

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 3 March 2020 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Cabinet Member - Councillor A Dale

Also in attendance – Councillors J Coyle and J Patten

13/20 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Young People held on 4 February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

14/20 **CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS**
RESOLVED to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors:-

D Wragg	-	The Unity Federation
S Morgan	-	Combs Infant School
P Roberts	-	Simmondley Primary School
P Hughes	-	Dronfield Infant School
A Jones	-	Eureka Primary School

15/20 **CHILD ARRANGEMENT ORDERS** The existing policy covering Child Arrangement Orders (formerly Residence Orders) and Derbyshire Support Scheme was last revised in 2013/14. A review has been undertaken of the existing policy and a number of changes were proposed as a result. The revised document was attached as an appendix to the report.

The proposed changes did not alter the categories of who could apply, the process and assessment of applicants, the eligibility for a financial allowance, the methodology for calculating the financial allowance payable or the payment processes. No current recipients of financial support would experience a change to the level of support and there was no expectation that the changes would result in restricting or increasing the scope of the allowances in the future.

The changes ensured that the policy was clearer to carers and others that need to refer to the policy. The proposed changes did not alter the operation of the current policy in an adverse way for any persons currently affected by the policy and therefore there was no recommendation to consult on the proposed changes prior to implementation. Any comments given during reviews of the policy would be carefully consideration.

Work has also been undertaken done to assess the appropriateness of the allowances currently being paid and a review to consider the adequacy of the allowance currently payable to carers with child arrangement orders has been completed. The report detailed the information and methodology used; and consultation with the figures published in “The Cost of a Child in 2019” by Donald Hirsch, the latest series of assessments published by Child Poverty Action Group. Using the information the comparative current Derbyshire allowance rates were as follows:-

Age of Child (years)	Maximum weekly allowance payable per child (before deduction of applicable child benefit)	Maximum weekly allowance payable per child (net of deduction of applicable child benefit)
0-4	£87.12	£66.42
5-10	£96.36	£75.66
11-15	£110.22	£89.52
16+	£128.04	£107.34

Calculations and methodology detailed in the report has been used to establish the ‘household income’ point for which the maximum allowance would be payable and the household income point at which no additional allowance beyond child benefit would be payable, summarised below:-

Category of Household	Assumed Age of Child placed under a CAO (years)	Household Income up to which maximum allowance payable (annual)	Household Income above which no allowance is payable (entitlement to Child Benefit remains)	Assumed Household expenditure – housing etc as defined above (annual)
Couple <60	0-4	£26,410	£35,045	£8,180
Couple <60	5-10	£26,410	£36,246	£8,180
Couple <60	11-15	£26,410	£38,047	£8,180
Couple <60	16+	£26,410	£40,364	£8,180
Couple, 1 60+	0-4	£29,718	£38,352	£1,700
Couple, 1 60+	5-10	£29,718	£39,553	£1,700
Couple, 1 60+	11-15	£29,718	£41,355	£1,700
Couple, 1 60+	16+	£29,718	£43,672	£1,700
Lone parent 25+	0-4	£23,017	£31,652	£8,180
Lone parent 25+	5-10	£23,017	£32,853	£8,180
Lone parent 25+	11-15	£23,017	£34,655	£8,180
Lone parent 25+	16+	£23,017	£36,972	£8,180

The estimated incremental cost of a child per annum from the Child Poverty Action Group report (averaged for age and position) were as follows:

Age of Child (years)	Maximum allowance payable (including child benefit received from DWP)	Estimated Incremental Cost per child per year (couple) [CPAG]	Estimated Incremental Cost per child per year (lone parent) [CPAG]
0-4	£4,530	£2,979	£3,728
5-10	£5,011	£3,776	£4,424
11-15	£5,731	£5,916	£7,093
16+	£6,658	£5,838	£8,471

The policy included the provision of additional financial support by exception and this would be available where there was a demonstrable need for financial support above that of standard recommended rates. This could be applied to, but was not limited to, lone parent households, and gave the flexibility to respond appropriately to both short-term and longer term additional support needs. Each request from carers with a Child Arrangements Order was assessed individually and there might be circumstances where additional financial support was required in the best interests of the child. The revised policy now specifically included discretion for additional financial support to be provided in exceptional circumstances.

An adequacy review will be undertaken each year on the allowance rates for child arrangement orders using the CPAG reports or other similar sources.

RESOLVED (1) that the policy for Child Arrangement Orders including the financial support payable under this policy be approved; and

(2) to note the work undertaken to ascertain the adequacy of the current allowance rates payable to carers with Child Arrangement Orders who have requested assessment for financial support.

16/20 BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20 – PERIOD 9 (as at 31 December 2019)

The Cabinet Member was informed of the Revenue budget position of the Young People portfolio for 2019-20 up to the end of December 2019 (Period 9), budget savings, growth and one-off funding, risks, earmarked reserves and debt position.

The net controllable budget for the Young People portfolio is £108.745m and the Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement prepared at period 9 indicated that there was a projected year-end overspend of between £8.178m to £8.349m depending on whether the rate of placements for children in care levels off or continued the trajectory seen over the past six months. Based on known placements to the end of December, the projected overspend was £8.077m. The Council has earmarked £1.382m within the budget management reserve to contribute to this overspend.

The Dedicated Schools Grant income transferred to contribute to costs incurred within Children's Services supporting Early Help services and children with

additional needs was £6.756m however this may not continue at the same level in future years.

The key variances included Placements for Children in Care/Unable to remain at home (overspend £6.572m), Support for children with disabilities (overspend £0.984m), Children's Safeguarding services (overspend £1.530m), Early Help and Preventative services (overspend £0.627m), Home to School Transport (overspend £1.317m), Education Support services (overspend £0.972m), Pensions payable to former staff (overspend £0.187m), Redundancies (break-even), and Unallocated budget (underspend £3.976m).

The value of the savings initiatives identified for implementation in the current year was £3.013m and it was forecast that £2.323m of savings will have been achieved by the year-end.

The portfolio received additional budget allocations in 2019-20 for Social Worker recruitment (£1.300m ongoing, £2.600m one-off), Placement demand pressures (£3.000m ongoing, £5.000m one-off), Home to School Transport SEN (£1.450m ongoing), SEND assessment and planning (£0.275m ongoing), Increase in Special Guardianship placements - £1.097m ongoing, Children's Homes (£0.450m ongoing), Foster Carers (£0.060m ongoing), Care Leavers (£0.402m one-off), Children's Participation (£0.080m one-off), Child Protection (£0.105m one-off), Complex Case pooled budget (£0.250m one-off), Mobile Working (£0.260m one-off), and Children in Care Legal Proceedings (£1.050m one-off).

The report also detailed the services that could negatively impact on the portfolio's forecast outturn position reported in the Forecast Summary, the earmarked reserves totalling £8.114m that were currently held to support future expenditure and the profile of the debt position.

RESOLVED to note the report.

17/20 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING 2019-20 – PERIOD 9
(as at 31 December 2019)

The Cabinet Member was provided with an update of the Revenue Budget position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (Young People portfolio) for 2019-20 up to the end of December 2019 (Period 9).

The expected Dedicated Schools Grant and 6th form grant income was £367.935m plus the expected use of reserves for 2019-20 of £2.042m, making total income available to fund expenditure of £369.977m. The Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement prepared at period 9 indicated that there was projected year-end expenditure of £374.948m. The expected overspend compared to income was £4.971m, however this included an overspend of £0.117m which was ring-fenced to schools. The overspend falling to the Authority was £4.854m. Earmarked reserves of £1.154m were available to support this overspend which meant the Authority would report a DSG deficit at the end of 2019-20 estimated at £3.851m.

The key variances were Central School Services Block (underspend £0.181m), Re-pooled school funding (overspend £0.117m) and High Needs Block (overspend £5.430m).

There was a risk that the High needs block placements and top-ups could negatively impact on the portfolio's forecast outturn position reported in the Forecast Summary.

RESOLVED to note the report.