

Placement Orders and Legal Costs - Agreed Action Plan

<i>Recommendation</i>		<i>Priority</i>	<i>Agreed Action</i>	<i>Responsible officer</i>	<i>Target Date</i>
R1	The potential for contributing to limiting the need for care proceedings should be reviewed including the effectiveness of the Families in Need service in supporting a reduction of the number of children in care.	1	Agreed. Need to develop an evidence based model based on what has worked in other authorities.	Deputy Director of People (Children)	31 st January 2017.
R2	The establishment of a Blackpool 'PAUSE' project aimed at stopping repeat pregnancies where the children are taken into care should be considered and evaluated, including the investigation of funding sources.	2	Agreed. Scoping and options appraisal has been done, there is a need to clarify the funding source.	Head of Business Support and Resources / Delivery Unit	28 th February 2017.
R3	The recording of a sub analysis of complex reasons for the use of Counsel should be investigated to help to identify and address the reasons for any increases.	3	Agreed.	Assistant Head of Legal Services (Child Litigation) / Service Accountant	31 st January 2017.
R4	The costs and quality of using external Counsel for child litigation should be formally benchmarked and any alternative charging arrangements considered to identify if value for money is currently being received.	2	Agreed.	Assistant Head of Legal Services (Child Litigation).	31 st March 2017.

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R5	Children's Services legal staffing should be reviewed to identify whether additional in-house legal work may be undertaken to an appropriate quality threshold and cost effectively.	2	Agreed.	Assistant Head of Legal Services (Child Litigation).	31st March 2017.
R6	The arrangements for the provisions for Children's Services claims should be kept under review so that the level of provision remains appropriate, in light of increasing care claims nationally, and the Council's general fund is not subsidising this area in the longer term.	2	Agreed.	Director of Children's Services.	31st March 2017.