

Title **Feasibility study for a shared residential child care facility**

Service Area **Social Services**

Estimated Savings **£346,000**

Summary

The Council currently places children aged under 11 years of age in 'out of area' residential units at an average cost of £3,500 per week. This project would involve building a residential unit with five beds in Clackmannanshire, which would cost approximately £2,274 per week. This would allow the children to be cared for locally, achieving better outcomes, allowing greater control of quality and reduce the costs to the Council in a number of areas; ie travel costs.

Best practice is recognised to be the provision of residential services in the child's own community; and where they can retain links more easily with family, friends and where possible their own school.

The Council has a proven track record of providing high quality, local residential provision at Woodside Residential Unit for children aged over 11 years of age.

Impact

Continuing to purchase 'out of area' services is not cost effective. Children being placed outwith their community is not in their best interest.

The saving potential is expected to be realised in 2019/20 which is when the new unit could be built.