

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	07 November 2023
Title of Report:	Council Tax Exemption for Plymouth City Council Foster Carers
Lead Member:	Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture, Events and Communications)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Interim Director of Children's Services)
Author:	Karen Blake (Head of Service)
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the proposal for implementing a Council Tax Exemption Scheme for Plymouth City Council internal Foster Parents and Connected Carers who are approved by Plymouth City Council (Foster for Plymouth) for the 2023/2024 financial year.

It is proposed that Council Tax Exemption is considered alongside a proposed new Support and Retention Offer to Our Foster Carers which is being consulted on and developed.

Recommendations and Reasons

The committee recommends to Cabinet that a Council Tax Exemption for foster carers is considered following the conclusion of the consultation on proposed new Support and Retention Offer to Our Foster Carers.

Reason:

This would ensure a clear and consistent support package is delivered to increase the number of new in house foster parents and to retain our existing, valued in house Foster Parents through an enhanced package of support.

Alternative options considered and rejected

As above, the motion regarding Council Tax exemption was deferred to Scrutiny by Full Council, however we respectfully request that this is further deferred to be considered alongside a holistic package of financial and practical support for Foster Carers to aid in both recruitment and retention.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

A key priority of the Corporate Plan is Caring for People and Communities and this has relevance within this priority area.

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Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Nigel Denning

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 30/10/2023

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Laing, approved via email

Date approved: 30/10/2023