

REVIEW OF LEAVING CARE GRANT

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REASON FOR ITEM

The Corporate Parenting Board and the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services have requested that the Committee gives consideration to the value of the grant that is payable to care leavers.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

- § To note the officer update to be provided at the meeting.
- § To ask questions and request further information about the Leaving Care Grant.
- § To give consideration to whether a recommendation to increase the Leaving Care Grant should be made to Cabinet.

INFORMATION

1. The Education and Children's Services Policy Overview Committee (the predecessor of the Children, Young People and Learning POC) undertook a Review of the Leaving Care Grant Procedure and Grant in 2012 / 13. One of the recommendations made by the Review and subsequently approved by Cabinet on 20 December 2012, was that the Care Leaver's Grant be increased from £1,000 to £1,500 (or £1,800 for those in exceptional circumstances).
2. Department for Education guidance now recommends that local authorities pay a minimum Care Leaver Grant of £2,000.
3. The level of Care Leaver Grant in Hillingdon was discussed at the Corporate Parenting Board Meeting in March 2015. The Board and the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services have requested that the level of the grant payable in Hillingdon is considered by the Committee.