

# **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**27 SEPTEMBER 2023**

## **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE PLACEMENTS**

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### **Summary**

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families and the Director of Children's Services have been invited to the meeting to discuss the cost pressures associated with Children's Social Care Placements.

### **Background**

2. At the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) on 26 July, there was a discussion with the Leader of the Council about the role of Scrutiny in the 2024/25 budget setting process, following which it was agreed that the relevant Scrutiny Panels would this year scrutinise the cost pressures, trends, and national best practice and offer some possible solutions around particular issues, one of which is Children's Social Care Placements.

### **Childrens Social Care Placements**

3. Children's Social Care placements is one of the highest areas of spend within Worcestershire Children First (WCF) accounting for 44% of the contract value in 2022/23.
4. The Panel has been provided with the context around the placements at Appendix 1 (attached) and the financial impact of the placements at Appendix 2 (attached).

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

5. The Panel is asked to:
  - consider and comment on the information provided
  - determine what further information or scrutiny is required; and
  - agree any comments to highlight to the Leader and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families as part of the Budget Scrutiny process.

### **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 - WCF - Safeguarding and Placements report (to follow)  
Appendix 2 - Placements Financial information (to follow)

## **Contact Points**

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## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda and Minutes for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, 26th July, 2023.](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)