

Reference	
Executive Director	Jeanette Richards
Cabinet Member	Cllr Lucy Smith

Section A

Service Area	Social Care & Safeguarding
Budget Option Description	Accelerating work on children's fostering capacity invest to save

Budget Reduction Proposal – Detail and Objectives

When children cannot remain in the care of their own families, the LA needs to ensure that there are sufficient foster homes and supported lodging hosts in the Borough to meet their needs. There is an ongoing national crisis in terms of foster carer recruitment and retention and placement sufficiency for children and young people needing to be placed within foster families.

This proposal:

- embeds best practice models of support (Mockingbird) so that foster cares feel supported and want to work for Bury children
- increases our range of incentives which will support our recruitment and retention strategies

A detailed business case, including incentives and savings, will be presented to Cabinet in March 2023 for decision.

Early indications of savings which can be delivered through increased use of internal foster carers rather than independent foster carers are included below

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Budget Reduction (£m)	0	£0.121	£0.604
Staffing Reduction (FTE)	0		

Section B

What impact does the proposal have on:

Property
N/A
Service Delivery
The fostering service will introduce 'The Mockingbird model' originally developed by the Fostering Network. The Mockingbird model will support the service to offer some of our more traumatized children and young people homes with highly skilled and experienced carers. This will further reduce the need for residential placements for some children, supporting placement sufficiency and efficient use of Council resources
Organisation (Including Other Directorates/Services)
None

Workforce – Number of posts likely to be affected.
None
Communities and Service Users
Bury2gether; parents; young people; Children with SEND; Children with Disabilities

Other Partner Organisations
Fostering Network GMCA

Section C

Key Risks and Mitigations

Risks	Mitigations
Approval process for business case	Detailed report being taken to Cabinet in March 2023.

Key Delivery Milestones

Include timescales for procurement, commissioning changes etc.

Milestone	Timeline
Cabinet approval for proposed changes	March 2023
Launch digital marketing campaign (with GM)	April 2023
Launch revised offer to foster carers	April 2023
Implement Mockingbird (phase 1)	Summer 2023

Section D

Consultation Required?	Yes – with existing foster carers
------------------------	-----------------------------------

	Start Date	End Date
Staff		
Trade Unions		
Public		
Service User		
Other		

Equality Impact

Is there potential for the proposed budget reduction to have a disproportionate/ adverse impact on any of the following?

Disabled people	No
Particular Ethnic Groups	No
Men or Women (including impacts due to pregnancy/maternity)	No
People who are married or in a civil partnership	No
People of particular sexual orientation	No

People who are proposing to undergo, undergoing or undergone a process or part of a process of gender assignment	No
People on low incomes	No
People in particular age groups	Yes
Groups with particular faiths and beliefs	No

EIA Required?	Yes
----------------------	------------

Section E

Financial Implications and Investment Requirements

Investment requirements – Revenue and Capital
Full costings will be included in the report to Cabinet in March 2023.

Finance Comments – Will the proposal deliver the savings and within the agreed timescales?
The full costings and savings will be within the business case presented to Cabinet in March and it is recognised that there will be no savings in 2023/24 as I will take time to recruit new internal foster carers