

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E2071
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Care Matters implementation plan year 3

Decision maker/s	Cllr Chris Watt, Cabinet Member for Children
The Issue	Third year of local plans to implement the Care Matters agenda to improve outcomes for children and young people in and moving on from care and those on the edge of care.
Decision Date	8 th Nov 2010
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note progress to date on implementing the Care Matters agenda in Bath and North East Somerset 2. The Care Matters implementation plan year 3 (attached at appendix 1) 3. To instruct the Care and Young People Service Manager to report on progress on the implementation plan, performance and proposals for future corporate parenting strategy as set out in the report.
Rationale for decision	The Council has statutory duties to children and young people in care including those moving on from care and on the edge of care. The Care Matters implementation plan responds to the Government's Care Matters agenda and is intended to improve outcomes for this most vulnerable group of children.
Financial and budget implications	The implementation plan set out in Appendix 1 contains planned expenditure of £163,000 per annum from April 2010. This is within this year's budget allocation for Care Matters implementation. The local budget for Care Matters implementation is made up of the Care Matters Grant, which is part of the Area Based Grant from central government, and a local budget allocation. The Care Matters Grant element of the budget has been reduced by £23,000 as a consequence of the in-year reduction in Area Based Grant for 2010/11 and thereafter. The implementation plan gives detail of the areas of work impacted by this action. We await details of what if any further cuts may be made to the Area Based Grant for future years and will make further plans accordingly.
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Young People; Human Rights
Consultation undertaken	Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	A review of progress for children and young people in care in Bath and North East Somerset was taken to Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel in November 2009. This review outlined next steps which form the basis of this plan for year three of Care

	Matters.
Other options considered	The Government's Care Matters agenda applies to all Local Authorities with responsibility for children and young people in care. It is an extensive agenda and the local implementation plan sets out actions which can or must be taken forward now. To do less at this stage would risk failing in our statutory duties and/or miss opportunities to improve outcomes for children in care.

Signatures of Decision Makers	
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Date of Signature	
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Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision