

Reference	
Executive Director	Jeanette Richards
Cabinet Member	CLlr Lucy Smith

Section A

Service Area	Social Care & Safeguarding
Budget Option Description	Children's External placements / Step down of very high-cost placements across childrens

Budget Reduction Proposal – Detail and Objectives

This proposal is to reduce expenditure by reviewing the number of children in high-cost residential children home placements and Independent Foster Agency (IFA) placements where appropriate and safe to do so.

Actions to deliver this savings are as follows:

- Review the role of the complex care panel and procurement activity as part of a wider transformation programme and pool budgets to ensure that health and education contribute to high-cost placements where therapy and educational support and intervention are provided.
- Increased focus on the recruitment of supported lodging hosts and stepping down young people from residential provision when appropriate into a semi-independent and supported lodging provision.
- Continuing focus on recruitment of foster carers/Supported Lodging hosts and a review of the permanence and recruitment strategy.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Budget Reduction (£m)	0	£1.200	0
Staffing Reduction (FTE)	0	0	0

Section B

What impact does the proposal have on:

Property
N/A
Service Delivery
Complex Care Panel processes for multi-agency placements will need to be reviewed to support and also review practices to ensure that there is a proactive approach to sharing budgets and also reviewing the packages agreed at panel.
Organisation (Including Other Directorates/Services)
N/A

Workforce – Number of posts likely to be affected.
N/A
Communities and Service Users

Other Partner Organisations
N/A

Section C

Key Risks and Mitigations

Risks	Mitigations
Insufficient Bury Foster Care placements	Investment in foster care strategy to be brought forward
No in-house residential children's home provision, reliant on commissioned services.	Step children and young people into foster care or semi-independent provision when appropriate to do so. Medium term strategy to develop council residential care provision

Key Delivery Milestones

Include timescales for procurement, commissioning changes etc.

Milestone	Timeline
Phase 1. Initial desk top review of top high cost out of area placements and provide an options appraisal in relation to each child	By January 2024
Phase 2. Review of single funded packages at children's social care budget placement panel	By January 2024
Phase 3. Review of Complex Care Panel processes and new TOR developed	By January 2024
Phase 4. Review of jointly funded packages at complex care panel	February 2024 onwards

Section D

Consultation Required?	No
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	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
None

Finance Comments – Will the proposal deliver the savings and within the agreed timescales?
The reduction and review of the high cost residential and independent foster care placements will secure the saving on the budget from 2024/25