

Business Planning / MTFs Options 2019/20 – 2023/24

Ref: PC3

Title of Option:	Reduce the cost of placements		
Priority:	People	Responsible Officer:	Director of Children's Services
Affected Service(s):	Safeguarding and support, Looked after children, Young Adults Service, Special Education Needs and Disabilities	Contact / Lead:	

Description of Option:
<p>Total savings for this proposal to reduce the costs of placements is £926,000.</p> <p>The proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increasing the recruitment and retention of in-house foster carers and reducing the use of independent foster carers. Savings for this proposal total £270,000 over a number of years. b) Commission respite care following the agreed closure of Haslemere. Full year savings will be £145,000. c) Enhance the brokerage teams to improve negotiation of packages and management of direct payments. Full year savings will be £75,000. d) Timely adaptation of properties for children with disabilities. Full year savings will be £175,000. e) Ensure that children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities placed in out-of-borough schools are receiving independent travel training to encourage independence where appropriate. Full year savings will be £125,000. f) Commission a range of supported housing services for young care leavers. Full year savings will be £136,000.

1. Financial benefits summary					
2018/19 Service Budget (£000s)					
Savings	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<i>All savings shown on an incremental basis</i>	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
New net additional savings	746,000	90,000	90,000		

Impact / non-financial benefits and disbenefits
What is the likely impact on customers and how will negative impacts be mitigated or managed?
A wider range of placements will be in place to ensure that children receive the right support at the right time.
What is the impact on businesses, members, staff, partners and other stakeholders and how will this be mitigated or managed? How has this been discussed / agreed with other parties affected?
Local providers will have opportunities to develop services to provide placements for young people.
How does this option ensure the Council is able to meet statutory requirements?
The council has a duty to ensure there are sufficient placements for children who need to be cared for and these proposals support this requirement.

Risks and Mitigation			
<i>What are the main risks associated with this option and how could they be mitigated?</i>			
Risk	Impact (H/M/L)	Probability (H/M/L)	Mitigation
Unable to recruit sufficient foster carers and the loss of in-house carers due to retirement is greater than our ability to recruit	H	M	A strong recruitment campaign is in place and performance and numbers of carers are monitored monthly to address any issues that arise quickly
The care market is not developed enough and cannot respond to specifications to deliver placements	H	M	Work is in train to work with and support providers to develop their range of services