

## **Corporate Parenting Board**

**5 February 2019**

### **Placement Review Report**

#### **Summary**

1. This paper provides an update on the Placement Review.

#### **Background**

2. The aim of the Placement Review is to develop placement options that better meet the current and future need, offer value for money and improve outcomes for children in care.
3. The review is focusing on 1. Foster Care –training, support and remuneration, 2. Residential provision and other sufficiency options.
4. Placement sufficiency is at a critical stage in York. Despite the number of children in care remaining relatively stable over the previous 3 years, the diversity and complexity of placement requirement is changing. York's specific and unique sufficiency profile means, increasingly Children's Social Care are in a position where they are unable to place children and young people in existing Council provision and are having to spot purchase, often at short notice, external / IFA or residential placements that are expensive and may not be value for money in the context of the individual child.

#### **Council Plan**

5. This reports links to the Council Plan - a focus on frontline services - to ensure all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities.

## 6. Implications

- **Human Resources:** There are no HR implications as Foster Carers are not City of York Council employees.
- **Legal:** Legal Services have been made aware of the report and the proposals are within our powers.
- **Equalities:** *None at this stage specific to this paper*
- **Crime and Disorder:** *None at this stage specific to this paper*
- **Information Technology (IT):** *None at this stage specific to this paper*

### Risk Management:

#### Foster Care

- The changes do not impact on Foster Carer retention or recruitment therefore they do not increase placement sufficiency
- The implementation of the new offer negatively impacts on Social Worker time and relationships with Foster Carers
- The implementation of the new offer exceeds agreed budget
- Reputational risk - Foster Carers are unhappy with the new offer and decide to stop being a CYC foster carer

#### Residential and other sufficiency options

- New provision does not effectively respond to current and future sufficiency challenges
- New provision exceeds agreed capital and revenue budgets
- There is a gap in residential provision in York, while new provision is procured and mobilised.
- New providers do not deliver the required quality and outcomes for Children in Care
- Local communities respond negatively to new Children Homes and Supported Lodgings

## Recommendations

7. That the Corporate Parenting Board note the paper.

Reason: To keep the Board updated.

## Contact Details

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Amanda Hatton  
Director of Children Education and Communities

**Report Approved**

**Date** 24.01.19

**Wards Affected:** List wards or tick box to indicate all

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Annexes

Annex A - Placement Review Update

Annex B - Foster Carer Training, Support and Remuneration Proposals