

## REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	Subject: SAFEGUARDERS EXPENSES	
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 5 December 2003	Ref: MH/MT	

**1. Purpose of Report**

The report advises the Committee of current expenditure from the Children's Panel budget provision in respect of Safeguarder Fees.

**2. Background**

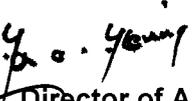
- 2.1. At its meeting on 18 December 2002 the Committee agreed an increase in fees for Safeguarders from £98 to £200 in line with the COSLA recommended fees.
- 2.2. It was noted that, while the increase in fees was significant, expenditure was dependent on the number of appointments which was outwith the control of the Council. Consequently, while it was noted that the position would be monitored to ascertain if expenditure could be contained within existing provision, it was recognised that an increase in the Safeguarders budget might be required.
- 2.3. The budget in respect of Safeguarder Fees for 2003/2004 is £18,000.

**3. Considerations**

- 3.1. In the year to date, the sum of £19,967.49 in fees has been paid out in respect of Safeguarders appointments.
- 3.2. The number of Hearings this year is consistent with previous years and no increase in the number of Hearings is anticipated although, following government guidance, the number of Safeguarders' appointments has increased. This - and the increase in fees - has resulted in increased expenditure in the current year.
- 3.3. Taking account of the number of Safeguarder appointments made and the increase in fees, the anticipated outturn for the 2003/2004 budget is £30,000 and it is to be anticipated that expenditure in future years will be similar. In the current year this expense will be contained within the overall budgetary provision for the Committee Services Division of the Department of Administration. Such expenditure, however, cannot be accommodated in future years.

**4. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee note the position and give consideration to the budget in respect of Safeguarder fees.

  
Director of Administration

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Mark Hamill on extension 2430.