

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

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| Reference Number: | 3140 |
| Author: | Clive Chambers |
| Department: | Children and Adults |
| Contact: | Clive Chambers (Job Title: Head of Service:Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, Email: clive.chambers@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158764373) |
| Subject: | Funding for foster carers building works |
| Total Value: | £30,000 (Type: Capital) |
| Decision Being Taken: | To provide financial support to NCC Foster Carers to enable them to make adaptations to their home in order to allow them to continue to provide a stable placement for the young people that they care for. |
| Reasons for the Decision(s) | This support will enable the foster carers to provide permanence and stability for the four children in care who are currently placed with them. This is a cost-effective option as it would be significantly more expensive to secure alternative placements for the children and would be damaging to the positive progress they are making with the carers. This investment will be secured with a contractual arrangement to ensure that this funding is paid back should the placements end. A briefing note setting out the facts of this case in more detail has been sent separately to the decision maker given the highly sensitive information about vulnerable children it contains |
| Other Options Considered: | To seek alternative placements for the children in care - this option was rejected as it would be more costly to seek alternative placements, would be damaging to the children emotionally and would be detrimental to their long-term outcomes. |
| Background Papers: | None |
| Published Works: | None |

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| Affected Wards: | Citywide |
| Colleague / Councillor Interests: | None |
| Consultations: | Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision. |
| Crime and Disorder Implications: | This placement has been put in place to safeguard vulnerable young people from harm. |
| Equality: | EIA not required. Reasons: This relates to a specific placement arrangement and therefore does not require an EIA. |
| Decision Type: | Officer |
| Executive Decision? | Yes |
| Scheme of Delegation Reference Number or Other Source of Delegation: | 1 |
| Subject to Call In: | No The call-in procedure does not apply to the decision because the value of the decision is below the call in threshold. |
| Advice Sought: | Legal, Finance |
| Legal Advice: | I have read the Request for Funds for Permanence Plans report by way of further background information. I have no legal issues to raise from a Children's Social Care perspective. provided by Claire Knowles (Team Leader) on 10/04/2018. |

Finance Advice:

This DDM will enable the foster carers to provide permanence and stability for four children in care who are currently placed with them. There are currently two children sharing a room and due to health reasons there is a risk that the placement will breakdown. If one of the placements breaks down then all the placements will break down. The carers are matching the funding that the council are providing and if the placements breakdown the carers will repaid the investment based on a sliding scale.

As the placements arent currently paid for from the external placement budget there will be no cashable savings however this investment in the building works will potentially save the council £0.209m in the first year and £0.239m each year until the children reach the age of 18. The carers are keen to consider SGO's for each of the Children. This will reduce our Children in Care numbers and provide long term stability for the children.

Assumptions

- Payments costs are if the children when into care today at average prices
- Carers are 50:50 matched contributions
- Repayments will be agreed if the placement breaks down. On a sliding scale.
- Advice provided by Stewart Clark (Commercial Business Analyst) on 16/04/2018.

Advice documents: Funding for Foster Carers Building Works.xlsx

Signatures:

Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)

SIGNED and Dated: 20/04/2018