

Children and Families Directorate

2026/27 Budget Saving Proposals

Budget saving proposal - Ref No CF2601

Directorate

Children and Families

Reference number

CF2601

Service area

Children and Families

Portfolio holder(s)

Cllr Viv Kendrick

Proposal title

Change Grow Live Contract funding source

Forecast savings

Savings	2026/27 (£000)	2027/28 (£000)	2028/29 (£000)	2029/30 (£000)	2030/31 (£000)
Implementation Costs					
Incremental Savings (savings each year)	(50)				
Cumulative Savings	(50)	(50)			
Incremental FTE reduction (if applicable)					
Cumulative FTE reduction (if applicable)					

Description of proposal

£50k reallocation of children's base budget funding to public health grant funding. No change to contract.

Impacts

Is it likely that the proposal could have implications for any of the following?

Impact area	Impact Yes/No
Service users / Customers	No
Council staff	No
Partners	No
Other Council Services	No
Corporate (enabling) support	No

VCSE	No
Council Plan deliverables	No
Legal / regulatory requirements	No
Capital programme	No
Work location / building	No
Contracts / procurement	No
Information technology (IT)	No
Political priorities	No
Another directorate	No
Other (specify)	No

Potential impacts

N/A

Proposed mitigating actions

N/A

Requirements

Question	Answer (Yes/No)
Does this proposal require an Integrated Impact Assessment?	No
Will this proposal require a Specific Service Consultation?	No

Accountability

Accountable	Name
Accountable Head of Service	Stewart Horn
Accountable Service Director	Jo-Anne Sanders

Budget saving proposal - Ref No CF2602

Directorate

Children and Families

Reference number

CF2602

Service area

Directorate wide

Portfolio holder(s)

Cllr Viv Kendrick

Proposal title

Pressure Reductions - Children with a Disability Provision

Forecast savings

Savings	2026/27 (£000)	2027/28 (£000)	2028/29 (£000)	2029/30 (£000)	2030/31 (£000)
Implementation Costs	52k				
Incremental Savings (savings each year)	(480) (pressure reduction)				
Cumulative Savings	(480)	(480)	(480)		
Incremental FTE reduction (if applicable)	N/A				
Cumulative FTE reduction (if applicable)	N/A				

Description of proposal

There are opportunities to review our approach for the packages of care for children with a disability to ensure we are securing opportunities that support families, are value for money, and are of a high quality.

A clear plan has now been developed regarding short breaks which includes the need for some external support. We also need to develop a policy and provider framework so that there are clear commissioning and procurement arrangements for short breaks. The action plan and approach aims to increase the range and quality of provision for children with additional needs whilst reducing costs.

Impacts

Is it likely that the proposal could have implications for any of the following?

Impact area	Impact Yes/No
Service users / Customers	Yes
Council staff	Yes
Partners	Yes
Other Council Services	Yes
Corporate (enabling) support	Yes
VCSE	Yes
Council Plan deliverables	N/A
Legal / regulatory requirements	Yes
Capital programme	Not known
Work location / building	Not known
Contracts / procurement	Yes
Information technology (IT)	N/A
Political priorities	Yes
Another directorate	Yes
Other (specify)	

Potential impacts

Changing the approach to supporting disabled children is necessary but will impact on the way that we deliver services to these families. We need to more clearly describe what support packages by specific providers are available. This may mean families do not receive the support that they feel they need, and careful consideration will be needed to consider transitional arrangements.

Proposed mitigating actions

There are opportunities to work in a different way to support children and families and undertaking market development. A diagnostic is required in the first instance, and then opportunities to work with other LAs to understand their approach can help us to consider what will work for Kirklees families.

Requirements

Question	Answer (Yes/No)
Does this proposal require an Integrated Impact Assessment?	Yes
Will this proposal require a Specific Service Consultation?	Yes

Accountability

Accountable	Name
Accountable Head of Service	N/A
Accountable Service Director	Vicky Metheringham and Jo-Anne Sanders

Budget saving proposal - Ref No CF2603

Directorate

Children and Families

Reference number

CF2603

Service area

Children and Families

Portfolio holder(s)

Cllr Viv Kendrick

Proposal title

Re-design of pathways for Looked after Children's Health Assessments

Forecast savings

Savings	2026/27 (£000)	2027/28 (£000)	2028/29 (£000)	2029/30 (£000)	2030/31 (£000)
Implementation Costs					
Incremental Savings (savings each year)	(75)				
Cumulative Savings	(75)	(75)			
Incremental FTE reduction (if applicable)					
Cumulative FTE reduction (if applicable)					

Description of proposal

The re-design of pathways for Looked After Children's Health Assessments, will result in efficiencies. The redesign will reduce overheads by streamlining the pathways for cared for children's health assessments. A redesign and re-specification of contract arrangements will be undertaken by the ICB as part of this process.

Impacts

Is it likely that the proposal could have implications for any of the following?

Impact area	Impact Yes/No
Service users / Customers	No
Council staff	No

Partners	No
Other Council Services	No
Corporate (enabling) support	No
VCSE	No
Council Plan deliverables	No
Legal / regulatory requirements	No
Capital programme	No
Work location / building	No
Contracts / procurement	No
Information technology (IT)	No
Political priorities	No
Another directorate	No
Other (specify)	No

Potential impacts

There will be no impacts of this proposal that directly affect the services provided to our cared for children as the pathway redesign aims to reduce duplication of provision and reduce overheads.

Proposed mitigating actions

N/A

Requirements

Question	Answer (Yes/No)
Does this proposal require an Integrated Impact Assessment?	No
Will this proposal require a Specific Service Consultation?	No

Accountability

Accountable	Name
Accountable Head of Service	Stewart Horn
Accountable Service Director	Jo-Anne Sanders

Budget saving proposal - Ref No CF2604

Directorate

Children and Families

Reference number

CF2604

Service area

Child Protection & Family Support

Portfolio holder(s)

Cllr Viv Kendrick

Proposal title

Reduction in growth in external residential placements

Forecast savings

Savings	2026/27 (£000)	2027/28 (£000)	2028/29 (£000)	2029/30 (£000)	2030/31 (£000)
Implementation Costs					
Incremental Savings (savings each year)	(1,450)	(960)	(735)		
Cumulative Savings	(1,450)	(2,410)	(3,145)		
Incremental FTE reduction (if applicable)	0	0	0		
Cumulative FTE reduction (if applicable)	0	0	0		

Description of proposal

We will reduce the growth assumptions made in the MTFS in relation to the number of children looked after placements that were accounted for. This reduction aligns with our broader sufficiency strategy to ensure children and young people are supported in local, family-based, and regulated settings wherever possible, improving outcomes and reducing high-cost, out-of-area, or unregulated placements.

To achieve the above savings, we will develop the following:

- Develop an edge of care service to focus on reducing the number of children between 11 and 15 entering care by providing intensive support to families
- Implement Emergency Foster Carers to support stability when our children are entering care ensuring a period of support and assessment locally
- Develop Enhanced Foster Carers to support children with the most complex needs avoiding the need for residential provision in these cases.

Impacts

Is it likely that the proposal could have implications for any of the following?

Impact area	Impact Yes/No
Service users / Customers	Yes
Council staff	No
Partners	Yes
Other Council Services	No
Corporate (enabling) support	Yes
VCSE	No
Council Plan deliverables	No
Legal / regulatory requirements	No
Capital programme	No
Work location / building	No
Contracts / procurement	Yes
Information technology (IT)	No
Political priorities	No
Another directorate	No
Other (specify)	

Potential impacts

N/A

Proposed mitigating actions

N/A

Requirements

Question	Answer (Yes/No)
Does this proposal require an Integrated Impact Assessment?	No
Will this proposal require a Specific Service Consultation?	No

Accountability

Accountable	Name
Accountable Head of Service	Various
Accountable Service Director	Vicky Metheringham

Budget saving proposal - Ref No CF2605

Directorate

Children and Families

Reference number

CF2605

Service area

Learning and Early Support

Portfolio holder(s)

Cllr Viv Kendrick

Proposal title

Review Commissioning Team

Forecast savings

Savings	2026/27 (£000)	2027/28 (£000)	2028/29 (£000)	2029/30 (£000)	2030/31 (£000)
Implementation Costs					
Incremental Savings (savings each year)	(50)	0	0		
Cumulative Savings	(50)	(50)	(50)		
Incremental FTE reduction (if applicable)	0.7	0	0		
Cumulative FTE reduction (if applicable)	0.7	0.7	0.7		

Description of proposal

A vacant post will not be filled in the Commissioning Team, and the priorities and functions will be reviewed.

Impacts

Is it likely that the proposal could have implications for any of the following?

Impact area	Impact Yes/No
Service users / Customers	No
Council staff	No
Partners	Yes
Other Council Services	No
Corporate (enabling) support	No
VCSE	Yes

Council Plan deliverables	No
Legal / regulatory requirements	No
Capital programme	No
Work location / building	No
Contracts / procurement	Yes
Information technology (IT)	No
Political priorities	No
Another directorate	No
Other (specify)	N/A

Potential impacts

- The capacity of the team will be reduced; therefore, consideration will be given to prioritisation of work across the directorate.
- Capacity for engagement and relationships with local voluntary sector organisations may be impacted.

Proposed mitigating actions

In determining the priorities for commissioning activity and contract management, we will look to systemise wherever possible into existing work programmes, for example aligning some activity into the SEND Big Plan, and the development of Best Start Hubs.

Question	Answer (Yes/No)
Does this proposal require an Integrated Impact Assessment?	No
Will this proposal require a Specific Service Consultation?	No

Accountability

Accountable	Name
Accountable Head of Service	Stewart Horn
Accountable Service Director	Jo-Anne Sanders

Budget saving proposal - Ref No CF2606

Directorate

Children and Families

Reference number

CF2606

Service area

Childrens Services – Directorate wide

Portfolio holder(s)

Cllr Viv Kendrick, Cllr Jane Rylah

Proposal title

Review Programme Office Functions

Forecast savings

Savings	2026/27 (£000)	2027/28 (£000)	2028/29 (£000)	2029/30 (£000)	2030/31 (£000)
Implementation Costs					
Incremental Savings (savings each year)	(67)	0	0		
Cumulative Savings	(67)	(67)	(67)		
Incremental FTE reduction (if applicable)	1	0	0		
Cumulative FTE reduction (if applicable)	1	1	1		

Description of proposal

It is proposed to review the Children's Programme office functions, and allocation of resource across the directorate.

Impacts

Is it likely that the proposal could have implications for any of the following?

Impact area	Impact Yes/No
Service users / Customers	No
Council staff	Yes
Partners	No
Other Council Services	Yes
Corporate (enabling) support	Yes
VCSE	No

Council Plan deliverables	Yes
Legal / regulatory requirements	Yes
Capital programme	No
Work location / building	N/A
Contracts / procurement	N/A
Information technology (IT)	N/A
Political priorities	Yes
Another directorate	No
Other (specify)	

Potential impacts

There is a significant amount of activity across the directorate that is supported by this team, as well as from the corporate transformation team. This includes the Children's Social Care reforms, Best Start, the SEND transformation programme (and anticipated SEND reforms), and underpins our regulatory and inspection activity. Reducing the capacity may have an impact on the amount of project work that the team is able to support.

Proposed mitigating actions

We will need to review the programmes, projects and activity across the directorate and prioritise in line with the capacity available. We can explore with the corporate transformation team whether there are opportunities to align areas of activity.

Requirements

Question	Answer (Yes/No)
Does this proposal require an Integrated Impact Assessment?	No
Will this proposal require a Specific Service Consultation?	Yes

Accountability

Accountable	Name
Accountable Head of Service	Various
Accountable Service Director	Jo-Anne Sanders and Vicky Metheringham