

21st June 2021

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

THANK YOU TO FOSTER CARERS

Purpose of the Report

1. The report seeks approval for a one-off payment to be made to the Council's foster carers in recognition of their commitment to caring for some of the Council's (as the corporate parent) most vulnerable children during the Covid 19 pandemic. Foster carers would be notified of the payment by letter from the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Information

2. The Council's foster carers have demonstrated remarkable resilience and commitment in caring for looked after children during 2020-2021, in very challenging situations due to the Covid 19 pandemic and national lockdown restrictions. This has included maintaining placements and continuation of promoting contact with birth families, in accordance with children's care plans.
3. It is requested that an additional one-off 'thank you' payment is made to the Council's foster carers which will cost approximately £100,000 and funded by a request from contingency. It will be one off payment per household, with all approved foster carers receiving the same amount of approximately £300. Other local authorities have also made similar payments to their foster carers, at amounts set at their own discretion.

Other Options Considered

4. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. The one-off payments for the Council's foster carers would be a gesture of good will to recognise their support for looked after children, which goes beyond the proposed payments.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

7. The cost of a one-off payment of approximately £300 will cost approximately £100,000 and will be met by a request from contingency.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) Committee gives approval for a one-off payment to be made to the Council's approved foster carers in recognition of their commitment to caring for some of the most vulnerable children during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 2) foster carers be notified of the one-off payment by letter from the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Steve Edwards

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Constitutional Comments (EP 07/06/21)

8. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (LCD 10/06/21)

9. The cost of a one-off payment of approximately £300 will cost approximately £100,000 and will be met by a request from contingency. The Fostering Service budget for Foster Carer allowances is £4,098,495.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1468