

ECYE29. Residential Child Care Provision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the current Children's Residential Service provision in Falkirk and sought approval for proposed budget realignment and noted proposed registration variation of Wallace Crescent Children's house.

The Council operated two 5 bedded children's residential houses. Tremanna, situated in Slamannan; and Wallace Crescent, situated in the Braes. Since opening, each house had had a shortfall of 3 FTE staff to cover annual leave and to allow managers to work detached from the rota. The Care Inspectorate had made recommendations that managers should be freed from being part of the rota to enable them to fully undertake their management tasks.

The use of overtime and sessional employees to ensure required care and support within the residential houses had existed as an overspend, without an identified budget, for many years. The creation of a budget to be offset against annual spending on sessional staff was proposed to enable the appointment of 6 FTE staff.

The Independent Care Review, which began in February 2017, listened to the experiences of over 5,500 people, including Falkirk's care experienced young people and workforce. The work of the review resulted in "The Promise", setting out a view of what the new approach to care for Scotland's children should be. The Promise strongly emphasised the importance of love and lifelong relationships between children and carers and the need to reduce the number of placement moves for young people.

It was proposed to change the model of care from short to long term at Wallace Crescent, and to invest in sufficient permanent staff for both houses, to support these important elements of "The Promise".

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) agreed to realign overtime and sessional staff costs to establish an annual budget of £239,400 which supported the creation of 6 FTE residential posts, and**
- (2) noted the proposed variation of Care Inspectorate registration of Wallace Crescent Children's House to support local long-term care provision for young people.**