

Budget Option 2018/19 – 2019/20

Cumulative Net Savings

Reference: CYPS 6

2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
0	150	150

Director Responsible for Delivery

Ian Thomas

Cabinet Portfolio Holder

Cllr Watson

Finance Business Partner

Mick Wildman

Proposal Description

Sufficiency - Independent Fostering Agencies, First Preference

Details of Proposal (including implications on service delivery)

Letters have been sent to all Rotherham Independent Fostering Agencies with a view to the Council securing a first preference agreement when placements become available.

The new arrangement, to be in place by end of this financial year, will enhance the placement offer.

This is part of the wider sufficiency work linked to the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Sufficiency Strategy 2017 – 2021. The priority is to ensure children in care are placed in the most appropriate placement available and that there is a market available to meet those needs.

Ensuring sufficiency of all placement types in and close to Rotherham is important across foster care and residential provision.

The needs of children and young people can only be met effectively if they live in an environment that provides a high quality of care and support, generally within a family home setting and in a geographical location that is familiar.

Wherever possible, children and young people should be placed within their own community which enables them to continue to have contact with the people and community of

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	<p>the most importance to them, thus promoting identify and a strong sense of self, fundamental to resilience in later life. In addition, placing children in Rotherham ensures a better oversight and control over educational provision and other support services.</p> <p>Expanding the fostering offer within Rotherham will help to address the placement shortage in the borough and re-direct some children from more expensive placements outside of the authority.</p>
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)	0
Reduction in Head Count	0
Decision Maker: Either Cabinet, Commissioner or Officer/Management Action	Commissioner Bradwell