
**COMMISSIONING OF SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
LEAVING CARE**

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Cyndi Hughes
Children and Young People Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of Commissioning

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval for the procurement of supported accommodation for young people leaving care. The Procurement Plan will be updated to include this Service and Cabinet is asked to approve this inclusion and the assessment of this procurement as non-strategic.

Summary

2. The Council has a statutory responsibility for Children & Young People whom it looks after. A model of shared supported living for Young People Leaving Care has been piloted for a period of 12 months which commenced in March 2014.
3. A review of this pilot has been conducted. The outcome of the review demonstrated the model represents Value for Money and provides a level of stability which has enabled young people to remain in education whilst developing independent living skills.
4. Under the Contract Procedure Rules one of the responsibilities of Cabinet is to agree the Procurement Plan. This identifies the route that contracts will take. The procurement of this Service has been assessed in accordance with criteria previously agreed by Cabinet, as non strategic.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Cabinet :-
 - (a) Agree that the proposed service can be commissioned
 - (b) Agree that the Supported Accommodation Services for Young People Leaving Care be added to the Annual Procurement Plan and that it is classified as a

non strategic procurement.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
- (a) To ensure we have a service fit for purpose to manage the transitional needs of Young People leaving care to improve their outcomes
 - (b) The designation of contracts as strategic or non strategic is a Cabinet function.

Murray Rose
Director of Commissioning

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	Young People will be supported to live as responsible citizens as members of the community
Health and Well Being	Health & Well Being of Young People Leaving Care will be supported through the transitional phase from leaving a care environment to independent living
Carbon Impact	N/A
Diversity	All referrals to the service will be by Children's Services
Wards Affected	N/A
Groups Affected	Young People Leaving Care
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	N/A
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Children & Young People with the best start in life. Key issues were identified: Range and quality of post 16 accommodation needs to improve Improving post 16 learning & skills development
Efficiency	Based on the financial savings generated from the pilot, it is predicted that a supported living model will generate efficiencies

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Background

7. It was identified that there was no designated transitional pathway for Young People leaving a residential setting. Although they could access supported accommodation for young people at risk of homelessness this did not offer the level of support which was often required. Therefore, Young People Leaving Care were at greater risk of homelessness, frequent moves and were less likely to carry on in education. Without adequate support they are less likely to have aspirations and are more likely to live a life of dependency.
8. A service was required to provide transitional support to young people who have been in residential setting. The service would provide a supported environment whilst Young People developed their independent living skills, sustained their attendance at college and/or were assisted to access opportunities which would lead to employment.
9. A pilot commenced in March 2014 and was commissioned from a local provider who were developing this service model. They were to provide supported accommodation for 3 young people at any one time and to develop skills around tenancy sustainment and the holistic skills required by the young people to be able to live independently. Alongside this, they were commissioned to encourage the young people to engage in education, training and employment.
10. We commissioned 42 hours of support in addition to overnight, sleep in support from a member of staff.

Service Review

11. Since March 2014, 6 Care Leavers have received support through this service, 3 of which are currently resident. It is acknowledged that there have been limitations as well as successes and these can be attributed to a number of factors:
 - (a) Level of need of the young person – those with higher need have been less successful. The provider reported that they have been unable to complete a support plan with any of the young people who they have supported, either due to the young person not engaging or feeling that they did not require such a document.
 - (b) The age of the young person on referral – those referred at either 16 or 17 have achieved better outcomes than those who were referred at 18.
 - (c) Lessons have been learnt regarding flexibility of service and the amount of support hours required. It has also been identified that clearer and more focussed planning is needed prior to a Young Person's move onto supported accommodation.

10. The findings from the review have been incorporated into the new service specification. The specification has been written to encourage Contractors to design the service model around our requirements, detailing how they will meet the outcomes.

Financial Implications

12. The review of the pilot determined that to improve outcomes for Young People Leaving Care more hours of support were needed around key times to encourage the young people to learn the skills necessary to be able to move onto independent living with increased aspirations. The annual contract value will be £80,652 which is an increase of £5K per annum.

Value for Money

13. The projected savings for the year's pilot are £64,369. In addition to the financial savings which have been realised, the development of such a service model will release placements within residential homes and foster placements earlier which will reduce the number of young people being placed out of Borough, which in turn will generate further savings.
14. By encouraging young people to remain in 'supported living' through increasing their move on options from residential care, we will in turn improve their outcomes by reducing the number who do not sustain education, training or employment. We will also reduce the number who present as homeless or go on to have many failed tenancies and live a life of dependency.

Procurement

15. Under the Contract Procedure Rules an Annual Procurement Plan is produced listing details of all existing and new contracts that are above £75,000 and which require a tender process. Any contract award decision with a value below £75,000 is delegated to officers
16. The Contract Procedure Rules state that if a contract has not been included on the Annual Procurement Plan a separate report must be taken to Cabinet to determine if it is deemed strategic or non-strategic.
17. For those contracts designated strategic, a procurement strategy must be produced and presented to Cabinet. The final contract award decision will be a Cabinet decision. As set out in the Contract Procedure Rules the contract award decision for those contracts not considered strategic will be through delegation to officers.

Assessment

18. The evaluation of the contract is as detailed in **Appendix 1**. The assessment was undertaken against the criteria agreed by Cabinet. The criteria are provided at **Appendix 2** for information.
19. Based on the evaluation this procurement is designated as non-strategic.

Equalities Considerations

20. The proposal will have no adverse impact on individuals or groups with a protected characteristic.