

EE64. Foster Carer Recruitment

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services outlining proposals to support a significant increase in the number of local foster carers, in line with the Children's Service's Closer to Home Strategy.

Information was provided on the need to recruit additional foster carers to meet the need for placements for Falkirk children who require alternative family care, and which should be provided, as close to home as possible.

At present, the number of local children requiring foster placements outweighs the placements available from Council foster carers. This results in the Council purchasing placements from external agencies, the costs of which, are significantly more than the internal provision, and are often outwith the Council area.

To meet demand for placements and the goals of the Closer to Home Strategy, work on a dedicated and competitive recruitment focus and marketing strategy is currently being developed.

Details of the Council's existing foster carer Payment for Skills Scheme and proposals for an increase in the payments, was set out in the report.

Decision

The Education Executive approved the proposed changes to the existing Falkirk Council foster carer Payment for Skills scheme and staffing structure as detailed at paragraphs 4.6 and 6.1 to attract local people to foster for the Council.