 th December 2017
Proposal Summary Description	Reduction in three key areas of expenditure on placements for looked after children
Impact on Performance	Quantifying performance for placements has to be linked to individual child outcomes.
Impact on FTE Count	None
Impact on other Service Areas	Placement options create workload pressures across Children's Services and are closely linked to out of authority placements in education. Changes in Children's Services in respect of placement will impact on education.
Impact on Citizens	The current lack of placements for looked after children are reducing the options for matching children with good placements. The savings identified will be aligned with work in house to improve choices and increase positive choices.
Delegated Decision (Head of Service/Cabinet Member/ Cabinet)	Cabinet Member
Activity Codes	SOC32 Independent foster agency placements SOC31 Out of authority residential placements SOC 34 Kinship payments

Net Savings (£000's)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Independent Foster Agency Placements	54			
Out of Authority Residential Placements	113			
Kinship Payments	46			

Implementation Costs (- £000's)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension				
Revenue – External consultants				
Revenue - Other	52			
Capital – Building related				
Capital - Other				
Implementation Cost - Total	52			

Current Position

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The placements budget in Children's Services is used to support a range of placement options for looked after children.

This proposal is for savings in three key areas: independent fostering agency(IFA) fees; out of authority (OOA) residential placement fees
care fees

All three areas have seen increasing spend over the past two years resulting from lack of choices in-house, the increasing complexity of presenting and enduring need and a wider national shortage of placements leading to a very strong providers market.

The three component areas of this proposal will require significant work to achieve the savings. This proposal will need to link to an invest to save proposal to create a small amount of capacity in Children's Services to first undertake a concentrated review of the current position and then put in place the framework to achieve long term change.

Key Objectives and Scope

This proposal is specifically to reduce spending in three key areas of the placements budget.

IFA and OOA residential could be achieved relatively easily if alternative placements can be identified. The work and challenge will be to identify safe alternatives for the children currently in placement which are sustainable.

Options considered

The option is to consider is the reduction in spend in the three key areas of placements. The only alternative is to maintain the status quo which would prevent the achieving of a saving.

Recommended Proposal/Option

As outlined reduce spending in each of the areas by developing alternative placement options.

Required Investment

High Level Milestones and Timescales

The high level milestones and timescales will be developed in the final quarter of this financial year.

Key Risks/issues

The risk in this proposal is simply that because of external demands and increasing complexity in the children being cared for that we will be unable to achieve the saving.

Specific linkage with Future generation act requirements

The proposal is a direct saving as a result of reducing the spend on placements. There

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is therefore no linkage with FG Act requirements.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment

No