

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	11 November 2024
Title of Report:	Foster For Plymouth Support and Retention Offer to Plymouth Foster Carers (Foster Carer Summit Phase 2)
Lead Member:	Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Haley (Director of Children's Services)
Author:	Karen Blake (Head of Service)
Contact Email:	karen.blake@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the second phase of the Support and Retention Offer to Plymouth City Council Foster Carers which has been co-designed following the Foster Carer Summit.

Recommendations and Reasons

To endorse 'Our Commitment To You: Plymouth City Council's Support and Retention Offer to Our Foster Carers 2024/2025' which has been co-designed with our Foster Carers to sit alongside the Financial Offer already agreed by Cabinet.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Do nothing – not appropriate as need to have an offer to support, attract and retain in house foster carers

Alternative offer – The proposed offer has been extensively consulted on and co-designed with our Foster Carers, at this stage no alternatives are considered as this version has been agreed with them. We are committing to an annual review of the offer, the next of which will commence in January 2025 and will continue to robustly review and develop our recruitment, support and retention offer.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This recommendation aligns to the Council's mission and values of Democracy, Responsibility, Fairness and Cooperation as set out in the Corporate Plan.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

This element of the offer does not require additional financial investment, however this recommendation is key to the work undertaken to increase in house fostering sufficiency and reduce the overall placement budget. On top of the placement costs, there will be a positive financial impact if we are able to place a greater number of our children in care in or close to Plymouth as there will be reduced travel and costs for the child, their family, the social worker and Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO).

Financial Risks

This element of the offer does not require additional financial investment or pose additional financial risk.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

There will be a positive environmental impact if we are able to place a greater number of our children in care in or close to Plymouth as there will be reduced travel for the child, their family, the social worker and IRO.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

N/A.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	CH.2 4.25.0 42	Leg	LS/00 0013 12/2/ AC/3 1/10/ 24	Mon Off	N/A	HR	CS.24 .25.01 0	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Karen Blake											

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

Date agreed: 30/10/2024

Cabinet Member approval: Approved by email by Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications)

Date approved: 30/10/2024