

# ITEM 10

**COUNCIL CABINET  
24 NOVEMBER 2009**

Present: Councillor Jones (Chair) Councillors Allen, Care, Carr, Skelton, Naitta and Troup

In attendance Councillors Jennings and Williamson

This record of decisions was published on 26 November 2009. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a key decision is called in.

## 113/09 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

## 119/09 Looked After Children Budget

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Looked After Children Budget. The Corporate Parenting Sub Commission received a statistical report at its meeting on 30 September 2009 which gave details on the numbers of children looked after by the Council. The report showed that the numbers of children under the Council's care had been steadily increasing in recent years from 390 in August 2006 to 424 in September 2009. The Commission was informed that the rate of increase in Derby was not as fast as some other local authorities following issues raised by Baby P case. Statistics also showed that the numbers of children placed with other agency foster carers in the local authority boundary had also increased from 1 child in August 2006 to 10 currently. It was understood that the cost of placing children with independent foster agencies was considerably more than those supported by the authority. The Commission was mindful that if these costs were not recognised and acted upon at an early stage during the budget setting process they could put additional pressures on the children's services budget and affect an important area of the service.

The Sub Commission recommended that the Council Cabinet takes into account the steady increase in the numbers of looked after children by the authority when setting the children services budget for 2010/11.

### **Decision**

To consider this as part of the budget process.