

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE IN DARLINGTON
ENSURING PLACEMENT SUFFICIENCY AND ENABLING CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a series of proposals to reduce dependence on costly external placements, and to support and improve placement sufficiency for children and young people in Darlington.

Summary

2. Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Placement Sufficiency Report which has been approved by Cabinet.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that The Children and Young People Scrutiny note and comment on the Placement Sufficiency proposals which will progress to Council within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) process.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons: -
 - (a) The current overreliance on externally provided children's social care placements is unsustainable.
 - (b) The Council needs to diversify the range of directly provided children's social care services in order to meet the needs of Darlington children and improve placement stability.
 - (c) The proposals have a positive impact on the MTFP.

Chris Bell
Assistant Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications for Crime and Disorder arising from these proposals.
Health and Wellbeing	There are positive impacts for the health and wellbeing of Darlington children and young people arising from these proposals.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications for Carbon Impact and Climate Change arising from these proposals.
Diversity	There are positive impacts for the health and wellbeing of Darlington children and young people arising from these proposals.
Wards Affected	The proposals are need led for all Darlington children and young people.
Groups Affected	Children and young people are positively impacted.
Budget and Policy Framework	The proposals will be incorporated into and have a positive impact on the draft MTFP for 24/25 – 27/28
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	These proposals will contribute positively to the Council Plan
Efficiency	These proposals would make us more efficient
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	These proposals will have a significant benefit for Looked After Children and Care Leavers