

**OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM**

**This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.**

**Decision Reference No: 23241048**

**BOX 1**

**DIRECTORATE: CYPF**

**DATE: 23/11/2023**

**Contact Name: Begona Hernandez**

**Tel. No.:**

**Subject Matter: Price increase for Children’s Regulated legacy and spot purchase placements**

**BOX 2**

**DECISION TAKEN**

To agree price increases requested by providers for legacy or off framework placements.

**BOX 3**

**REASON FOR THE DECISION**

Following a price review the below provider has requested a price increase (uplift) for current placements which are not agreed via frameworks

The current spot purchase contract in place for these placements permit inflationary increases subject to a consideration of the actual costs incurred by the Provider and the need for value for money justification.

The provider has demonstrated to the Council justification for the requested increases citing various reasons which generally relate to unavoidable cost pressures of inflation, National Living Wage increase, National Insurance increase, pension costs and cost of living expenses etc. These increases will ensure that the provider can continue to deliver good quality provision.

Provider	Request	Additional Information
<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Increase from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023</p>	<p>The provider requested an increase for 8 young people which are currently placed within long term foster placements via this provider.</p> <p>The provider has stated the current fees for these placements are below the market rate at this time. Therefore, the provider is requesting an increase in fees to ensure they can maintain support for foster carers as well as including carer fees, child allowances, training and broader capacity throughout the provision.</p> <p>The provider has stated they feel they are being penalised for providing stable placements for these young people.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>The increases being requested are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• [REDACTED]</li><li>■ [REDACTED]</li><li>■ [REDACTED]</li></ul> <p>This request was submitted for April 2023 however due to unforeseen circumstances there have been a delay in rectifying this request.</p>

<p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Increase from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023</p>	<p>The provider has requested a price increase for 1 placement which has commenced to this provider joining the white rose framework. This request is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> </ul> <p>This request was submitted for April 2023 however due to unforeseen circumstances there have been a delay in rectifying this request.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
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**Finance**

Provision	Reference	Current weekly fee	Increase request	New weekly fee
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**BOX 4**

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

**Do Nothing equates to all companies**

If unable to agree the price increases, then placement stability may become an issue, notice could be served resulting in us having to have additional placements that will be considerably higher in cost.

There is a risk that notice is served if the provider is unable to cover their costs and not able to deliver the provision. A new placement would need to be identified and sourced for the young people who are currently in stable homes where outcomes are being delivered. This would also bring on extra cost as new current placements that meet the same criteria of these are substantially higher due to the current market.

**BOX 5****LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

1. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do.
2. The Council as a local authority has a duty to make arrangements for care leavers and 16 and 17 year olds who may become homeless.
3. The report author has confirmed in the body of the report that the contract for these placements permits increases subject to a consideration of the actual costs incurred by the Provider and the need for value for money justification.
4. Legal Services to assist with documenting revised rates between the contracting parties.

**Name: Phil Crawley Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 16 January 2024**

Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)

**BOX 6****FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This ODR covers 9 placements 2 of which have ended. The annual cost of agreeing the Independent Fostering Agency fee uplift for the full financial year is [REDACTED]. The fee uplift will be funded from the budget for Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) External Placements, which for financial year 2023/24 received [REDACTED].

**Name: D Kelly-Robinson Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 25/01/2024**

Signature of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

**BOX 7****OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS**

**Name: Lee Golze Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 05/01/2024**

Signature of Assistant Director (or representative)

**ANY IMPLICATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD GENERALLY BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 5 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THESE CAN BE GIVEN THE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION.**

**BOX 8**

**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:** (To be completed by the author).

There are no significant equality implications associated with this report. Within its program of work overview and scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

**BOX 9**

**RISK IMPLICATIONS:** (To be completed by the author)

There is a financial risk to the council of increasing the costs of already high placements but a considerably higher risk to the young people who are settled in placement and achieving good outcomes, and the risk of a higher cost if an alternative placement was sourced in the current environment.

There is a risk of places been withdrawn if providers cannot cover their costs as they may not be able to deliver provision to meet needs.

**BOX 10**

**CONSULTATION**

N/A

**BOX 11**

**INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

It is in the public's interest to be aware of this decision record under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, The decision will be published with the following redactions:

Box 3 initial request information to be excluded as contains commercially sensitive information under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Box 3 finance table to be redacted as this contains commercially sensitive information under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Signatures will also be redacted, as this is personal information.

**Name: Begona Hernandez Signature** [REDACTED] **Date: 23/11/2023**

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

**BOX 12  
BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR NO

(If YES please list and submit these with this form)

NO

**BOX 13  
AUTHORISATION**

**Name:** Lee Golze **Signature:**  **Date:** 05/01/2024

Assistant Director of Partnerships, Early Intervention & Localities

**Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer**

**YES/NO**

**If yes please authorise below:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Executive/Director/Assistant Director of \_\_\_\_\_

**Consultation with Relevant Member(s)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designation** \_\_\_\_\_

**(e.g. Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair/Vice-Chair)**

**Declaration of Interest YES/NO**

**If YES please give details below:**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.**

Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at [Ladem@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Ladem@doncaster.gov.uk) who will arrange publication.

It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.