

Presentation: Members Briefing

Increased Residential and Supported Accommodation for Children in Our Care and Care Leavers.

Children's Services
11 March 2024



MIDDLESBROUGH
CHILDREN
MATTER

Middlesbrough
moving forward

Our mission is to show
Middlesbrough children
that they matter.



Welcome and Introductions

Dawn Alaszewski

Director of Children's Care
(Children's Services)

Aims of Today's Presentation

- Show how much our Middlesbrough Children Matter to us and share our plans to bring children back to Middlesbrough where it's appropriate to do so.
- Provide an overview of how Middlesbrough Council intend to increase residential and supported accommodation for Children in Our Care and Care Leavers.
- Explain why this is important for Middlesbrough Council's financial position.

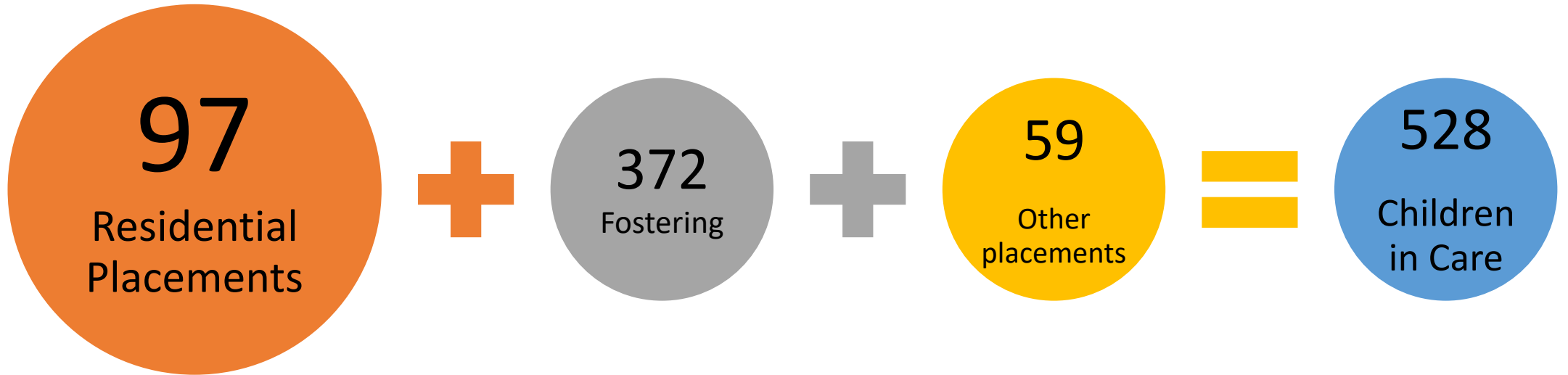


Children in Care and Care Leavers

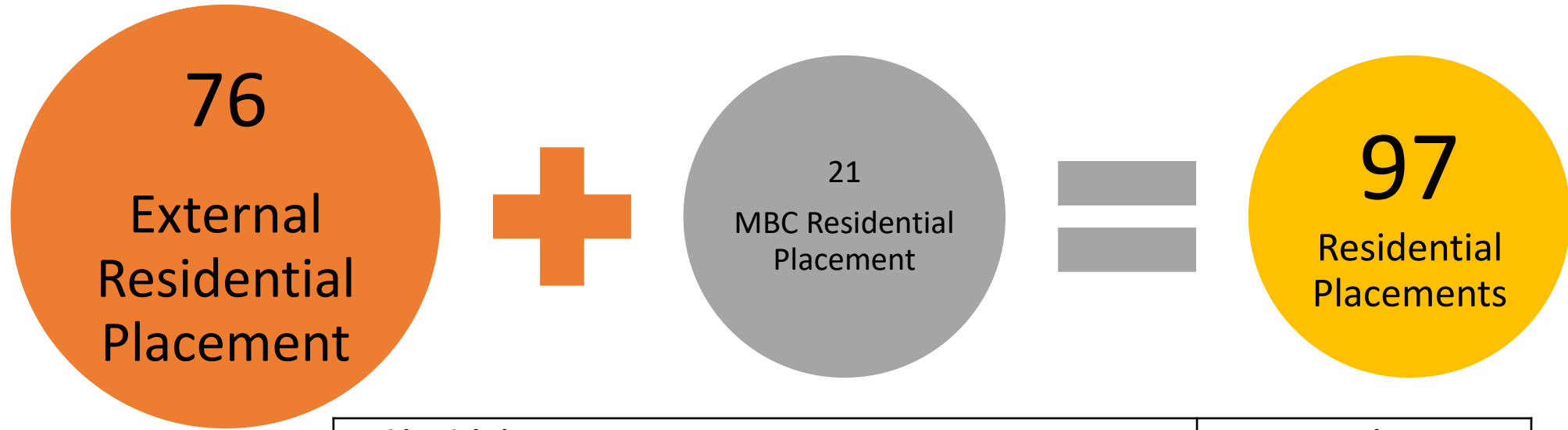
- Children's homes provide support and care for some of Middlesbrough's most vulnerable children and young people.
- Middlesbrough Council want each child in care to be provided with the right placement at the right time, and for residential children's care to be a positive and beneficial choice for the children and young people living in children's homes.

Summary of Middlesbrough Children in Care


In January 2024, Middlesbrough Council had **528** children in care



Summary of Residential Placements

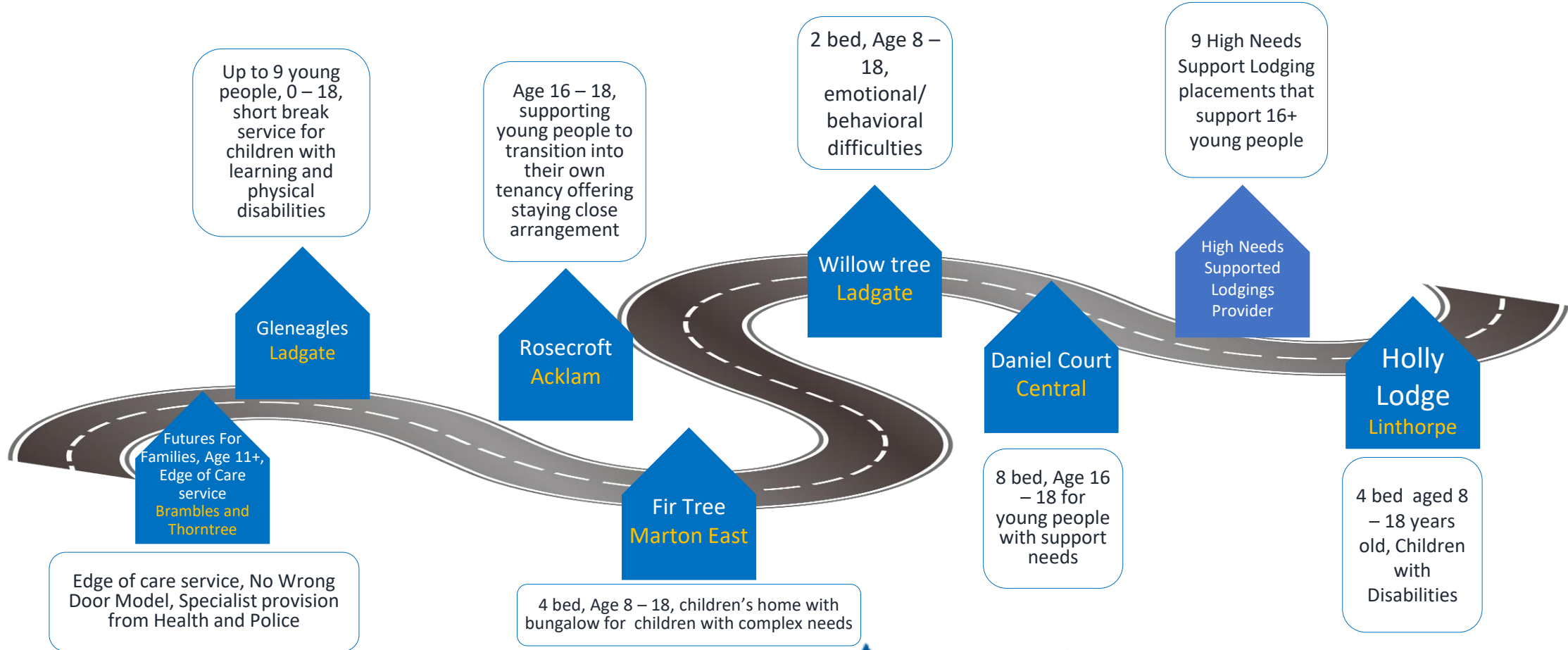


Key

 = High-Cost placements

| Residential Placement Type | Number |
|--|-----------|
| Residential Home (Group Home) - External | 18 |
| Residential Home - External - Block Contract | 11 |
| Residential Home Solo Placement | 6 |
| Residential Home – Specialist Sexually Harmful Behaviour | 1 |
| Residential School | 13 |
| Mother and Baby Assessment Unit | 2 |
| 16+ External - Low Cost (under £1,000 pw) | 10 |
| 16+ External - High Cost (£2,500+) | 14 |
| Unregistered (under 16) | 1 |
| Total | 76 |

The Current Middlesbrough Council Internal Residential and Supported Accommodation Offer



How and When We Will Increase Residential and Supported Accommodation

1.) Increasing our residential offer by **15 beds** (minimum) by:

- Purchase **two properties** and convert into Children's Homes in **2024/25** (6 beds in total)
- Purchase **one property** and convert into a Children's Home in **2025/26** (3 beds in total)
- Purchase **two properties** and convert into Children's Homes in **2026/27** (6 beds in total)

2.) Increasing our Supported Accommodation Offer by:

- Partnering with commissioned providers who would form part of the Children's Care residential and supported accommodation offer and bring additional placements from **2025/26**.

How and When We Will Increase Residential and Supported Accommodation (continued)

3.) Reviewing the purpose of the current in house residential and supported accommodation offer, which includes:

- Identifying opportunities for selling bed space from Gleneagles, and other vacant bed space, to other local authorities where this is surplus to Middlesbrough's requirements from **2024/25**.

What will it ‘Cost’ and What Will it ‘Save’

Cost

The Capital cost to increase placements for Middlesbrough children and young people will be **£4.442 million**. This Capital has already been approved as part of the Capital Programme in 2023/24.

Savings

| Description for savings categories | 24/25 £m | 25/26 £m | 26/27 £m | Total (in line with MTFP reporting) £m | 27/28 £m | Total £m |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| WS1: Children’s Homes | 0.000 | (0.340) | (0.170) | (0.510) | (0.340) | (0.850) |
| WS2: Partnership Commissioning Arrangements | 0.000 | (0.021) | (0.268) | (0.289) | (0.333) | (0.622) |
| WS3: Selling a Specialist Bed Space | 0.000 | (0.089) | (0.177) | (0.266) | (0.177) | (0.443) |
| TOTAL Executive Report Savings as of February 2024 | 0.000 | (0.450) | (0.615) | (1.065) | (0.850) | (1.915) |

What Are The Benefits

Brings Everyone Closer Together

- Family time which is supervised is easier to manage which then prevents young people feeling isolated.
 - There will be a greater oversight to care and safety plan when children can remain in Middlesbrough.
- Children and young people will reside within their communities, which enables family ties to be strong with the potential to return home, as relationships stay stronger.

Costs Less

- The cost of a Middlesbrough Councils in house placement is less than an external provider's cost.
- The cost of a commissioned partnerships cost less than other alternatives.

Next Steps

- Children's Services paper presented to Executive for a decision to progress on 28th February 2024.
- Purchase two properties to be transformed into children's homes during 2024/25 .
- Recruit the residential workforce required to operate our new children's homes.
- Begin commissioning and procurement dialogue with partners.
- Begin arrangements to sell specialist bed space at Gleneagles.