

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

CABINET

17 February 2009

Date of meeting:

Report of:

Children's Services - Fostering

Title:

Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement to increase fostering allowances.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To increase Fostering Allowances to the Fostering Network recommended rate.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 N/A

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 These are outlined in appendix 3

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Assists in meeting the requirements outlined in Care Matters and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 to place looked after children in their home authority.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 Increasing the basic fostering rate will bring the allowances paid to foster carers in Cheshire East to the same level as most neighbouring authorities, reducing the risk of Cheshire East residents seeking approval as foster carers by other authorities. Improving the number of foster care households reduces the need to place children in higher cost agency placements and assists in meeting the requirements of Care Matters.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 These are outlined in the main report and appendices.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 To support the recruitment and retention of foster carers to improve placement choice for looked after children.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

*Documents are available for inspection at:
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach CW11 1HZ*