



**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
27 JUNE 2018**

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

**BY: ACTING 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) (6) 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:

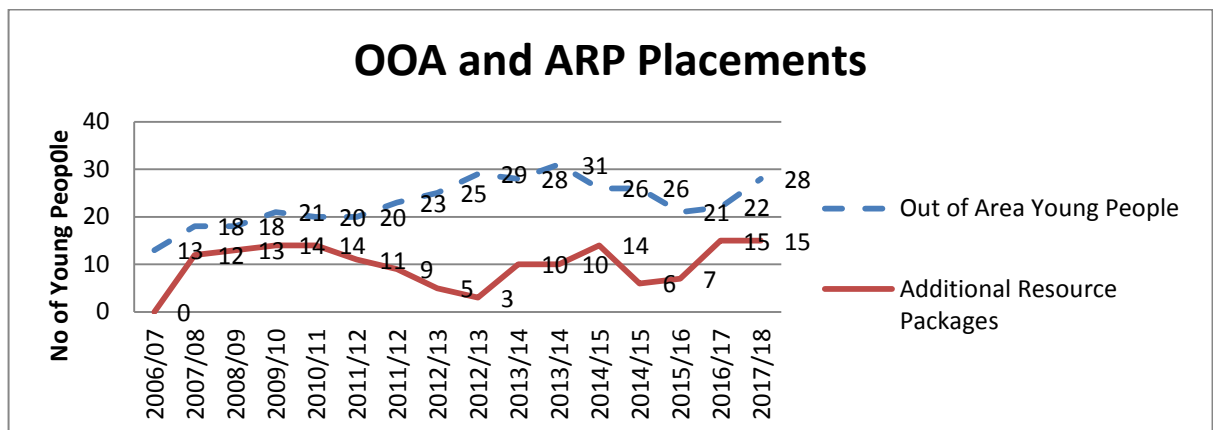
- (i) **scrutinises and notes the information provided within the report; and**
- (ii) **notes that a further copy of the report is set out in the confidential section of the agenda, which invites the Committee to scrutinise the information provided on out of area placements and additional resource packages.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the 2 December 2009 meeting of the Children & Young People's Services Committee (paragraphs 25 & 30 of the minute refer), a comprehensive report on the subject of out of area (OOA) placements and additional resource packages was presented 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 was agreed by Committee on 22 June 2016 (Paragraph 26 of the minute refers) that this more detailed report, focussing on indications of need and estimated financial spend for the current financial year would be submitted annually.

- 3.3 The number of out of area placements and additional resource packages are represented graphically in **FIGURE 1**, this figure now includes a number of residential placements which are in Moray, provided by care providers with which Moray has core contracts for the provision of care.

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



The May 2018 figure represents: -

A. Residential placements: -

- (i) 28 residential placements for Looked After Children; 4 of which are expected to end during the summer months and planning is concerned with a further placement ending during the summer period, assuming an appropriate care option within Moray can be identified. Of note, while currently low numbers, increasing need is concerned with children affected by disability, needing levels of overnight support which is in excess of that within the scope of short break and so those young people are becoming looked after by the authority, in placements made available by providers with which the Council has core contracts in Moray.

This number of 28 is an increase of 8 looked after child placements compared with the report at this time last year.

- (ii) Currently there are no placements made on the basis of educational placement requests made by parents for children with specific educational needs. There were 2 placements reported last year. As expected, those placements did conclude.

The total of 28 placements, is an increase of 6 in the total of 22 residential placements reported last year. Placements within the secure estate are reported within the numbers detailed: current placements are made on the basis of care and protection.

B. Additional Resource Packages: -

- (i) 15 additional resource packages, 8 of which maintain looked after children in school/education.

There were 15 resource packages reported in June 2017.

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

3.4.1 Teams around children continue to be supported with risk management and risk enabling policies and practices and are encouraged to develop creative additional resource packages (ARPs), to respond to assessed need.

3.4.2 There has been further revision of processes for the allocation of resources.

- (i) The Additional Resource Allocation Group (ARAG) continually reviews its operation; the most recent development is that lead professionals, and at times named persons, are expected to attend ARAG to explore the nature of need and the range of possible options that might meet the presented need.
- (ii) The residential improvement group, which was created to ensure clarity around referral processes, decision making and consistency in practice, meets monthly. This group has created flow charts for referral and admission to residential provision within Moray. The group has also agreed format and content for assessment within the context of relational practice within children's homes in Moray, irrespective of provider.
- (iii) Allocation of short break provision which is provided by Aberlour Child Care Trust is achieved through presentation to ARAG.

3.4.3 The transition policy which was intended for sign off in August 2017, is in the final stages having been reworked following consultation. Most recent discussions held between integrated children's services and adult services have concluded that: -

- (i) A young person who requires / meets the criteria for ongoing social work support through adult services will transition to adult services on their 18th birthday, as will associated costs, subject to adult service assessment processes.
- (ii) If a young person remains in education the plans and funding will continue with Integrated Children's Services (ICS) until the end of the academic year within which they are 18.
- (iii) Young people who may have a 7th year in education from ICS will continue with costs being met from ICS, until the end of the academic year. Planning and funding will be agreed through ARAG to ensure

visibility, appropriate scrutiny and authority for quality purposes, ongoing funding and strategic planning.

- 3.4.4 Increasing access is being made to Self Directed Support: this is subject of separate reporting to Committee.
- 3.4.5 Moray continues to engage with, and support the development of, the Scotland Excel (SXL) National Contracts for children's services. Moray continues to make placements with providers who are not part of the National Contract, for which contracting processes are in place
- 3.4.6 There has been a change in the number and circumstances of our young people being cared for in independent foster care, and there is proposed future change, in that planning is concerned with targeting foster care in Moray.
- (i) Independent foster placements at June 2016 and May 2017 were 28 and 23 respectively: the number at May 2018 is 15.
 - (ii) For some the change has been proactive, for example, adoption and the independent carers becoming foster carers for Moray.
 - (iii) Foster care placements ended for 5 young people who now have their needs met in residential care: 4 in Moray; 1 out with.
 - (iv) Of the 15 current placements: -
 - 12 children have been presented to Moray Foster and Adoption panel for permanence and matching processes.
 - 6 of the 15 live in Moray.
 - (v) Planning is concerned with seeking to recruit Moray carers for 1 young person who is currently in foster care out of Moray.
- 3.4.7 Moray is engaging with the Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) programme. Initial dates for feedback on the data which will inform the targeted areas for the improvement methodology are 4 and 5 June 2018.
- 3.4.8 The phase 1 review within placement services progressed from October 2017 and as noted at Committee on 2 May 2018 (paragraph 12 of the minute refers) change is now embedded and phase 2, options for the development of a new fostering scheme are being explored. This will be reported to Committee in September 2018. It is intended that this new scheme may offer foster care in Moray for a number of our younger children who are currently cared for out of Moray in residential care.
- 3.4.9 At 18 October 2017 Committee approved the continuing care processes (paragraph 14 of the minute refers). These processes are subject of review and scrutiny and further report to Committee, due annually, will be reported at September 2018 given change may be recommended arising as a recommendation from the phase 2 review.

- 3.4.10 Cala, Moray Council's residential provision for looked after children has had a number of pressures which have been reported to Committee. Most recent report was to Committee 18 October 2017, (paragraph 12 of the minute refers). Cala is experiencing a change in manager: the previous postholder left post at the end of May, for a new position.
- 3.4.11 There has been agreement that one senior social worker will have the remit for supporting the return of 2 young people from out of area placements.
- 3.4.12 Working in conjunction with ARAG the Moray Social Educational Behavioural Needs (SEBN) Transitions team are involved in monitoring and supporting the educational outcomes for young people in out of area placements. This involves partnership work with the placement school and 'keeping in touch visits' with the OOA young person to hear their voice in relation to their experience of the placement. As well as tracking the cost to benefit ratio of the OOA education spend it also ensures that the young people continue to be actively supported by their corporate parent. The team also plans educational transitions when a return to area is possible; 2 young people have been supported in their return to area during session 2017/2018.
- 3.4.13 The Moray SEBN Transitions team facilitate fresh start school placements and flexible learning programmes for pupils within Moray to prevent escalation to OOA. This has been successful on 10 occasions during session 2017/2018.
- 3.4.14 Skills based, accredited folio learning is in place at the Moray SEBN Pinefield campus. This evidences literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing outcomes as well as the skills contained in the Moray Skills Framework. The active learning involved in this process evidences that young people whose behaviours previously contributed to the risk of OOA placement are able to self-regulate, re-engage with learning and display their work readiness. During session 2017/18 ten young people were re-engaged with education. Working in partnership with Skills Development Scotland ensured that an additional 5 young people made a successful transition to a positive post 16 destination.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This report relates to the following within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023: -

Where life is better for everyone.

Provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence.

The vision being that our children have better educational and social outcomes and so are better prepared for life.

Improved outcomes for those most in need of support.

Our most vulnerable young people and families are safe and nurtured.

Public and staff have confidence in all services we provide for children.

And within the Moray – 10 year Plan – LOIP.

Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray.
Raising aspirations – building a better future for children and young people in Moray.

The outcomes being that children and young people thrive; have a voice; learn; can get about; have a home; feel secure, healthy, nurtured to be supported to reach their full potential.

(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
2013/14	£5,735,555
2014/15	£5,494,775
2015/16	£6,237,231
2016/17	£6,017,922
2017/18	£6,615,182
Estimate for 2018/19	£6,606,564

The estimate for 2018/19 is based on the young people who are currently in specific residential placements in Moray which are aligned to this budget; young people who are in independent foster care placements; those in out of area residential placements or those receiving support through Additional Resource Packages. The sum 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.

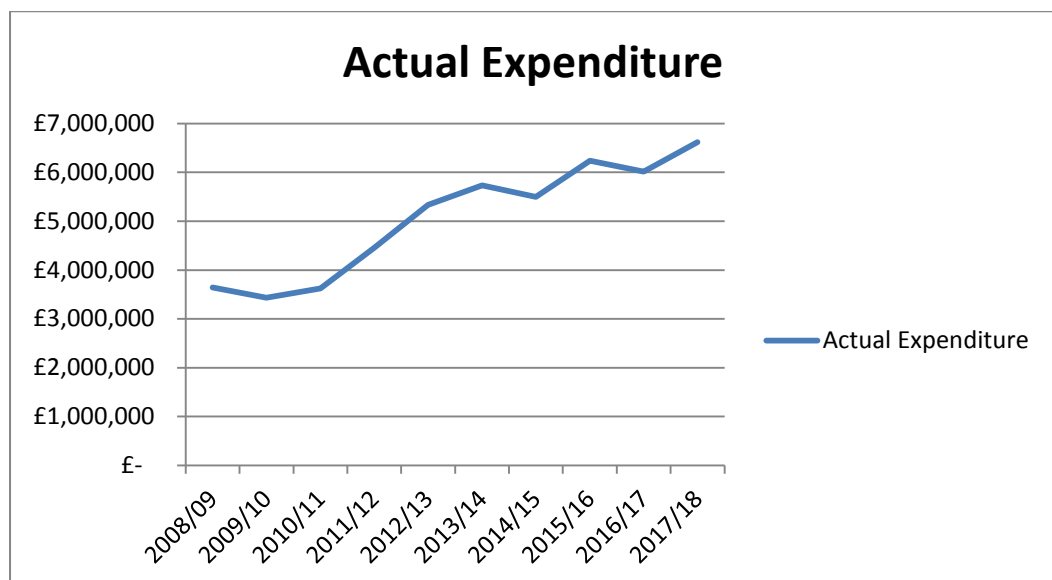


Figure 2 – Expenditure on Out of Area Placements and Additional Resource Packages

The budget for out of area placements and additional resource packages is £5.072m. A further £1.2m was set aside by Council in the budget setting process. However the new estimate, reflected above, indicates the total budget will be insufficient by £0.328m.

(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/Socio Economic Impact

Placements that are met through this budget are accessed on the basis of assessment of risks and needs.

(h) Consultations

Senior Officers within Education and Social Care, Senior Human resources Adviser, Principal Accountant, Morag Smith, Senior Solicitor, and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer and the Equal Opportunities 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 the 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 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. The review will also seek to support the return of a number of young people currently in residential placements 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: