

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education held on Thursday, 7 December 2023 at 3.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Suzy Horton (in the Chair)

Councillors Chris Dike

22. Apologies

None.

23. Declarations of Members' Interests

None.

24. Fostering Allowance - One-off payment to eligible carers

Mark Jowett, Head of Looked After Children, introduced the report and informed members that although there is a strong fostering community in Portsmouth, nationally foster carer shortages are deepening. A review of remuneration levels to reflect the high quality care foster carers offer is underway and expected to be implemented from 7 April 2024. This is later than originally expected due to the need for the policy to be consulted on and this one-off payment is to be paid to eligible foster carers whilst the new rates are being finalised. The one-off payments are expected to be made from 18 December 2023.

Members' questions

None.

Members' comments

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, Councillor Suzy Horton thanked officers for the report and highlighted the importance of undertaking a full evaluation as part of the new remuneration review. She commented that she wanted to acknowledge how valued foster carers are across the city.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet Member approved the one off payment to eligible carers as set out in the report.

The meeting concluded at 3.05 pm.

Councillor Suzy Horton
Chair