

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

Breakout Room – Children's Trust Budget

Councillors:

Cllr Mohammed Aziz

Cllr Maggie Clubley

Cllr Koulla Jolley

Cllr Walter Tarasiewicz

Officers:

Colin Foster

Andrew Tagg

Chris Kiernan

Richard Woods

Councillor Maggie Clubley was nominated Lead Councillor to report back to the Task and Finish Group.

When NCT was formed there was concern over the engagement of scrutiny and role of Members in the process - many of the NCT leaders come from a local govt background so fully understand the importance of scrutiny.

Most important thing from a budget perspective is to ensure that the processes and the culture is right, and with that comes budgetary success and financial propriety. Robust and effective resource management is key in the operation of NCT, working alongside the Councils.

A breakdown of services and budget percentages was provided on the PowerPoint presentation, along with an explanation of the nature of the services provided in each area. There are currently 1177 children in care across Northamptonshire as at today. There are currently 196 CIC placements out of county and roughly a total of 7.5k children "in the system" at in various stages in Northamptonshire at this time.

Ensuring that all CIC placements are appropriate for the individual child is absolutely key for the child and their long-term wellbeing.

A lot of the current budget structure is based on what was previously in place at NCC, and this is being worked through to determine what works, and what does not.

The current ambitions of the NCT were set out in the presentation. It is hoped to make some on the current budget, if this is achievable. Services were previously rated

inadequate as the needs assessment for children was not fit for purpose, this has led to inequality of cost of individual placements.