



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
7 JUNE 2017**

**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 resource 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, D (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 in respect of looked after children and young people leaving care.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

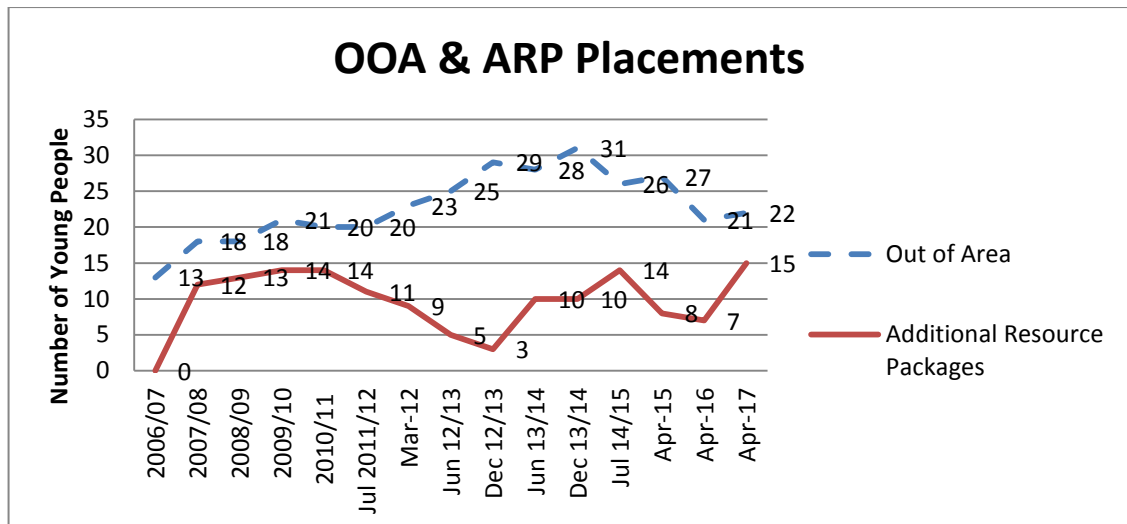
- (i) **scrutinises and notes the information provided within the report:
and**
- (ii) **that a further copy of the report is set out in the confidential section
of the agenda, which invites the Committee to scrutinise the
information provided on out of area placements and additional
resource packages.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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 refer) 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 Committee, it was agreed by the Committee on 22 June 2016 that this more detailed report, focussing on indications of need and estimated financial spend for the current financial year would be submitted annually (Paragraph 26 of the minute refers).

- 3.3 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 2017 figure represents: -

A. Out of area residential placements consisting: -

- (i) 20 residential placements for Looked After Children; 3 of which are expected to end no later than July 2017;
- (ii) 2 educational placements requested by parents for children with specific educational needs each of which will end by July 2017.

Total of 22 residential placements, which is an increase of 1 since the report at June 2016. 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) 15 additional resource packages, 7 of which maintain looked after children in school/education.

This total of 15 resource packages reflects an increase of 8 since the report at June 2016.

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

3.4.1 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) is becoming increasingly significant in being responsive to localised need. The data held is being used as a predictor to inform our service needs and this will inform our commissioning and procurement activities.
- Teams around children are being supported with risk management and risk enabling policies and practice and this is evidenced in the increased number of additional resource packages reported this year compared with last. Additional resource packages are based on assessment and discussion with the child and his/ her parents, are creative in the design and delivery of care packages for support. One recent example of this is one young person returned from an out of area residential placement and has returned to family based care.
- Internal allocation processes have changed to become more streamlined, rather than a number of distinct groups for allocation, there is now the Additional Resource Allocation Group (ARAG).
- Following the termination of the contract with Action for Children for community based services, those services are being managed and operated internally. Managed internally will result in more direct management of those resources.

3.4.2 Following initial meetings between practitioners within Integrated Children's and Adult Services reflecting on existing practice concerned with transitions; transitions in this context refers to the needs of young people: -

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

A transition policy that better reflects the key transition points for young people between the ages of 14 through to 25, in line with the revised legislation and the revised remit of Integrated Children's Services (ICS) and adult services as set out by the Integration Joint Board (IJB), has been written. This is ready to go for consultation with anticipated sign off date by August 2017.

3.4.3 Alongside this an audit of young people's pathways through services is being undertaken and how transitions have been experienced in an effort to inform both the policy and practice, working to a progression model. This feedback will link back to the work being done with children and young people in partnership with the organisation Children in Scotland around Self Directed Support and how this can be better applied to enable young people to make decisions that support them through to adulthood.

- 3.4.4 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.
- 3.4.5 More usually the number of independent foster placements fluctuates between 17-20. At June 2016 the number was 28 placements; at May 2017 the number is 23 placements. The use of such placements is based on need to place siblings together in addition to specific needs requiring specialist care.
- (i) Of these 23 placements: -
- 16 children have been presented to Moray Foster and Adoption panel for approval of permanence and matching processes; at June 2016 that number had been 14 young people.
 - 4 children will have their needs met either through permanent foster care or adoption.
 - 7 of the 23 live in Moray.
- 3.4.6 Of the 20 out of area residential placements Moray Council has permanence orders for 6 of the young people, each of whom has experienced significant disruption in their foster or adoption placement.
- 3.4.7 Given the need for this increased use of independent foster providers coupled with the demands within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 such as options for continuing care and support in aftercare being extended up to the age of 26 years, a review within placement services is nearing conclusion. It had been anticipated that a report with recommendations would be presented to Committee in March 2017; this report will be presented to Committee in August 2017.
- 3.4.8 Cala, the residential provision for looked after children owned and operated by 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. There have been a number of pressures which has impacted on the operation of Cala: an action plan is in place.
- 3.4.9 During school session 2016-2017 Moray Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs (SEBN) has built up a transition team within the service; this consists of a 0.6 full time equivalent teacher and a project worker as well as the existing Looked After Child (LAC) teacher. This has two purposes: early intervention and continuing support.

- 3.4.10 Early intervention supports the planning and delivery of fresh start school placements within Moray to avoid escalation to out of area. Working in partnership with social work colleagues this has been successful on 4 occasions.
- 3.4.11 Continuing support ensures that when a young person is out of area there is a live education link to track their progress and ensure a smooth educational transition when they return to area.
- 3.4.12 At present this involves planning to return 3 pupils and keeping communication with out of area educational providers to ensure that outcomes for return to area are monitored and actioned.
- 3.4.13 On return to area it involves personalised support to secure their educational placement or post 16 destination is embedded; working in partnership with social work, Moray College and Skills Development Scotland this has been successful on 2 occasions and is ongoing with 3 cases.
- 3.4.14 Curricular changes within the Beechbrae and Pinefield campuses mean that young people now focus on the health and wellbeing issues that present barriers to their successful participation in learning, life and work; whilst this encompasses literacy and numeracy outcomes its primary function is the development of social skills and resilience to re-align behaviours which contribute to the risk of an out of area placement.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Moray 2026: A Plan for the Future and Moray Corporate Plan 2015-2017

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 (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**.

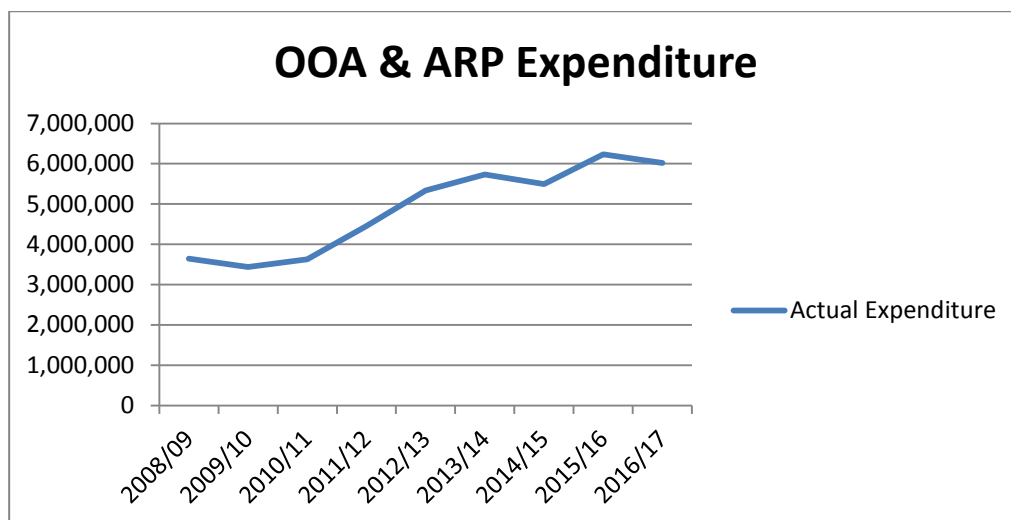
Table 1 – Expenditure on Out of Area Placements and Additional Resource Packages

Financial Year	Expenditure
2012/13	£5,334,766
2013/14	£5,735,555
2014/15	£5,494,775
2015/16	£6,237,231
2016/17	£6,017,922
Estimate for 2017/18*	£5,422,657

* The estimate for 2017/18 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, Culture and Sport; 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 The review within Placement services will seek to meet the demands of the Children and Young People (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.**
- 5.3 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.**

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Background Papers:
Ref: