

Progress Update – EIT Review of Child Placements

No	Recommendation	Proposed Actions	Success Measures	Saving /Cost	Lead Responsibility	Finance Manager	Completion Date	Evidence of Progress 01/09/10	Savings /Costs to Date (please state whether actual or estimated) 01/09/10	Assessment of Progress (Categories 1 - 4) 01/09/10
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 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	NONE	Corporate Director, CESC	Paula Hunt	Ongoing	Specification developed and put out to tender but no expressions of interest received. It is currently understood that any uncommitted RIEP funding is likely to be withdrawn so this would impact significantly on future activity in this area.	None	4 Unable to proceed due to no expressions of interest being received.
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	Job Description/Person Specification to be finalised Decision taken regarding location of post. Advertise post Conduct evaluation of impact	Post approved Agreement reached Appointment made Evaluation completed	Potential Net Savings of £48,000 based on converting two foster placements in the first year	Service Manager, Looked After Children/ Marketing Manager	Paula Hunt	Mar 2010 April 2010 May 2010 July 2011	Job Description drafted and submitted for job evaluation. Post scheduled to be advertised September and appointed to by October 2010. Operational management will be with Child Placement Team with oversight and links to Marketing Team.	None	3 Delay due to competing work pressures.

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	of the Council's centralised communication team or be located within the children's services department.									
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.	Produce draft policy Consult with key stakeholders Policy approved by Children's Trust Management Team (CTMT) and Cabinet Policy launched and implemented	Draft policy completed on schedule Consultation completed on schedule Policy approved on schedule Policy implemented on schedule	NONE	Head of Children and Young People's Strategy	Paula Hunt	June 2010 July 2010 Sept 2010 Oct 2010	Work ongoing. Draft policy to be presented to CTMT in September and consultation to take place during October and November. Final agreement now scheduled for December 2010.	None	3 Delay due to competing work pressures.

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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 £200,000 per annum from Dedicated School Grant and at a possible similar level from SBC budget	Head of Children and Young People's Strategy	Paula Hunt	May 2010 July 2010	Project team established to progress proposals around specialist accommodation for children with complex and additional needs in Stockton-on-Tees. Links developed with ongoing work across Tees Valley in order to develop a 10 year strategy. Work is ongoing in terms of needs assessment and option appraisal, which is scheduled to be completed by December 2010.	None	3 Delay due to need to coordinate a large number of organisations and providers across Tees Valley.
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 Recommendation approved by Cabinet	Savings range from £11,000 - £443,000 per annum	Service Manager, Looked After Children	Paula Hunt	July 2010 Sept 2010	Project group established and meeting regularly. Detailed business case being developed and due for completion by end of August 2010. To be presented to CTMT in September for consideration. Two potential properties identified.	None	3 Slight delay due to need to locate potential properties and gather detailed financial information.

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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 10	Work underway to prepare paper outlining needs of adopted children and families. To be presented to Children's Trust Board in October 2010.		3 Delay due to need gather range of complex information to inform discussions and any future decisions.
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	Paper presented on schedule	NONE	Service Manager, Looked After Children	Paula Hunt	Jun 10	Work underway to prepare paper outlining needs of adopted children and families. To be presented to Children's Trust Board in October 2010.		3 Delay due to need gather range of complex information to inform discussions and any future decisions.