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**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
22 JUNE 2016**

**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) and (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority, and Social Work Authority within the terms of relevant legislation in respect of looked after children and young people leaving care.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee: -
- (i) scrutinises and notes the information provided within the report;
  - (ii) agrees that these reports are submitted to Committee annually; and
  - (iii) notes that a further copy of this 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 in further detail.

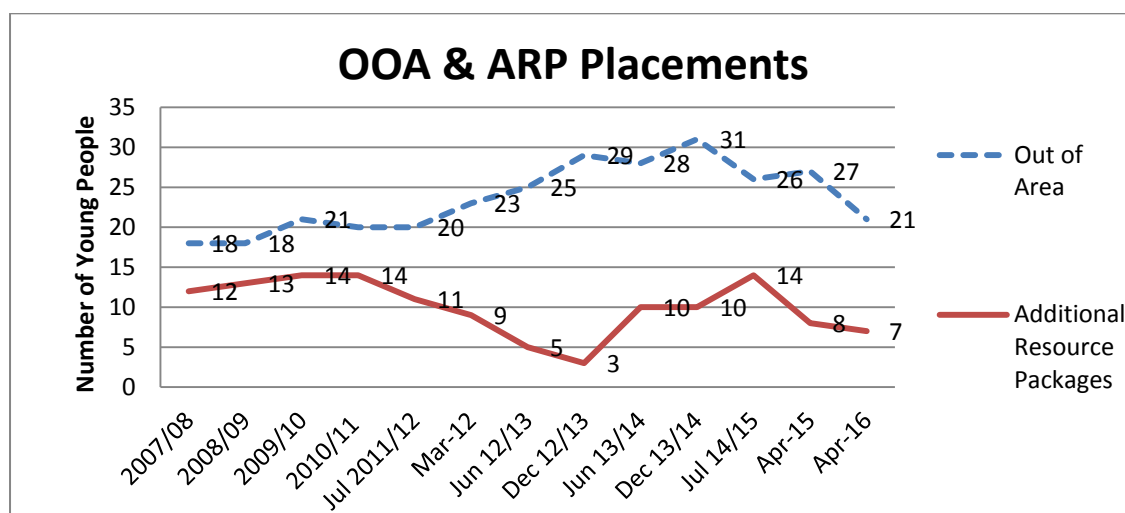
**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the 2 December 2009 meeting of the Children & Young People's Services Committee, a comprehensive report on the subject of out of area placements and additional resource packages was tabled (paragraphs 25 & 30 of the minute refers) and it was agreed twice-yearly reports would be provided.
- 3.2 Given Budget monitoring reports are submitted to Children and Young People's Services Committee every committee cycle and revenue monitoring reports are submitted quarterly to Policy and Resources, it is recommended that this more detailed report is submitted annually rather than twice-yearly. The Budget Reports submitted to the above named Committees will highlight forecasted overspends and offer an explanation of how this is being managed. This recommendation is consistent with what happened in practice

in terms of reporting last year, as an oversight this report was submitted to Committee only once in the last financial year on 27 May 2015 (paras 24 and 27 of the minute refers).

- 3.3 It is recommended that the timing of this report should be after confirmation of final spend in the previous financial year. The detail within the report will focus on indications of need and estimated financial spend for the current financial year.
- 3.4 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 2016 figure represents: -

- A. Out of area residential placements consisting: -
- (i) 17 residential placements for Looked After Children; 4 of which are expected to end no later than July 2016;
  - (ii) 4 educational placements requested by parents for children with specific educational needs; 2 of which will end no later than July 2016

Total of 21 residential placements, which is a decrease of 6 since the April 2015 report. The secure care placements are reported within the numbers above, such placements have been made on the basis of care and protection.

- B. Additional Resource Packages consisting: -
- (i) 7 additional resource packages, 4 of which maintain looked after children in school/ education.

This total of 7 resource packages reflects a decrease of 1 from the report in April 2015.

3.5 The following subparagraphs refer to activities underway which will have impact on out of area placements and additional resource packages.

3.5.1 The nature, location and allocation of resources within Integrated Children's Services, continues to be subject of audit, development and review.

- The role of Locality Management Groups (LMGs) will be significant in owning and being responsive to localised need. The data that will be held within and across LMGs will be a better predictor to inform our service needs and this will have significance for our commissioning and procurement activities.
- Resources and services will be targeted to be more responsive to local need. Fewer young people should be placed out of Moray because of limited resource however, there will continue to be placements made out of Moray, because their needs cannot be met safely or appropriately in Moray.
- Teams around children will be supported with risk management and risk enabling policies so that they, in discussion with the child and his/ her parents, are more able to be creative in the design and delivery of care packages for support. The impact of this may result in an increase in the number of community based resource packages which supports the self-directed support agenda, the outcome should be fewer placements being made.

3.5.2 Practitioners within Integrated Children's Services and Adult Services have had initial meetings to reflect on existing practice concerned with transitions. Transitions in this context refers to the needs of young people: -

- Returning from an out of area placement to child care services, including education, within Moray.
- Returning from an out of area placement to adult services within Moray.
- Moving from child care services in Moray into adult services.

The review of practice in transitions is part of an improvement agenda and whilst at the earliest stages, anticipates the development of a shared understanding and shared practice base that recognises the complex challenges and often competing demands arising from respective legislation. The aim is for transitions to be more effective in supporting improved outcomes for young people, consistent with choice and control within the agenda of self-directed support.

3.5.3 Moray continues to be engaged with, and support the development of, the Scotland Excel (SXL) National Contracts for (i) foster, (ii) residential and (iii) secure care provision. However to meet needs, Moray continues to make placements with providers who are not part of the

National Contract. Specific contracting processes are in place for those providers who are not part of the SXL National Contracts.

- 3.5.4 More usually the number of independent foster placements fluctuates between 17-20; the current 28 is very high. The increase in number has two main factors: (i) siblings groups needing to be looked after (ii) specific needs requiring specialist care. Of these 28 placements: -
- 14 children have been presented to Moray Foster and Adoption panel for approval of permanence and matching processes;
  - 7 children have care plans concerned with transition to independence, adult services, return to parental care or adoption;
  - 7 children have care plans concerned with pursuing permanence outwith parental care.
  - 8 of the 28 live in Moray.
- 3.5.5 Given the need for this increased use of independent foster providers coupled with the demands within the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 such as options for continuing care and support in aftercare being extended up to the age of 26 years, there will be a review of all services offered from within placement services. It is anticipated a report with recommendations will be presented to Committee in March 2017.
- 3.5.6 Cala, the residential provision for looked after children owned and operated by The Moray Council opened with its first residents in December 2015. Placements made have been consistent with the intended remit which is that the young people have their needs supported by a higher staffing ratio to allow them to return from out of area placements, or prevent the need for out of area placements being made.
- 3.5.7 Since January 2016 a Head Teacher and two Principal Teachers have been appointed to lead the development of the Moray Social Emotional Behavioural Need (SEBN) provision. An integral part of this will be to support the holistic education of pupils who are at risk of being placed out of area as a result of their social, emotional or behavioural needs.
- 3.5.8 This academic session 3 young people who were at risk of out of area educational placements have been supported with individualised education packages consisting of input from a range of private and council based provisions and partially funded through additional resource packages; 2 of them remain resident in Moray, one has moved permanent residence to another authority.
- 3.5.9 Moray SEBN staff are working in partnership with Cala to provide tailored support and education packages for 3 young people who have returned to Moray. The focus of this work is to support their re-integration into mainstream and to enable them to sustain this.

3.5.10 Development of an integrated early intervention protocol for young people at risk of or returning from out of area placements is in process to ensure that young people are supported in education, home and community. The input from Moray SEBN has prevented one secondary pupil from going out of area – furthermore it has resulted in the young person coming off of supervision entirely. Based in Pinefield PARC Moray SEBN is now offering holistic educational support for socially vulnerable young people post 16. This involves partnership work with Moray College, Skills Development Scotland and third sector providers to provide them with the skills necessary for successful participation in adult life.

3.5.11 At Beechbrae Learning Centre SEBN staff provide a base for supported education for 3 young people who are at risk of an out of area placement. In partnership with local schools targeted educational support work is done with 3 primary pupils who are at risk of out of area placements; this development in practice helps ensure that pupils remain rooted in their local communities to allow re-integration into mainstream to be more fluid. These young people are supported by central services and one additional resource package.

#### **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 the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014 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 for the last five years is summarised in **TABLE 1**.

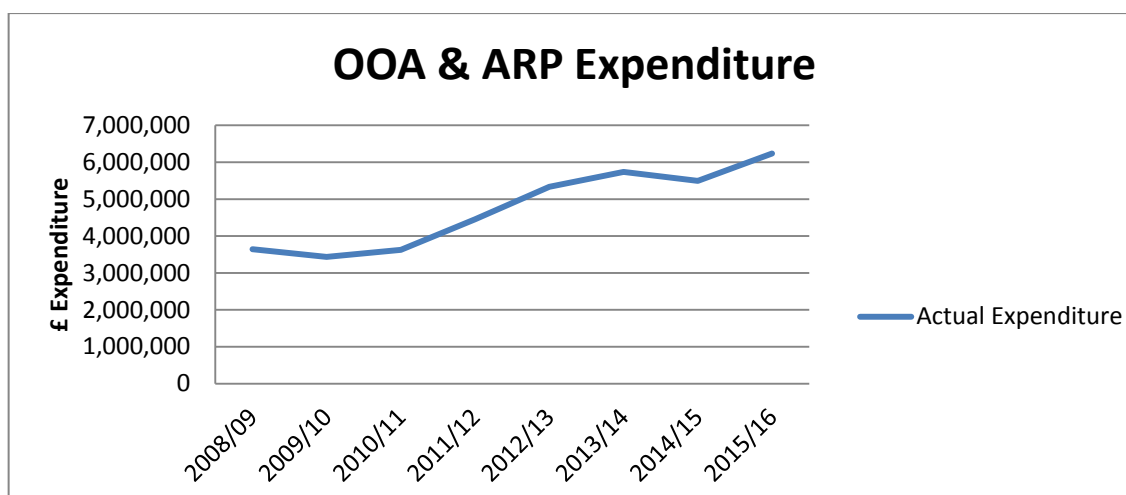
**Table 1 – Expenditure on Out of Area Placements and Additional Resource Packages**

Financial Year	Expenditure
2011/12	£4,454,420
2012/13	£5,334,766
2013/14	£5,735,555
2014/15	£5,494,775
2015/16	£6,237,231
Estimate for 2016/17	£4,820,000

The estimate for 2016/17 is based on the young people who are currently in Out of Area placements or receiving support through Additional Resource Packages and will change if the numbers of young people receiving support changes or a change in an existing support package is required.

The expenditure trend 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**

Corporate Director, (Education and Social Care); Head of Integrated Children's Services; Head of Schools and Curriculum; Head of Lifelong Learning and Culture; Senior Human Resources Advisor; Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant; Equal Opportunities Officer; Legal Services Manager (Litigation and Licensing), and Caroline Howie, Committee Services 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, additional resource packages and the continuing actions being taken to manage these arrangements across social work and education services.**

**5.2 Use of the residential houses provided by the Moray Council offers increased numbers of local care placements resulting in Moray's children being able to remain living within Moray, resulting in fewer out of area placements.**

**5.3 The review within Placement services will seek to meet the demands of the Children and Young Peoples (Scotland) Act 2014 and stop that pattern of increased use of independent providers of foster care, especially for permanent placements which are usually made out of Moray.**

**5.4 The developments within education have a focus on ensuring, through tailored support and early intervention, as many pupils are educated either within their mainstream school or through a central service. Moray SEBN is being taken forward by a recently appointed Head Teacher with a clear vision to improve education outcomes for Moray pupils.**

- 5.5 This is a detailed report for which existing Committee approval is that it should be presented to committee twice-yearly. An oversight last year meant it was only presented once. The recommendations are that Committee scrutinises and notes the content, and approves that rather than twice-yearly, this report might be presented annually, given the financial details contained within are reported to other committees.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: