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It was reported that the number of new foster carers had been low during the proceeding 18 months. This was a national issue, however there were specific problems for Middlesbrough, including the payment structure and competition from other local authorities and independent agencies. A working party was considering the issues and possible solutions and would report in the near future.

The Deputy Head of Children, Families and Learning was thanked for her contribution and the information provided and the important work done by the Panel was noted.

**RECOMMENDED** as follows:

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the Executive be advised to note the information relating to the Family Placement Panel.