

**11 March 2013****Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****PROPOSAL TO ASSIST WITH ONE OFF GRANT TO AN ADOPTIVE FAMILY  
FOR LOFT CONVERSION****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report seeks approval for a sum of £29,640, from the Adoption Financial Support budget, to fund the cost of a loft conversion in order to meet the needs of all members of an adoptive family.

**Information and Advice**

2. A and B adopted siblings in 2008. These children had suffered neglect and possible sexual abuse and have been well parented by A and B who provide a secure and loving environment, full of opportunities relevant to each child's needs. In 2012 A and B had further children from the same family placed with them for adoption. Due to the ages of the children they now need to convert their loft from one bedroom to two, and add additional bathroom facilities for the family.
3. The amount proposed is based on a detailed assessment of the needs of the children and the means of the adopters under Nottinghamshire's Adoption Financial Support Scheme.
4. A and B approached the department wishing to adopt these additional siblings, and following preparation and Adoption Panel scrutiny, these children joined the family in 2012. The placement is highly successful with both carers committed to the needs of all the children, and they and Social Workers feel very positively about the care given to all the children.
5. Currently two children share a room in the loft, the plan was for another child to sleep with them. However, this has been unsuccessful due to the different bedtimes of the children, further complicated by the hyperactivity of one child. In addition one child has a disturbed sleep pattern which in turn disturbs the others.
6. One child has a bedroom on her own which is too small to share with anyone.
7. Another child has significant needs as a result of early trauma and it would not be recommended that she share a bedroom.

8. Converting the loft to provide an additional bedroom would allow the necessary sleeping arrangements for the whole family, plus additional washing facilities.
9. A number of estimates for this work have been obtained, and the cost of the most favourable quote would be £24,700+VAT (£29,640).

### **Other Options Considered**

10. No other options have been considered.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

11. If this proposal is agreed the family's sleeping arrangements will be greatly enhanced and will remain safe sleeping arrangements. The children have challenging behaviour as a result of early traumatic and chaotic life experiences and the parents need there to be safe sleeping areas for everyone to maintain their energy.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That approval is given for a sum of £29,640, from the Adoption Financial Support budget, to fund a loft conversion in order to meet the needs of all members of an adoptive family. This grant is secured by a legal charge upon their property.

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### **Constitutional Comments (NAB 25/02/13)**

13. Children and Young People's Committee has authority to approve the recommendation set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

**Financial Comments (KLA 22/02/13)**

14. The financial implications of this decision are set out in paragraph 1 of the report.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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