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**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**  
**3 February 2015**  
**Report of the Acting Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**  
**STAYING PUT GRANT**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To note ring-fenced government funding to support post -18 year-old young people staying with their foster carers; to approve related work and to agree the creation of an earmarked reserve.

**2. Information and Analysis**

Derbyshire has been allocated £70,016 for 2014/15, with further allocations for the next two years to be announced in February 2015. The aim of the funding is to support young people staying with their foster carers post-18.

Derbyshire already performs strongly on this and has been enabling Staying Put care for some years. This resonates with feedback from care leavers who value the opportunity to stay in the foster family home as they move into adulthood.

The proposal is to use the bulk of the grant to support service development regarding post-18 arrangements for Care Leavers, with any uncommitted budget used, within the terms of the ring-fence, to offset expenditure already made.

Some informal consultation to inform service development has already been undertaken with Staying Put Carers and young people, but a fuller review has been deferred until the conclusion of the re-commissioning of the Leaving Care Service contract as the provider oversees the Staying Put service. This contract is now subject to a Cabinet report – 10 February 2015.

The review of Staying Put care will need to incorporate the views of care leavers and the Care Leaver Charter and also link with other accommodation options.

Information relating to care leavers who are living in suitable accommodation is submitted to the Department for Education. Whilst the percentage of Derbyshire care leavers who were living in suitable accommodation has seen a small decrease from 94.8% for 2012/13 to 90.1% at the end of March 2014, Derbyshire's outcome at the end of March 2014 was still higher than the overall England outcome and the statistical neighbour average for 2012/13.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

Details of past and current allowances paid to Staying Put Carers have been as follows:

2012-13	£165,298 – comprising payments in respect of 31 individuals at an average annual payment rate of £9,900 each
2013-14	£217,142 – comprising payments in respect of 28 individuals at an average annual payment rate of £9,380 each
2014-15 (to date)	£150,265 tbc – comprising payments in respect of 28 individuals at an average annual payment rate of £8,965 each

Given the timescales associated with the awarding of the new contract for the commissioned Leaving Care Support Service, it is recommended that the grant is carried over to enable development work to be progressed.

Agreement is sought to create an earmarked reserve to allow Derbyshire funding from the Department of Education for '14/'15 to be spent in '15/'16.

### **4. Legal Considerations**

This service is provided under Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 and Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010, in addition to The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers.

**5. Equality and Diversity Considerations**

Care leavers are a vulnerable group. Enabling them to stay with their foster families after 18 supports them to achieve positive outcomes and to have a successful transition into adulthood.

**6. Other Considerations**

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

**7. Key Decision?**

No

**8. Call-in**

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

**9. Background Papers**

Notification of grant letter

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

That ring-fenced government funding is noted; that related work be approved and that the creation of an earmarked reserve is agreed.

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