

**REPORT OF SERVICE MANAGER, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
SERVICES****TRAVEL REQUEST FOR SOCIAL WORKER AND LOOKED AFTER CHILD****Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a social worker, to accompany a Looked After Child, to Malaga, Spain, to visit their Paternal Grandmother for contact. The child has been a Child Looked After by Nottinghamshire County Council since 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007.
2. The child is too young to travel alone without an escort.

**Information and advice****Background**

3. Under the Travel and Accommodation Policy and other arrangements approved by Full Council on 18 June 2009, the Administration Committee is the appropriate body for approving staff travel.

**Reason for travel**

4. Approval is sought for a social worker and child to visit Malaga, Spain for the following reasons:
5. The child is subject to a Care Order and is placed with Local Authority foster carers. The Local Authority has a duty to promote contact with suitable extended family members, in order to meet the child's identity needs and ensure they are provided with sufficient information about their birth family history. The child has expressed a wish to have contact with their paternal grandmother who currently resides in Malaga, Spain.
6. The child has previously been accompanied to visit their grandmother in Spain, to consider whether it would be possible for the grandmother to provide long term care. The child took the decision to live in England and maintain contact with their birth family, but wanted regular contact with the grandmother. It was agreed that the child should have regular contact with the grandmother; however, due to a number of reasons, this has not occurred. The child has not had direct contact with the grandmother for approximately 5 years.

7. The Independent Reviewing Officer at the Looked After Child Review (19<sup>th</sup> July 2012) recommended that contact between the child and paternal grandmother was supported as being in the child's best interests, and should take place as soon as possible.
8. The Local Authority have examined a number of options, including the grandmother being financially supported in coming to England for contact, however the costs would be significantly higher than for an allocated worker and the child to go to Spain. The Local Authority have also considered sending the child via British Airways escort service, however, again the cost implications are significantly increased, and there would be a number of logistical problems as the child would need to fly from a London based airport.
9. The request is for the costs of return flights for both the child, and the accompanying social worker, and accommodation, including meals, for the social worker only, for four nights. The child will reside with the grandmother during the trip. A breakdown is detailed in Section 11.

### **Statutory and policy implications**

10. In accordance with the Children's Act 1989 the Local Authority has a duty to promote the child's identity needs via regular contact with his extended birth family. The Local Authority has a duty to promote the cultural and identity needs of children in their care.

### **11. Financial implications – Travel and accommodation requirements**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Approximate Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
Return travel to Spain and transfer arrangements whilst there.	£ 397.28	
Full Board Accommodation	£ 125.99	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£523.27</b>	

Please note the above accommodation costs are for the social worker only. The flight costs for both the social worker and the child are detailed. Therefore the cost to Children and Young People's Services will ultimately be **£523.27**.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That:

- (1) Approval is given for a social worker and a looked after child to travel to Spain, on 24<sup>th</sup> October until 27<sup>th</sup> October, for four nights, together with the necessary travel and accommodation arrangements.

**Amanda Collinson**  
Service Manager

## **Mansfield Children and Young People's Services**

### **Financial Services Comments (MB 25/09/2012)**

The financial implications are set out in paragraph 11 of the report.

### **Constitutional Comments (SLB 25/09/2012)**

Administration Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report; it is responsible for approving officer travel outside the UK.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Members(s) Affected**

None

### **Background papers available for inspection**

None