Budget Option 2018/19 – 2019/20

Cumulative Net Savings

Reference: CYPS 10

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
£'000	£'000	£'000
0	200	200

Director Responsible for Delivery	Ian Thomas		
Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Cllr Watson		
Finance Business Partner	Mick Wildman		

Proposal Description

Regional Agreement for Agency Social Workers

Details of Proposal (including implications on service delivery)

A memorandum of co-operation between councils across Yorkshire and Humber will cap the hourly rate for temporary (agency) social workers at £32.95. Work is ongoing with this Regional Agency Agreement to progress the memorandum creating standard practice and costs for agency workers. This work is being led by Rotherham.

This will represent a further reduction to the current Rotherham hourly rate of £35.95 which itself has seen a significant drop over the last 12 months following initial work with framework providers to agree a single rate (this work has brought the average social worker standard rate down to £38.50 per hour compared to £41.00 per hour in August 2016).

It is expected that the agreement across the region will be signed in the new year with an implementation date planned for 1st April 2018.

A £3.00 hourly reduction equates to an annual equivalent saving of £5k per agency worker. The Council currently engages 62 temporary agency staff within Children's social care and, although the direction of travel is one of falling reliance, there is recognition that some agency resource will always be needed. The national average is 16.1%. Rotherham's ambition is to reduce to 10%.

10% of the social care workforce would equate to around 40

Appendix 4 - CYPS

	FTE. This would deliver a reduction of £200k compared to current cost.
Implications on other Services (identify which services and possible impact)	
Support required from Corporate Services – Finance, HR, Legal, ICT (please specify)	Support will be required from Finance
Reduction in Staffing Posts (FTEs) Reduction in Head Count	0

Decision Maker: Either Cabinet, Commissioner or Officer/Management Action	Commissioner Bradwell