

EIT Review of Child Placements and Residential Care Action Plan**Lead Officer: Shaun McLurg, Assistant Director/Head of Service, Children and Young People's Operations**

No.	Recommendation	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Savings/ Cost	Lead Responsibility	Finance Manager	Date
1	The Committee acknowledge the work that the Corporate Director for Children, Education and Social Care is doing with the Regional, Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) and the work with the Director colleagues in the sub-region and the Committee would recommend that this continues.	Continue to attend regional ADCS meetings and contribute to discussions regarding regional placements initiatives Evaluate opportunities for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to pursue further	Representative from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council present at all meetings Future decisions regarding placement provision in Stockton-on-Tees informed by outcomes from RIEP project	None	Corporate Director, CESC	Paula Hunt	Ongoing

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2	The Committee recommend the creation of a specific full time officer post to deliver the marketing of the fostering service on a 2 year fixed term contract. The location of the officer is to be determined as this post could be part of the Council's centralised communication team or be located within the children's services department	<p>Job Description/ Person Specification to be finalised</p> <p>Decision taken regarding location of post.</p> <p>Advertise post</p> <p>Conduct evaluation of impact</p>	<p>Post approved</p> <p>Agreement reached</p> <p>Appointment made</p> <p>Net increase of two foster placements in first year</p>	Potential net savings of £48k (based on creating additional two foster placements in the first year)	Service Manager, Looked After Children/ Marketing Manager	Paula Hunt	<p>Mar 2010</p> <p>May 2010</p> <p>June 2010</p> <p>July 2011</p>
3	The Committee recommend that the Council develop a kinship care policy which will identify the levels of advice, information and support that would be available in differing circumstances. Any developments within the policy would be subject to available finances.	<p>Produce draft policy</p> <p>Consult with key stakeholders</p> <p>Policy approved by CTMT and Cabinet</p> <p>Policy launched and implemented</p>	<p>Draft policy completed on schedule</p> <p>Consultation completed on schedule</p> <p>Policy approved on schedule</p> <p>Policy implemented on schedule</p>	None	Head of Children and Young People's Strategy	Paula Hunt	<p>June 2010</p> <p>July 2010</p> <p>Sept 2010</p> <p>Oct 2010</p>

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4	The Committee recommend to increase availability of sub-regional provision for 'hard to place' children/ young people with complex needs and that officers be given the flexibility to develop the appropriate provision on a Borough-wide basis should this be necessary. The Committee support and encourage the continuing work of the Tees Valley Directors' Group in this regard.	Establish sub regional project team to explore viability of additional provision.	Project Initiation Document produced Initial Options Appraisal completed	Up to £400k per annum based on two SBC placements (£200k of this from Dedicated School Grant so saving would not be realised by SBC)	Head of Children and Young People's Strategy	Paula Hunt	May 2010 July 2010
5	The Committee recommend that, subject to further appraisal of the financial implications, Stockton Borough Council develop additional local authority residential provision for looked after children.	Conduct appraisal of different in house residential care options Present recommendation to Cabinet for approval (subject to outcome of appraisal)	Options appraisal completed on schedule Greater range of high quality and cost effective local placement options available (subject to approval by Cabinet)	Estimated saving £109k per annum (based on three bed children's home)	Service Manager, Looked After Children	Paula Hunt	July 2010 Sept 2010

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6	The Committee recommend that the Council look to explore with Children's Trust partners opportunities to commission therapeutic interventions for children who have been adopted.	Discussion paper to be presented to Children's Trust Board	Paper presented on schedule	None	Service Manager, Looked After Children	Paula Hunt	June 2010
7	The Committee recommends that the Council and its partners in the Children's Trust explore ways of raising awareness of adoption issues and the role of agencies within the Children's Trust.	Discussion paper to be presented to Children's Trust Board	Greater awareness of adoption related issues within Children's Trust agencies	None	Service Manager, Looked After Children	Paula Hunt	