

EXTRACT

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REFERRALS FROM HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE – 10
NOVEMBER 2009**
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 17 NOVEMBER 2009
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Reports were submitted to the Housing and Social Care Committee at its meeting on 10 November 2009. The purpose of this Report is to refer recommendations made by the Housing and Social Care Committee to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

3. KINSHIP CARE

- 3.1 Committee considered the Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services providing details on changes in legislation in relation to placements of children with kinship carers, and how the Council responds to the changes.
- 3.2 Committee was invited to:-
- (1) endorse the proposals outlined in Paragraphs 6.6 and 6.7 of the Report to provide financial support to kinship carers of looked after children and that it be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval;
 - (2) approve the proposal for assessment support and training of kinship carers of looked after children and the re-designation of a social worker post to facilitate this;
 - (3) request the Acting Director of Social Work Services to identify, within Council resources, a clerical assistant post which can be deployed to facilitate the administration of these arrangements, and
 - (4) request the Acting Director of Social Work Services revise the interim policy on Kinship Care to reflect decisions taken by Members and the content of Government guidance and to present the policy to the Policy and Resources Committee at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.3 Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained within the Report.
- 3.4 By way of an amendment Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor McNally moved that recommendation 1 above, be substituted with the following:-
- “endorse paragraph 6.7 of the report and agree that the rate of Kinship Care allowance is set at £60, and that it is increased in the incremental levels until there is parity with Foster Care allowance demonstrating the Council’s commitment and ongoing support of cared for children and that it be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.”

3.5 On a division, 6 Members voted for the Motion and 5 for the Amendment.

3.6 Accordingly, Committee agreed to:-

- (1) endorse the proposals outlined in Paragraphs 6.6 and 6.7 of the Report to provide financial support to kinship carers of looked after children and that it be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval;
- (2) adopt the proposal for assessment support and training of kinship carers of looked after children and the re-designation of a social worker post to facilitate this;
- (3) request the Acting Director of Social Work Services to identify, within Council resources, a clerical assistant post which can be deployed to facilitate the administration of these arrangements, and
- (4) request the Acting Director of Social Work Services revise the interim policy on Kinship Care to reflect decisions taken by Members and the content of Government guidance and to present the policy to the Policy and Resources Committee at the earliest opportunity.

3.7 In accordance with paragraph 3.6(1) above, Policy and Resources Committee is invited to approve the proposals outlined in Paragraphs 6.6 and 6.7 of the Report to provide financial support to kinship carers of looked after children.

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Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services

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Acting Director of Social Work Services

Date: 10 November 2009

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
NIL