

Assistant Executive Member update for the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel, January 2016.

Social Impact Bonds

- We have submitted our bid to the Big Lottery for up to £280000.00 which would be used towards the outcomes payments and this will go before their board on the 25th January. In the meantime, we have begun planning for the procurement exercise for the SIB.

Foster care recruitment

- After the review of our current foster carers and the subsequent reduction in numbers, it is even more imperative that we ensure that the correct support and resources are in place.
- Recommendations to put recruitment on a more structured footing are still being put together by Brian Relph.
- Current work by the Recruitment Steering Group includes;
 - Support from the communications team to promote the service via the radio, North Somerset Life and social media.
 - Trying different approaches e.g. why foster carers are needed as well as showing the different faces of fostering.
 - Reviews of data and prospective carer questionnaires to help refine our targeted recruitment work.
 - Raising the profile of fostering, North Somerset Chairman, Cllr Cave is kindly attending an event welcoming some of our new foster carers and will be attending the Children Looked After Awards.

Cost and volume analysis

- Following the work undertaken by Louise Malik and Eifion Price, the placements budget has been increased by £750,000 along with a plan of actions to reduce the spend over a five year period. Whilst it is understood that this will not bring the spend in line with the revised budget for this financial year, the mid-year monitor shows that whilst the costs are higher than the budget, they are less than projected. This will be monitored quarterly, along with the progress of each of the actions put in place. The next quarter's figures will be available at the beginning of February.

High Cost placements

- We are looking at the possibility of providing the care needed in different ways. This work is taking longer than expected, I will be update you further as soon as I am able.

Sharing of Services

- Initial discussions have taken place with Banes and a further meeting will take place shortly to discuss areas that could be provided jointly.

Resource Service.

- The Resource Service has relocated to the Town Hall. Overall, both our Staff and Young People seem happy with the move.

I am unable to attend the January CYPS meeting so please do not hesitate to contact me outside of the meeting, with any questions you may have.

I would also appreciate your suggestions regarding areas in which we could explore shared working with Banes.

Best regards,

Cllr Lisa Pilgrim