

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

10 November 2011



PLYMOUTH  
CITY COUNCIL

## Corporate Parenting Group Update

### Independent foster placement costings/recruitment of foster carers

Plymouth Fostercare had a four day Ofsted inspection that ended on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The inspectors gave extremely favourable feedback on both the quality of the service and outcomes achieved for children in foster care in Plymouth. The actual Ofsted rating is currently embargoed pending receipt of a final confirmation letter.

Plymouth Fostercare currently has 153 fostering households. Recruitment of foster carers is very strong with 23 assessments of prospective carers underway and 3 sets of assessed carers currently working in the independent sector due to move to Plymouth Fostercare in the near future. It is anticipated that a further 22 fostering households will join the service by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 offering 28 new foster care beds. This will result in a reduced dependency on independent sector foster care placements, with an associated cost reduction; although at this stage it is difficult to predict actual numbers given that this is dependent on a number of factors such as Court proceedings and the fact that many of these children have very complex needs.

The average weekly cost of an independent sector foster care placement is £818. The projected overall spend on independent foster care this financial year is £2.6m.

### Children in Care numbers and profiles

Please see attached breakdown.

The discrepancy in numbers of children in care identified at the July Overview and Scrutiny Panel, between the budget and performance report and the fostering papers related to the fact that the fostering paper numbers included figures for children's respite placements and also young people in supportive lodging placements.

David Simpkins

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Services for Children and Young People

19.10.11