

Motion: Motion 2: Proposed by Councillor Helen Armitage and seconded by Councillor Sonia Barker. Amended by Councillor Gordon Jones and seconded by Councillor Stephen Burroughes.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to the safeguarding of Children as a key priority and believes that the exceptional rise in the number of young people going in to care represents a major and urgent challenge to the authority.

This Council acknowledges that innovative and flexible measures that provide a range of services to children and families, supporting minors to remain in their family care where it is safe to do so, are key components of an effective care strategy.

Therefore, this Council calls on the administration to: -

Explore the development of a specific “short breaks” programme of respite breaks for families with children on the “edge of care” as part of the current review of the FAST service, and report progress to the regular Corporate Parenting Board meetings and for the Board to consider the developments of a pilot scheme

Continue to work alongside and financially support third-sector organisations, to provide a comprehensive family support system to complement any “short breaks” programme.

Members present agreed unanimously.