

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 19 MAY 2005

FUNDING TO IMPROVE FOSTERING SERVICES

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the allocation of money from the Scottish Executive for the purposes of improving fostering services in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Social Work Committee of 9 September 2004 considered the outcome and recommendations of the Best Value Review of Looked After and Accommodated Children.
- 2.2 The recommendation from the Member/Officer Group was that the fostering service required to expand in order to meet the increasing demand for services and that in order to remain competitive with other agencies recruiting carers there was a need to increase the allowances paid to carers in East Ayrshire.
- 2.3 Family placements are the preferred option for young people as it usually gives them a positive experience of family life and allows them to be cared for in a setting with fewer children than would generally be accommodated within a residential unit. The review highlighted that in terms of providing cost effective care for young people whilst meeting the requirements of best value, fostering was seen as the most cost effective service.
- 2.4 In November 2004 the Scottish Executive announced that an extra £12 million was to be made available across Scotland to improve fostering services and assist the process of recruiting and retaining carers.

3. PROPOSALS FOR USE OF MONEY

- 3.1 The East Ayrshire allocation of this money is as follows:

2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
£81,200	£162,400	£81,200

- 3.2 The Director of Educational and Social Services proposes that the funds allocated from the Executive be utilised to support and develop fostering services in East Ayrshire in line with the recommendations of the Service Review of Looked After Children.

- 3.3 The investment of this money will assist the department with the implementation of the Best Value Review and ensure that the enhancements of the range and number of fostering placements are available for young people who require them.

4. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Elected members are invited to:

- (i) agree the proposal for the use of the money in point 3.1 above; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational & Social Services
5 May 2005
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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