

MTRP Proposal - 18/19 and Beyond - Business Case

Service Area	Children's Services
Unique Reference Number	CFS181910
Proposal Title	Remodelling of fostering service
Version	20 th December 2017
Proposal Summary Description	To reduce the number of external fostering assessments commissioned. To reduce the provision of career and specialist carers.
Impact on Performance	None
Impact on FTE Count	None
Impact on other Service Areas	None
Impact on Citizens	None
Delegated Decision (Head of Service/Cabinet Member/ Cabinet)	Head of Service
Activity code	SOC 33 in house fostering

Net Savings (£000's)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	41	26	26	

Implementation Costs (- £000's)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension	0			
Revenue – External consultants	0			
Revenue - Other	0			
Capital – Building related	0			
Capital - Other	0			
Implementation Cost - Total	0			

Current Position

The fostering savings proposal has two components

1. Career and specialist carers

The fostering team currently provides a tiered system of foster carer payments. The career and specialist carers were introduced in 2011 to enhance payments for certain carers to offer placements to children with particularly challenging behaviours. The scheme has had a limited success and targeted support is proving more effective than the payment system. This proposal further reduces this budget as no additional carers will be recruited following the retirement of some of the existing group. There will be a

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saving each year until there are no carers left in the scheme.

Current resources for career and specialist carers

Career carers = £83,343 which allows for 16 career carers @ £100 per week to be engaged

Specialist carers = £157,854 which allows for nine specialist carers @£300 per week and three carers @£100 per week who provide additional support for disabled children to be engaged

2. Professional fees

Currently £34,000 for professional fees is included within the fostering team budget. This is used for the assessment of proposed foster carers by external assessors. As a result of staffing changes arising from changes in management posts the work of the fostering team is being reviewed. As a result it is proposed to speed up the existing assessment processes and reduce some elements of the role by negotiation with the courts. This will ensure more assessments can be completed by the in house staff and so reduce the need for external assessments.

Current Resources

£34,000 - a bank of external assessors is retained for regular use

Key Objectives and Scope

The current position above covers the objectives and the scope. The changes proposed will not impact on current carers or looked after children and the scheme has not proved effective in recruiting carers for children with more challenging behaviours. Reducing the external assessors budget will be part of a wider piece of work to improve outputs within the fostering service.

Options considered

Option 1 - Retain the current arrangements with no savings

Option 2 - Saving of £41K

Recommended Proposal/Option

Option 2

Required Investment

None

High Level Milestones and Timescales

None required

Key Risks/issues

Risk Description	Risk Score (as per matrix below)	Mitigation Measures
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No specific risks identified		
Specific linkage with Future generation act requirements		
The proposal is a direct saving against a reducing cost a result of recognising an ineffective payments structure for carers and improving the outputs of the fostering team. There is therefore no positive linkage with FG Act requirements.		
Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment		