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**REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
27 MAY 2015**

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

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Committee with background information on out of area placements and additional resources packages for children and young people with exceptional needs as part of a regular reporting programme.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III, C (1), (2) and (3) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as an Education Authority; under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and in respect of looked after children and young people leaving care.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

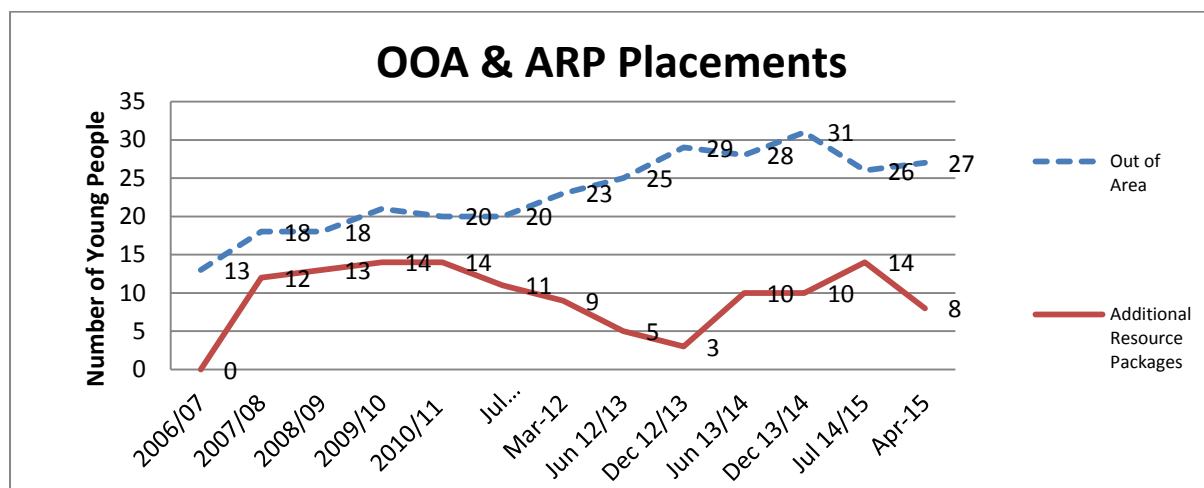
**2.1 It is recommended that Committee considers and notes:-**

- (i) the information provided within the report on out of area placements and additional resource packages; and
- (ii) that a further copy of the report is set out in the confidential section of the agenda, which invites the Committee to scrutinise the information provided on out of area placements and additional resource packages.

**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 regular financial monitoring reports that cover out of area placements and additional resource packages. At the 2 December 2009 meeting, a comprehensive report on the subject was tabled (paragraphs 25 & 30 of the minute refers) and it was agreed twice-yearly follow-up reports would be provided.
- 3.2 The number of out of area placements and additional resource packages are represented graphically in **FIGURE 1**.

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



The April 2015 figure represents: -

A. Out of area residential placements consisting: -

- (i) 18 residential placements for Looked After Children
- (ii) 9 educational placements requested by parents for children with specific educational needs

Total of 27 residential placements, which is an increase of 1 looked after residential child since the 24 September 2014 report. Within the numbers reported above are contained secure care placements, each of the current secure placements have been made on the basis of care and protection and not offence.

B. Additional Resource Packages consisting: -

8 additional resource packages, 6 of which maintain looked after children in school/ education.

This total of 8 resource packages reflects a decrease of 6 in number from the report in September 2014.

3.3 The following subparagraphs refer to activities which have progressed since September 2014.

3.3.1 The allocation of resources within Integrated Children's Services, including out of area placements and additional resource packages has been reviewed and changes to processes and procedures are being developed. It is considered that implementation of change will begin from October 2015.

- 3.3.2 Moray is engaged with the Scotland Excel (SXL) National Contracts for (i) foster care and (ii) residential provision however placement options in locations which meet the needs of Moray's looked after children and young people are limited, which is why we continue to require using care from providers who are not part of the National Contract.

Contracting activity is ongoing with those providers not engaged with the SXL National Contracts.

- 3.3.3 Within this reporting period one young person has moved from a residential out of area placement into an approved kinship care placement.
- 3.3.4 Since September 2014 two Choices foster carers have been approved and they are providing foster care placements for three children who have previously been in independent foster care placements and who have experienced placements ending in an unplanned manner.
- 3.3.5 Placements made within Independent Foster Care remain high at a current number of 20. This number has fluctuated at 17-20 placements for approximately two years. Of these placements 14 have been presented to Moray Foster and Adoption panel for approval of permanence and/or matching processes. Planning for adoption continues for up to four of the children placed within independent foster care provision.
- 3.3.6 The plan for Moray to operate its own residential provision from this year, in addition to existing purchased provision, continues to progress. There has been delay in starting to build and so the opening date of April 2015 has not been possible: the building work will conclude in August 2015. The post of manager had to be advertised on three occasions with most recent closure for applicants being 24 April 2015: there are a number of applicants who are considered as being strong at initial assessment; interviews will progress during May 2015.
- 3.3.7 The working group established to analyse options for developing respite provision had not met regularly and a time line for activity was planned. However preliminary outcome of analysis, of numbers and basis of need, resulted in agreement that the need or not for the development of respite provision should be assessed over the coming 12-18 months, rather than reliant on analysis using retrospective data. Use of retrospective data was too reliant on recall and subjective views.

The rationale behind this model of working remains concerned with strengthening resources at an earlier stage, to increase capacity within families. Options for funding this development will ideally come from realigning spend currently within the independent foster care section of this report.

#### 3.4 Developments in Education

- 3.4.1 The current contract with Scottish Autism to provide education ceased March 2015. This provision has been taken on by Moray Council with a view to increasing the capacity, as needs arise, from five pupils who are currently educated here. This should reduce the need for Out of Area placements for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). These five pupils remaining in Moray have saved a possible £175,000 based on the average cost of an education placement.
- 3.4.2 Pinefield Parc provides education for three secondary aged pupils who may be at risk of having to be placed Out of Area given their Social Emotional Behavioural needs. Two have recently been placed Out of Moray after being supported at Pinefield Parc for a period of time. Parc will also be used, where appropriate, to support young people who come back into Moray to be able to access mainstream education as part of a planned transition. Beechbrae Learning Centre provides education for four primary aged pupils who may be at risk of having to be placed Out of Area given their Social Emotional Behavioural needs. A fifth, who attended for a period of time, has gone to an Out of Area placement.
- 3.4.3 We are at an early stage in looking at ways to improve and develop the education provision for children and young people whose behaviours indicate that they have a number of, at times, challenging needs across the age range 5 – 18. This is being informed by an options appraisal written by a Moray Educational Psychologist. A Change Management Plan is being consulted on for the proposed management structure. A second Change Management Plan will follow to reflect proposals to develop the service. The progress of this will be reported on in due course.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Moray 2023: A Plan for the Future/Service Plan**

This report relates to the following: -

National Outcomes: -

No 4 - seeking to ensure our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

No 5 - seeking to ensure our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

No 8 - improving life chances of children at risk.

Community Planning priorities: -

No 2 - Ambitious and confident children and young people.

No 3 - living healthier, sustainable independent lives safeguarded from harm

Council priorities: -  
Looked after children/ corporate parenting.

Equalities and child protection.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The Council has responsibilities to children in need and at risk through the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and to children with specific educational needs through the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004.

**(c) Financial implications**

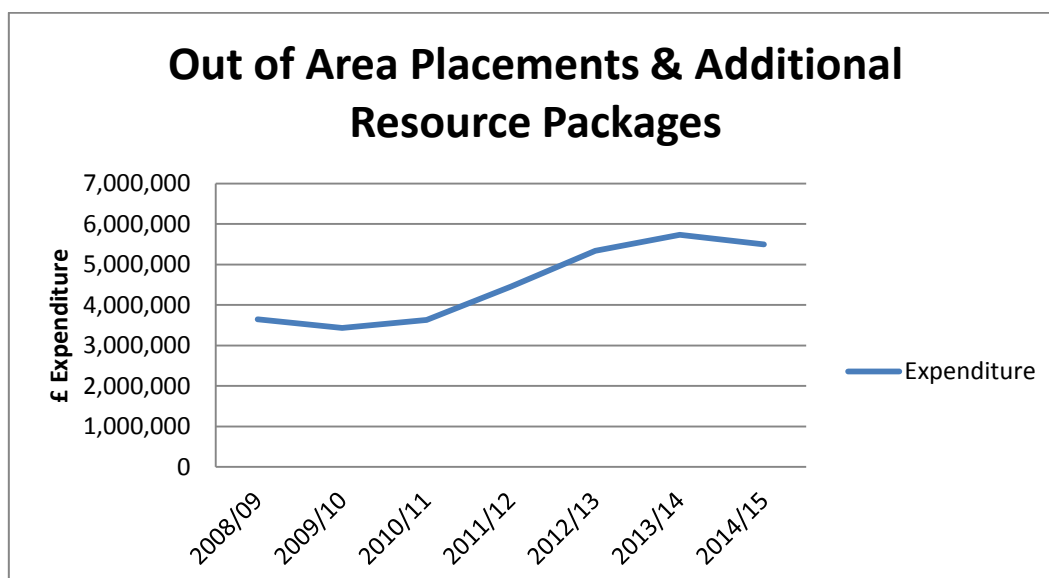
The expenditure in out of area placements, including independent foster care provision and additional resource packages is summarised in **TABLE 1**.

**Table 1 – Expenditure on Out of Area Placements and Additional Resource Packages**

Financial Year	Expenditure
2008/09	£3,644,911
2009/10	£3,433,568
2010/11	£3,625,743
2011/12	£4,454,420
2012/13	£5,334,766
2013/14	£5,735,555
2014/15	£5,494,775
Estimate for 2015/16	£4,502,624

The expenditure is shown graphically in **FIGURE 2**.

**Figure 2 – Expenditure on Out of Area Placements and Additional Resource Packages**



**(d) Risk Implications**

There is a limit to the needs of children and young people that can be met locally. Without access to and use of out of area residential and independent fostering placements needs of children and young people would be unmet and risks to them or others would increase.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no direct staffing implications associated with this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no direct property implications associated with this report.

**(g) Equalities**

Out of area placements and additional resource packages are accessed by any young person on the basis of assessment of risks and needs.

**(h) Consultations**

Laurence Findlay, Corporate Director, (Education and Social Care); Susan Maclaren, Head of Integrated Children's Services; Vivienne Cross, Acting Head of Schools and Curriculum; Graham Jarvis, Head of Lifelong Learning and Culture; Katrina McGillivray, Senior Human Resources Advisor; Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant; Don Toonen, Equal Opportunities Officer Margaret Forrest, Legal Services Manager (Litigation and Licensing), and Caroline Howie, Committee Service Officer 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 further up to date 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. Use of the residential houses provided by the Moray Council will offer increased numbers of local care placements which will result in Moray's children being able to remain living within their home environment, resulting in fewer out of area placements. The houses will be significant in reducing but not in eliminating placements made out of area.**

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Background Papers:  
Ref: