

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Operational Delivery
<b>DATE</b>	19 April 2018
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Continuing Care
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	OPE/18/005
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Rob Polkinghorne
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Bernadette Oxley
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Anne Donaldson
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1 and 1.3

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide a service update on the financial implications of continuing care as requested at the June 2017 Education and Children Services Committee.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Committee:

- (i) Notes the financial information provided in the report.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Continuing Care provisions of Part 11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) 2014 Act came into force in April 2015. They do not however apply to all care leavers. The right to Continuing Care is only available to those who leave care in or after April 2015, were born after 1 April 1999 and whose last placement was 'away from home'.
- 3.2 The 2014 Act changed the legal definition of a 'care leaver' so that from April 2015 any young person who ceased to be looked after on or after their 16th birthday became classified as a 'care leaver'.
- 3.3 All looked after children can become 'care leavers', including those who were classified as 'looked after at home' and in formal kinship care.
- 3.4 'Continuing Care' is a legal term introduced by the 2014 Act. It places a duty on local authorities to provide for care leavers. Whose final placement was 'away from home', with a continuation of the kinds of support they received

prior to their ceasing to be looked after (including accommodation in a 'looked after' placement).

- 3.5 The aim of the provisions is to provide eligible young people with a more graduated transition out of care.
- 3.6 The service has previously reported 1 June 2017 on the difficulty of projecting the longer term costs of continuing care. This is because it is dependent on a number of factors which include:
- The number of young people choosing to request continuing care.
  - The implications this has for reducing the availability of foster and residential placements.
  - The service's ability to recruit more foster carers to place children in local in house placements in the context of a national shortage of foster carers.
  - The service's ability to recruit sufficient staff to fully resource our ACC children's homes and satellite units.
  - An acknowledgement that some young people will be able to find employment or access their own income via the benefits agency and the implications this has for the cost of continuing care placements.
- 3.7 Current position:
- There have been no requests for continuing care from young people placed in out of authority residential placements or from our local children's homes.
  - Two young people who are placed with external fostering agencies have requested continuing care and this has been agreed by the service.
  - Six young people are placed with ACC Carers in continuing care placements.
- 3.8 The cost of individual continuing care foster placements will vary depending on the level of payment for skills the carer is receiving, whether there are other foster children in the household and whether the young person is in further education, working, or in receipt of any other funding or benefits.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Actual spend for 2017/18 was £18,200 for external provision and £83,536.66 for internal provision.
- 4.2 The allowance paid to ACC Foster carers offering continuing care will vary for example to reflect level of payment for skills level, if they are caring for other children. The young person's financial circumstances will also be considered as they may be in employment or further education.
- 4.5 Service Managers are tracking plans for all 16 and 17 years olds in all out of authority residential placements to inform financial forecasting.

4.6 It is anticipated there will be increasing financial pressure on Aberdeen City Council as young people have an increased awareness of continuing care increases.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Statutory duty placed under Part 11 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

## 6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 Continuing care placements may reduce the number of available placements for children and young people requiring accommodation, or being returned to ACC from out of authority care.

6.2 The “staying put” agenda that underpins Part 11 of the 2014 Act is fully supported by the service and is based upon solid evidence of better outcomes for care experienced young people who remain within their care placement beyond the age of 16.

6.3 The financial risk of providing continuing care placements in external residential children’s homes must be considered. Whilst the ambition is to return young people to the city to family or other local resources, this could be challenged by external providers who may see a market in developing continuing care options. Pathway planning and welfare assessments undertaken by the service will identify whether this is a possibility.

6.4 Reputational risk is low as young people are currently supported to ‘stay put’ until they are 18 years old. Continuing care is therefore in keeping with our philosophy of care.

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

<b>Financial</b>	Reduction in numbers of fostering and residential placements available for children coming into the system requiring care.	M	Edge of Care services now in place to help reduce the numbers of children and young people entering the care system.  Early intervention and prevention in universal services should impact on the numbers of children requiring statutory social work and residential care provision.
<b>Legal</b>	Failure to deliver on statutory requirement	L	The service is delivering the requirements of the

	under Part 11 of the 2014 Act.		legislation and is committed to high quality provision.
<b>Employee</b>	No risk.		
<b>Customer</b>	No risk.		
<b>Environment</b>	No risk.		
<b>Technology</b>	No risk.		
<b>Reputational</b>	No risk.		

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Prosperous Economy</b>	To support care leavers to contribute to the economy through stable accommodation, financial advice, education, training and employment.
<b>Prosperous People</b>	Care leavers are prepared and supported to enter adult life.

<b>Design Principles of Target Operating Model</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Customer Service Design</b>	Young people have been actively involved in the design of continuing care services.
<b>Organisational Design</b>	Corporate parenting is a key duty of the 2014 Act and the needs and views of young people must be considered in any organisational redesign.
<b>Governance</b>	Governance of out of authority placements is the responsibility of the Children's Services Forum.
<b>Workforce</b>	Staff and ACC foster carers have been trained in the requirements of the legislation.
<b>Process Design</b>	Continuing to be developed by the Continuing Care Policy and Practice works stream.
<b>Technology</b>	Further opportunities for young people to be involved in the digital strategy to ensure reaching young people using the latest applications.
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	Housing, NHS, education, further and higher education, third sector, private providers of care.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
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<b>Equality &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>	Not required.
<b>Privacy Impact Assessment</b>	Not required.
<b>Children's Rights Impact Assessment/Duty of Due Regard</b>	Not applicable.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**11. APPENDICES (if applicable)**

Letter response from the Scottish Government 15 September 2017

**12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

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