

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**10 March 2015**

**Report of the Acting Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**  
**EDGE OF CARE DEVELOPMENTS**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

The Cabinet Member is requested to agree a temporary part-time (18.5 hours per week) commissioning manager post for a period of no longer than 12 months, to enable capacity to develop new evidence based interventions in order to strengthen Derbyshire's response to young people on the Edge of Care and their families.

**2. Information and Analysis**

Derbyshire has been part of a successful application to the Department for Education's Children's Social Care Innovation Unit for overall funding of £4 million. This programme is led by Morning Lane Associates (MLA) and involves 4 other Local Authorities; Hull, Buckinghamshire, Harrow and Southwark.

The work will build on the Reclaiming Social Work model (RSW) already adopted in Derbyshire and aims to make fundamental and wholesale changes to practice in 3 areas: reducing bureaucracy; developing Consultant Social Workers and establishing Edge of Care teams. This report addresses Edge of Care provision.

Analysis of data across the East Midlands shows that whilst Derbyshire ranks amongst the lowest in terms of children in care per population, we are the second highest in relation to young people who come into care aged 16 and over. This emphasises the need to review interventions for young people on the edge of care, especially aged 13 to 17, and to strengthen Derbyshire's response for families.

The intention is to create two specialist Preventing Family Breakdown teams in Derbyshire that focus on preventing family breakdown and keeping adolescents out of care. The staffing of these teams is yet to be determined and will be the subject of a further report.

Each family being supported will be encouraged to adopt goals that the service will help them to achieve. Overall service objectives will include:

- 50% of young people on the Edge of Care not becoming long-term looked after, thus out of a projected 40 families worked with, 20 do not become looked after;
- Longer lasting improvements in families resulting in fewer re-referrals;
- Overall reduction of children in care.

Current research (Research in Practice – Building a business case for investment in edge of care services – June 2014) shows that of those who returned home from care, two thirds returned to care at least once and a third returned to care at least twice. The planned service will enable cost savings to be achieved by not only reducing admissions, but also by achieving a return home that can be sustained.

### 3. **Human Resources Considerations**

To ensure capacity to implement the proposed programme, agreement is sought for a part-time (18.5 hours per week) 12 month Commissioning Manager post at Grade 13. There are already post-holders with this job role which has been through Single Status.

A further report will be submitted regarding other posts.

### 4. **Financial Considerations**

The anticipated cost of the part-time Commissioning Manager is £25,568 p.a. including on-costs for the full year and the costs can be funded from the prior year's CAYA underspend earmarked reserve.

This is an appropriate use of these funds since the cost of the post for a 12 month period is small when set against the potential costs that could be avoided in the future if up to 20 placements per year are avoided.

Detailed projections have yet to be made, but based on current placement costs (Appendix 1), and care needs of teenagers, enabling a sustained return home or preventing admission for just 10 young people who would have been in residential care, and 10 who would have been in contract care would save approximately £1,570,000 per annum.

It is possible that funding may be available from the DfE to support this project in which case, this post would be funded from that source rather than Council funds.

Net savings from the development of an Edge of Care service would be used to help achieve CAYA's budget reductions.

5. **Legal Considerations**

Services to prevent children coming into care, or to enable a sustained return home are provided under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

6. **Equality and Diversity Considerations**

Children in care and care leavers often have poorer outcomes than the general population, and so maintaining young people safely within their own families is likely to lead to improved outcomes.

7. **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

8. **Key Decision?**

No

9. **Call-in**

Is it required that the call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed in the report? No

10. **Appendix 1 – Placement costs**

11. **Background Paper**

Scaling and Deepening the Reclaiming Social work model – Proposal to the Innovation Programme. Papers held by Officers

12. **Acting Strategic Director's Recommendation**

That agreement is given for a fixed-term 12 month Commissioning Manager post (18.5 hours per week) to enable capacity for development work.

**Ian Johnson**

**Acting Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**

## **Appendix 1**

### **PLACEMENT COSTS**

	<b>£</b>
Average IFA placement per annum	41,000
Average internal fostering placement per annum (not incl. overheads)	13,000
Average contract care placement per annum (not incl. overheads)	37,000
Average DCC residential placement per annum	120,000