

## **ECYE28. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children - National Transfer Scheme**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer which outlined the circumstances in relation to changes in support arrangements for support to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) across the UK. The report outlined recent changes to the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and its implications for Scottish Local Authorities. The NTS voluntary rota scheme was agreed by COSLA leaders in September and the scheme had started in October 2021.

The significant difference to the updated NTS was the introduction of a voluntary rota scheme. The rota outlined the numbers of young people to be transferred to all nations and local authority areas. A formula had been developed to determine the numbers of young people to be supported by each local authority area. For Falkirk Council, the quota would currently be 22 based on a 0-18 population of 31, 291 according to the latest NRS population estimates.

The aim and ambition of the Children's Services Closer To Home Strategy was to reduce the numbers of children in care settings and to improve outcomes. The young people being supported by Falkirk Council under the NTS must be considered looked after. Placement availability was limited and young people would require to be provided with suitable support for a looked after child. The Service would develop its carer recruitment campaigns with local supported carer placement options for UASC aged 16 and over to meet future demand and requirements under the NTS going forward.

### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-**

- (1) agreed that Falkirk Council joins the National Transfer Scheme;**
- (2) noted the implications for Falkirk and the demand on resources, and**
- (3) acknowledged the benefits for Falkirk's communities from the investment and contribution of the young people.**