

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 2
DECEMBER 2009**

**SUBJECT: OUT OF AREA PLACEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCE
PACKAGES**

BY: DIRECTORS OF COMMUNITY & EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Children & Young People's Services Committee with background information on out of area placements and additional resources packages for children and young people with exceptional needs.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as a Social Work Authority.

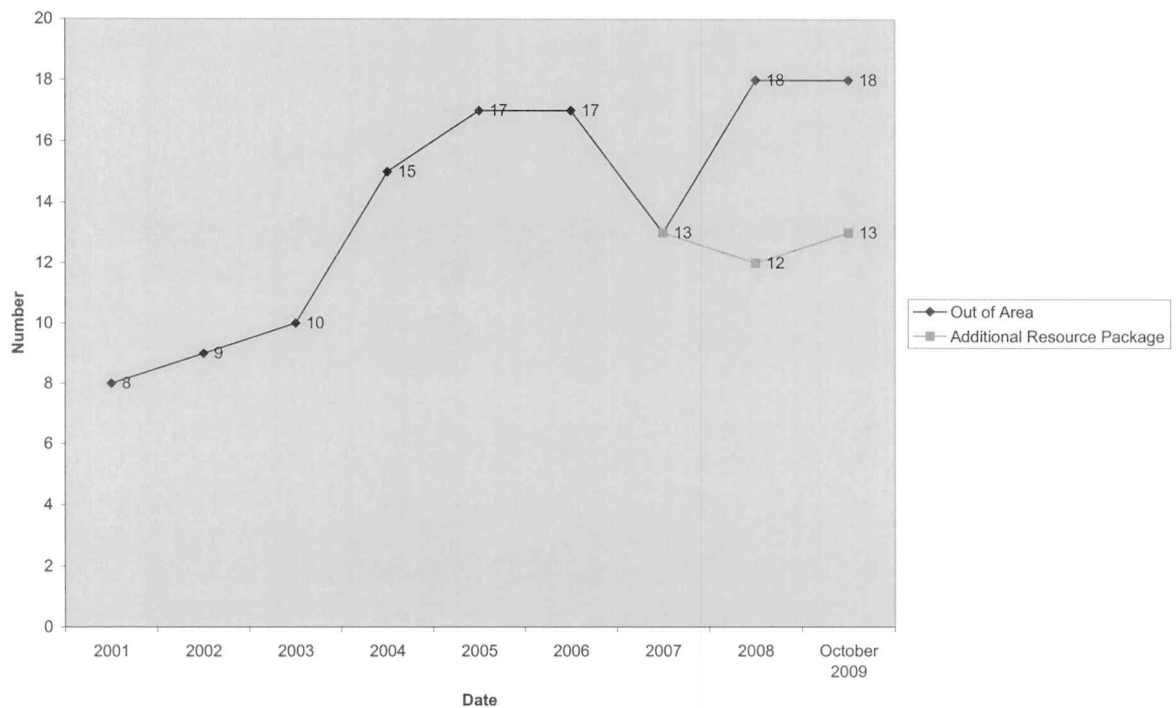
2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:-**
- (i) notes and scrutinises the information provided on out of area placements and additional resource packages; and**
 - (ii) receives twice-yearly follow-up reports.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Council committees have received background reports on out of area placements, additional resource packages and related matters. The Children & Young People's Services Committee also receives financial monitoring reports that cover out of area placements and additional resource packages at every meeting.
- 3.2 The number of out of area placements has grown since 2001 and additional resource packages were instigated in 2007. The service demands are represented graphically in **FIGURE 1**.

Figure 1 – Number of Out of Area Residential Placements & Additional Resource Packages



The October 2009 figure represents:-

- 9 residential placements for young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and 9 educational placements requested by parents for children with particular disabilities (18 placements in total); and
- 3 joint social work and education additional resource packages (and 1 social work only) to support children with disabilities and 9 to maintain other children in school (13 packages in total).

- 3.3 The increased use of out of area placements by the Moray Council is no different from the general situation across Scotland. The cost of individual placements to the Council has also increased beyond inflation due to increased fee levels charged by providers.
- 3.4 It should be stressed that out of area placements are used to meet a variety of protection, social, emotional and educational needs and not simply as a response to criminal behaviour. In some instances when out of area placements are viewed as the most appropriate option, they do not always meet the complex needs of some children and young people. There have been examples when placements broke down and children returned to Moray requiring highly resourced care packages.
- 3.5 A number of actions have been taken to manage the use of out of area placements.
- a. The use of additional resource packages.

- b. The establishment of the Service Manager Group to gain an overview and manage effectively the use of such placements and additional resource packages.
 - c. A change of remit for the Supporting Moray Families Project (SMF) and Moray Youth Action (MYA) to provide more targeted input to children, young people and families with greatest need.
 - d. The establishment of a Youth Offending Review Group and Resources Panel to manage the referral process to SMF and MYA and targeting of resources.
 - e. Participation in a national pilot for Intensive Support and Monitoring in the Children's Hearing System.
 - f. The development of Level 4 (Choices for Children) fostering scheme an alternative to residential out of area care.
 - g. An expansion of the supported accommodation scheme in Moray to offer additional placements for care leavers.
 - h. A change in the use of Forres Children's Home and the development of Crowhall to provide alternative placements to out of area placements.
 - i. The use of Action for Children's Gael Og fostering scheme as an alternative to out of area residential placements.
 - j. Development of a co-located child protection unit to help focus the role of area social work teams.
 - k. Developed the model of localised service delivery around communities served by ASGs through the establishment of Locality Management Groups.
 - l. To support (k) with a model of Local Integrated Assessment and Planning for children's needs.
 - m. Appointment of a Kinship Care Social Worker to develop a Moray Kinship Care Scheme.
 - n. Implemented a short-term project for the support and early return of five young people from out of area placements who were old enough to live independently in the community.
- 3.6 In addition to the above actions it is proposed that the Children & Young People's Services Committee notes the following actions to further manage the use of out of area placements. Further reports will be provided laying out any resource requirements before any item with financial implications is taken forward to implementation.

Item	Action	Indicative date of completion
Moray Kinship Care Scheme	Scheme being developed.	Report to Children & Young People Services Committee April 2010
Service Manager's Group	Review of operation underway. To improve authorisation, monitoring and review of placements, packages and expenditure.	December 2009
Contracts with external providers	Draft out for consultation. Improved contract and service specification.	January 2010
Choices for Children (Level 4) Fostering Scheme.	Expand placements from four to eight. Underway.	March 2011
Further residential provision in Moray integrated with education.	Review underway to audit need and establish trends to consider a greater continuum of local provision.	March 2012
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	Development of accreditation by National Autistic Society in some of our schools.	2011-12
Inclusion	Proposed changes to Inclusion and Support Services teams to provide more localised support and decisions.	2010-11
Staged Intervention	Development of staged intervention model of support for children and schools with structured approach for additional resource packages.	2010-11

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**

This report relates to National Outcome 8 of the Single Outcome Agreement – improving life chances of children at risk.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council has responsibilities to children in need and at risk through the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Financial

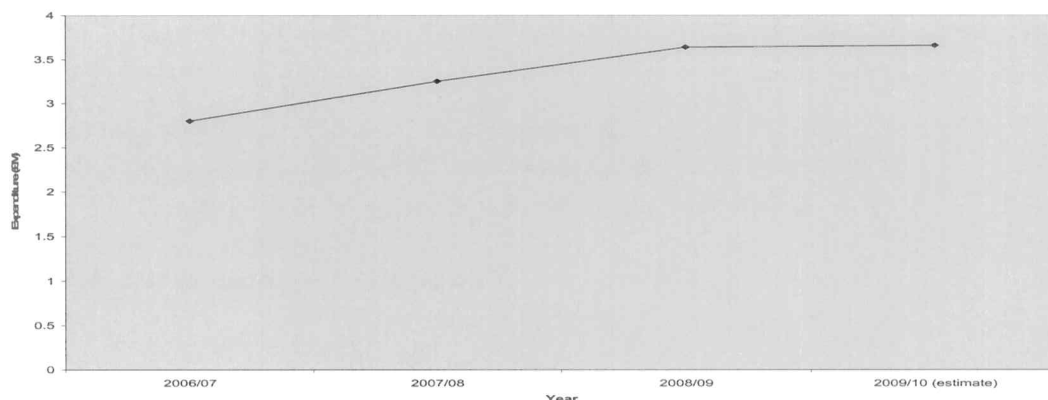
The growth in the expenditure on out of area placements and additional resource packages is summarised in **TABLE 1**.

Table 1 – Growth in Expenditure

Financial Year	Expenditure
2006/07	£2,805,444
2007/08	£3,250,984
2008/09	£3,644,911
2009/10	£3,659,914

An anticipated slowing in the growth of expenditure is forecast for 2009/10. The expenditure is shown graphically in **FIGURE 2**.

FIGURE 2 – Growth in Expenditure



Risks

Without services and planning to meet needs locally there will be a greater increase in the use of out of area placements.

Staffing & Property

There are no direct staffing or property implications associated with this report.

(d) Consultations

Rhonda Geddes-Stewart, Senior Personnel Adviser, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant and Alistair Stobie, Acting Principal Solicitor (Litigation and Licensing) have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report aims to provide extensive background information on out of area placements, total cost packages and the continuing actions being taken to manage these arrangements across social work and education services.

Author of Report: John Carney, Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services

Richard Donald, Acting Head of Educational Support Services

Background Papers: with author

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