

* <b>Name of proposal/policy</b>	Children's Placement Commissioning Efficiencies / Children in residential care and education provision	* <b>Budget number</b>	16-002-08 / 16-002-27
* <b>Service area responsible</b>	Commissioning and Placements	* <b>Cabinet meeting date</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
* <b>Name of completing officer</b>	Jennifer Joyner	* <b>Approved by Director / Assistant Director</b>	Lesley Hagger
* <b>Version</b>	1.0	* <b>Date</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2017

**PART A**

* <b>Section 1a: Description of proposal under consideration/development</b>	* <b>Section 1b: Is this new or existing? Does it link to current provision?</b>
1. Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) would like to increase the flexibility of provision within the county by exploring options with residential providers, to block purchase all placements within county children's homes. (£350k)	Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) already purchases placements through a number of residential providers. The unique nature of the block purchase means NCC will block purchase "whole homes" rather than just placements. This allows NCC to work in partnership with the provider around placement matching and gives NCC the opportunity to "placement plan" for any vacancies within the homes for both the short and long term and reduce financial requirement.
2. Ensure that children within residential care receiving education provision are funded appropriately. (300k)	This is a new proposal and will be included in the final budget for approval by Council and will be implemented subject to the outcome of further consultation.

**\* Section 2: How does this align with the Council Plan/ corporate priorities/ partnership strategies and plans/ Next Generation Council?**

<b>Delivers increased wellbeing and/or safeguarding by ensuring that...</b>	✓
People of all ages are safe, protected from harm and able to live happy, healthy and independent lives in our communities	✓
People have the information and support they need to make healthy choices and achieve wellbeing	
People achieve economic prosperity, in a healthy, low carbon economy which gives access to jobs, training and skills development	
Communities thrive in a pleasant and resilient environment, with robust transport and communications infrastructure	
Resources are utilised effectively and efficiently, in coordination with partners and providers	✓

<b>Does it align with any NCC/ partnership strategies and plans? (if so, please list below)</b>
Placement Sufficiency for Children in Care Strategy

<b>Does it support the transformation into a Next Generation Council? (if so, please explain below)</b>
N/A

**\* Section 3: If this relates to a statutory duty, please give details of the relevant legislation below:**

**Key Legislation, Legal and Policy Framework**

The concept of the corporate parent has been developed through legislation, policy development and guidance and includes:

- The Quality Protects programme (1988)
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Adoption & Children Act (2002)
- If this were my child – A Councillor’s guide to being a good corporate parent (2003)
- Every Child Matters (2003)

- Promoting the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children : Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities – Children Act (2004) - updated 2010
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)
- Care Matters : transforming Lives of Young people in care
- Making the Difference – Putting the care back into corporate parenting (2007)
- Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care (2008), Children & Young Persons Act (2008)

**Please note that the following in Section 4-6 applies to proposal 1 only. This will be reviewed as the proposal is developed for proposal 2:**

**Section 4: Have other alternatives been considered?**

N/A

**\* Section 5: Financial / resource implications**

**a) Costs (e.g. invest to save)**

N/A

**b) Staffing implications**

N/A

**c) Savings**

The work to block purchase is already underway.

Currently there are 20 children and young people placed with providers in the block contact (25 places). The other 5 places have children / young people placed from other authorities, once these become vacant they will transfer into the block contact (so no financial risk to NCC).

The block contact is a reduction of £210 per week per placement from the East Midlands framework - therefore 18=£3780 per week = £196,560.00 per year

For 20 this will be £4200 per week and £218,400 per year.

On top of this some of the 18 children/ young people moving placements to be back in county has made additional saving of around £77,480

A number of positive outcomes have been achieved for these children and young people, including:

- Being able to stay at their local school
- Being able to stay in-county
- Being able to move back into county

This is proving to be a very beneficial strategic partnership, with the provider taking some of our more complex cases within the costs for the block purchase - for example we placed a young person in December from a provider out of county at £4,387.50 - therefore taking a block purchased placement with a saving of £1,902.50 per week.

There are also wider savings:

- Social Worker travel time - not going out of county
- Travel cost - in county (one child brought back from Wales)
- Children's & Adults Mental Health Services - met locally, not purchased from other CAMHS providers where the child is placed out of county
- School - In county - some children have remained at their original school

In addition, following a review of children within out of county residential care, £300k of costs can be reimbursed through the Dedicated Schools Grant to fund the education element of the placement cost.

**Section 6: Has a similar initiative/proposal been implemented elsewhere? What were the benefits or risks? Are there lessons that can be learned?**

N/A

**THIS SECTION HAS REPLACED THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM AND MUST BE COMPLETED TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE EQUALITY DUTY**

**\* Section 7: Who will be affected by this proposal? (this may be service user data, or be based on a particular geographical area or more general population data depending on the proposal) Include demographic information where this is available e.g. breakdown by gender, age, ethnicity, disability etc. BIPI can support with the provision of data. You may include staff, partner organisations and any other stakeholders who might be affected by the proposal.**

<b>Data Source (include link where published) and summary of what it tells us for example “X number of people use this service, X are male, Y are female etc”</b>	<b>Why is this relevant to the proposal?</b>
Children In Care Corporate Parenting Data (BIPI)	<p>As at 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016, there were 1,038 Children In Care in Northamptonshire.</p> <p>777 (75%) were placed within Northamptonshire, while the remainder (261/25%) were placed out of county.</p> <p>Of that total number, the placement types were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency Residential Placements = 116</li> <li>• Independent Living = 97</li> <li>• NCC homes and hostels = 22</li> <li>• Residential Care Homes = &lt;5</li> <li>• Residential NHS Trust = 7</li> <li>• Other placement = &lt;5</li> <li>• Other (e.g. with family, fostering etc) = 793</li> </ul>

Please note that the following in Section 8- 11 applies to proposal 1 only. Currently we are assessing the impact for proposal 2 as 'unsure' and this will be reviewed as the proposal is developed:

* Section 8: Based on the above information, will this proposal have an impact on the following? ✓ the relevant box for each line and then expand on the reasons why in Section 9				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
<a href="#">Age</a>			✓	
<a href="#">Disability</a>			✓	
<a href="#">Gender reassignment</a>			✓	
<a href="#">Marriage and civil partnership</a>			✓	
<a href="#">Pregnancy and Maternity</a>			✓	
<a href="#">Race</a>			✓	
<a href="#">Religion or Belief (or No Belief)</a>			✓	
<a href="#">Sex</a>			✓	
<a href="#">Sexual orientation</a>			✓	

* Section 9: Initial impact
* Section 9a: From your analysis in section 8 above, please explain the positive implications
N/A
* Section 9b: From your analysis above, please explain why you have categorised any implications as neutral
For the time being we are assessing the impact as neutral. However, we anticipate that there will be some positive impacts for children and young people, for instance being able to stay in the same school if the service can utilise block purchases to their maximum effect. It should also reduce social worker travel time if more children can be kept in county because we have the right provision for them, ensuring that more of their time can be spent working with the children and young people on their caseloads.

* Section 9c: From your analysis above, please explain the negative implications	* Section 9d: What actions have you identified to mitigate any negative implications?
N/A	N/A
* Section 9e: From your analysis above, please explain the areas where you are unsure of the impact	* Section 9f: What actions have you identified to fill gaps in information?
N/A	N/A

* Section 10: Internal considerations: are there any implications for the following?		
	✓ or X	If there are any implications, please explain them here and identify any actions you may need to take as a result
<a href="#">Staff</a>	X	
<a href="#">Financial (NCC)</a>	✓	Financial benefits as outlined above
<a href="#">Legal</a>	X	
<a href="#">NCC Policy</a>	X	
<a href="#">Performance</a>	X	
<a href="#">Data quality / information security</a>	X	
<a href="#">IT</a>	X	
<a href="#">Strategic assets</a>	X	
<a href="#">LGSS / federated bodies</a>	X	
<a href="#">Procurement</a>	✓	Procurement have already been involved in the tender for the block purchase arrangements
<a href="#">Project support</a>	✓	Project Support have already been involved in the tender for the block purchase arrangements
<a href="#">Other (if appropriate)</a>	X	

* Section 11: External considerations: are there any implications for the following?		
	✓ or X	If there are any implications, please explain them here and identify any actions you may need to take as a result
<u>Community impact</u>	X	
<u>Impact on the consumer (e.g. communication needs, access, rurality, complaints)</u>	X	
<u>Reputation</u>	X	
<u>Political</u>	X	
<u>Partners</u>	X	
<u>Human Rights</u>	X	
<u>Health impact – individual</u>	X	
<u>Health impact – wider community</u>	X	
<u>Economic impact - individual</u>	X	
<u>Economic impact – wider community</u>	X	
<u>Community Safety impact</u>	X	
<u>Environmental impact</u>	X	
<u>Consultation</u>	X	
<u>Other (if appropriate)</u>	X	

Based on the impacts and considerations above, please identify the RAG status

RAG Status	Overall RAG	Time	Proposal Delivery	Cash Saving	Risk	Issue	Dependency

* Section 12a: What are the risks associated with NOT implementing the proposal? (tick if applicable)	✓	* Section 12b: What actions have you identified to mitigate the risks? Will anything in the current arrangements need to be changed to acknowledge this risk? Is implementing the proposal the only way to mitigate the risks?
Non-compliance with legislation or NCC policy		
Financial	✓	Implementing proposal is only way to mitigate risk
Change in performance/ data quality/ information security		
Reputational/ Political		
Increase in complaints and/ or legal challenge		
Other		

* Section 13: Budget Delivery Programme Highlight Report information – total amount allocated to savings proposal 2017-18 through to 2020-2021; profiled budget; 2017-18 action plan extended savings narrative; cost code information			
<b>Total amount allocated to savings proposal 2017-18</b>			
<b>2017-18 (£000)</b>		<b>650</b>	
<b>Impact of saving within the budget profile</b>			
<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>
150	150	150	200
	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>By when</b>
<b>1</b>	Continue to place young people into the 5 remaining places as they become available	PMS	31/03/2017
<b>2</b>	Work with Total Care Matters and Banyantree to work up block purchasing arrangements	PMS	31/03/2017

<b>3</b>	Develop implementation plan for proposals 2	AS	
Cost code	NCGPC03E7110N0010		

**\* Section 14: Do you need to undertake further work (e.g. consultation, further proposal development, further equality analysis) based on the impact and actions identified above? If yes, set this out below and then carry out the work and complete Part B:**

This proposal will form part of the overall budget consultation process. Any feedback received (as well as any further intelligence gathered in the course of developing the project) will inform a final analysis of the impact of the proposal which will be considered by Cabinet and Council in February when taking a final decision on the budget. The IIA will be updated accordingly.

**PART B**

<b>Section 15: Consultation, follow up data and information gathered from actions identified above</b>	
	<b>What does this information tell us?</b>
Proposal 1 formed part of the overall budget consultation process.	We didn't receive any comments specifically on this proposal. However, there were general comments made regarding the proposals for Children's Social Care. One comment expressed concerns about reductions to Children's Social care, while another expressed positive comments about the strategic direction the service is going in and the positive outcomes they expected for children and their families.
Proposals 2 & 3 are new proposals and will be included in the final budget for approval by Council and will be implemented subject to the outcome of further consultation.	

**Section 16: Final impact analysis (taking the findings from Part B into account) – including review date if required**

Positive as where appropriate these young people have been moved back in county bringing them closer to their local connections and support networks.