

**Supporting People Team  
Growth Bid**  
***For support to young homeless people in medium-term managed accommodation***

All growth bids must be fully supported by a member of the Supporting People Commissioning Body detailing how the bid will meet their own strategic objectives and how this will support the SP Programme objectives. This should be attached as an appendix to this document.

Providers submitting a growth bid should provide information by means of the template below, which sets out the business case. It should then be returned to the Supporting People Team.

<b>1</b>	<b>Organisation Details</b>	
1.1	Organisation name:	Dover District Council
1.2	Main address for correspondence:	Council Offices White Cliffs Business Park Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ
1.3	Registered Office: (If different from above)	
1.4	Person applying on behalf of the Company or Consortium	Janet Walton
1.5	Position in the Company:	Housing Initiatives Manager
1.6	Telephone Number:	01304 872266
1.7	Fax Number:	01304 872316
1.8	Email Address:	Janet.walton@dover.gov.uk
1.9	Website address:	www.dover.gov.uk
1.10	VAT Registration Number	
1.11	Is your organisation a public limited company / limited company / a partnership / a sole trader / registered as an Industrial & Provident Society / has Charitable status / <b>other</b> : If a Charity please indicate if your organisation is: a)Unincorporated b)A Trust c) A Company	
1.14	Please state the registration number of your organisation  Registered Charity no:  Registered Company no:	
1.17	Companies House Registration Number of parent company (if applicable)	

Purpose The purpose of the business case is to provide a full statement of reasons for the commissioning of a service. It should include all the topics below and must have the full backing of at least one member of the Commissioning Body.

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Contents This Business Case contains the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Summary of the Service	2
Evidence of Need	3
Strategic Context	4
Service Implementation	4
Anticipated Outcomes	4
Timescales	5
Financial Information	5
Supporting Statement(s) from Commissioning Body member(s)	

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Summary of the Service

*Dover District Council wishes to extend the existing provision of temporary accommodation for young (16-24) homeless people. We already have a total of 12 bed spaces in shared flats (3 owned and maintained by the local authority and 1 by a RSL) where management and support are provided by a third sector agency, and we wish to extend this numerically in Dover and geographically to Deal, to a total of 24. We aim to provide overall a service in which young homeless people aged 16-19 are accommodated and supported over a period of up to 2 years, during which time, with varying levels of support, they develop skills and experience to enable them to live, train and work independently in the community.*

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Evidence of  
Need

*In 2008 Dover District Council prepared a strategy to prevent and tackle youth homelessness in its area. This work included the participation of key agencies providing services to young people in the district and consultation with young people. The strategy has recently been reviewed by the Communities and Local Government Specialist Adviser on youth homelessness and correspondence following a recent review meeting is attached for information.*

*1. Based on statistics produced by local authorities and collated by CLG and referred to in the attached letter, Dover is now, with one other authority, the highest user in England outside London of bed and breakfast*

*accommodation for vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds at risk of homelessness.*

*2. Compared with 2006/07 when the average time spent in bed and breakfast accommodation was 12 weeks, young people now have to stay approximately 29 weeks.*

*3. This is in part due to a shortage of medium-term supported accommodation into which young people can move quickly out of emergency accommodation.*

*4. Our limited supply of medium-term supported accommodation for young people does not have sufficient capacity for a number of reasons:*

- The increasing number in the local population of young people potentially at risk of homelessness: Dover has a more rapidly-growing number of 11-18 year olds than average for Kent and the South East region (Dover DC Youth Homelessness Strategy para. 3.1) AND research elsewhere has demonstrated that homelessness among young people is more prevalent among economically deprived communities, and in Dover there is correlation between high proportions of 11-18 year olds in the population and the most deprived wards selected for the Kent County Council "Supporting Independence" Programme (Dover DC Youth Homelessness Strategy paras. 3.1-3.2);*

- Increasing demand for Council and RSL 1-bedroom flats.*

- The continuing difficulties for young people finding affordable accommodation in the private sector.*

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Strategic  
Context

*This proposal is central to Dover District Council achieving a number of national, county-wide and local strategic objectives:*

*1. In 2006 Government announced its commitment to eliminate by 2010 the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless 16 and 17 year olds, except in an emergency, and then for no longer than 6 weeks.*

*2. The Kent Children and Young People's Plan (currently being updated) has a priority "to improve the quality and stability of housing provision for vulnerable children and young people through to early adulthood" with a key action "to develop support and interventions that prevent young people's becoming homeless or living in poor housing conditions" (draft version).*

*3. Dover District Council's Youth Homelessness Strategy reflects these two objectives in a number of its key objectives ((Dover DC Youth Homelessness Strategy para. 5.3). This proposal is a key element in our achieving that of providing effective and supportive pathways to independence for young people accommodated without recourse to bed and breakfast accommodation.*

*4. We have sought the advice of CLG's national specialist advisers on youth homelessness. In reviewing the Dover District Council Youth Homelessness Strategy in 2008, the CLG Specialist Adviser made a number of important points:*

- In her view the Council's continued reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation is not a reflection of our leadership, management or practices but that the accommodation pathway is not sufficiently developed;*
- One of the two critical areas in which we have a shortfall in the pathway is in medium-term temporary accommodation;*
- Without this additional capacity as a matter of urgency, Dover will continue to need to extend the stay of young people in bed and breakfast as a matter of routine.*

*5. In addition to this proposal to extend the number of supported medium term bed spaces, we are taking other action to mitigate the problem, including:*

- Appointing a specialist youth homelessness officer with a remit to work particularly on preventive services;*
- Applying for Supporting People support for an emergency accommodation resource which will also be focused on prevention;*
- Investigating ways in which we can improve young people's opportunities to move on to settled accommodation.*

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Service  
Implementation

*We have discussed this proposal within the Council and RSL landlords and are confident that we have their support and commitment to making sufficient accommodation available to this proposal.*

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Anticipated  
Outcomes

- 1. The use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless young people is reduced to very occasional emergencies and then only for short stays.*
- 2. Continuity of family and social relationships for young people from Deal.*
- 3. Young people who are homeless establish a more settled and safe pattern of life than is possible in bed and breakfast, providing a better foundation for their moving on to a sustainable, settled adult life.*
- 4. A flexible but consistent approach is taken to medium term temporary accommodation and support which is realistically achievable within the timescale for our requirements and offers better value for money than provision of bespoke buildings*

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Timescales

*As stated above, the Council is keen to see this service provided as a matter of urgency. There are two critical factors in the service becoming operational:*

- 1. Identification of a Supporting People allocation and commissioning of a preferred provider.*
- 2. Identification of suitable Council and RSL properties and undertaking any work necessary to make them fit for purpose.*

*On the basis of discussions with Kent CC, within Dover DC and with RSL partners, we think it reasonable to begin expanding this service with effect from June 2009 and for it to become fully established by September 2009.*

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Financial Information

*Detailed costs and resourcing will, we assume, be required of potential service providers during the Supporting People commissioning process. For the purposes of budgeting, we have made the following assumptions:*

- a) Young people will require quite intensive support for the first 6 months of their stay and varying amounts thereafter, depending upon their needs and aspirations.
- b) Extending the service to Deal will add somewhat to the total hours attributed to the support function.
- c) In addition to supporting individual young people, the service provider will also take on some management of the accommodation, particularly in monitoring condition/repair requirements and ensuring that the group occupancy of accommodation with shared facilities remains sustainable.
- d) The provider will also supply an emergency call service accessible to the young people, neighbours and partner agencies.

Each young person will have the opportunity, during their stay of a maximum of 2 years, to a total of 625 hours support phased approximately as follows: 6 months @ 10 hours per week; 6 months @ 7 hours per week and 12 months @ 5 hours per week. This amounts to a weekly average over the period of 6 hours per week per person.

Calculated at an hourly rate of £18.00, the annual budget would be approximately £70,000 (12 placements at an average of 6 hours per week per person).

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Supporting  
People Team  
Comments