

## **Foster Care Investment – Fees to foster carers approved etc.**

**4** Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care & Caring and Older People, presented a report regarding the targeted investment to strengthen Glasgow's fostering capacity, advising

- (1) that the Family Support Strategy and the continued focus on prevention and early intervention, supporting families to stay together wherever safe and possible had seen a steady reduction in the number of children and young people requiring foster care over the last 8 years, however evidence had shown that this reduction was plateauing as increasing numbers of families were struggling to cope;
- (2) that Glasgow City HSCP was experiencing a sustained shortfall in foster carers, with demand consistently exceeding supply over recent years and albeit this was reflecting national trend, it was particularly acute locally where the number of fostering households had declined steadily and was projected to continue to reduce;
- (3) that the current reduction in capacity had resulted in increasing difficulty securing appropriate foster placements and therefore the HSCP was increasingly reliant on Independent Fostering Agencies, purchased residential care and out-of-area placements which was financially unsustainable; and
- (4) of proposals approved by the Glasgow City Integrated Joint Board (GCIJB) on 24th June 2026 that detailed
  - (a) a targeted intervention designed to stabilise and strengthen Glasgow's fostering capacity by increasing foster fees which were based on clear evidence that the ability to recruit and retain foster carers was strongly influenced by the overall financial and support package offered; and
  - (b) the implementation of a revised financial and retention package comprising of:-
    - (i) an increase in weekly fostering fees of £100;
    - (ii) an annual review of fees linked to the Scottish Living Wage;
    - (iii) a £2,000 referral incentive for existing carers, capped at a total spend of £30,000 per year (recruitment of 15 foster carers); and
    - (iv) a retention payment equivalent to one additional week's fee following annual review.

After consideration, the committee

- (A) noted the funding approved by Glasgow City Integration Joint Board on 24th June 2026 for an increase in fees to foster carers and the approach to recruitment and retention of foster carers; and
- (B) approved the implementation of the new fees by this Council with effect from 1st October 2026.