Herefordshire Council

Supplement to the agenda

Audit and Governance Committee

Monday 31 July 2023, 10.00 am

Conference Room 1, Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE

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Audit and Governance Committee, 31 July 2023

Agenda item 5 – Questions from members of the public

Public Question

From: Ms Reid, Hereford

The rate of children in care in Herefordshire is about twice its Statistical Neighbours' average (LAIT).

Per FOI2022/01890 the average <u>weekly</u> costs for <u>each child</u> in care were:

- Fostering: £315

- Fostering agencies: £890

- Children's homes: £5,066

The Corporate Risk Register includes an "Extreme" (red) risk of "Sufficiency Strategy" (CRR.60). If the number of children in care is reduced, sufficiency is mitigated.

My supplementary question (23/6/2023, A&G) mentioned actions to reduce the number of children in care:

- Reunification of children with families

- Early Help

- FGCs

The response included:

"we will take your comments into account"

The Corporate Risk Register report (31/7/23, A&G) recommends that:

"The committee determine any recommendations it wishes to ensure effective risk management."

Will the committee consider on 31 July 2023 updating "Further actions required" of CRR.60 to include actions to reduce the number of children in care?

Response to Public Question

As you have recorded the committee will take your comments into account. The process is that the risk will be reviewed and considered by the directorate, and details of mitigating actions will be added as appropriate. If the risk score is 16 or greater, the update will appear on the updated Corporate Risk Register when next presented to the Committee. The Committee is very much aware of the risks to the Council in this area, as is the whole of the Council, the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee. We are all seeking to do the best for children on the County.