It costs more to place a child in the care of a local authority than it does to send a child to a top boarding school, and there are substantial variations in costs both between and within authorities.

Costs and Consequences of Placing Children in Care draws on original research to investigate the costs of care, provide an insight into how these variations in cost relate to differences in children’s needs and, most importantly, establish whether higher costs reflect better services and better outcomes for children. The book also describes how the research has led to a newly pioneered resource: a fully workable cost calculator model designed for use in local authorities, which is able to calculate the probable cost consequences of different placement choices.

This book offers grounded advice on best practice and future policy, and will be invaluable to both social work managers and policy makers working in children’s services.

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