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To: Supporting People Commissioning Body, 2 April 2014

Subject: Young People Commissioning

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary

This report provides an outline of the planned commissioning of young people services summarising progress, challenges and future priorities.

Recommendation

The Commissioning Body is asked to note the report.

1. Introduction

- (1) The need for appropriate housing with support for vulnerable young people has been acknowledged as a strategic priority for the Supporting People Programme since its inception.
- (2) Commissioned Services in partnership with its stakeholders has sought to address the need for appropriate housing with support for vulnerable young people through investing in a number of new services commissioned in recent years.
- (3) Additional capacity has been built within existing services to ensure equality of provision and address more complex needs, either through the number of housing units available, or through the allocation of additional funds to try and address the inequity of services across the county and to enable the services to support young people with more complex needs.

2. Overview

- (1) The purpose of Commissioned Services funded young people services is to provide medium to low level housing related support to young people based on their individual needs and aspirations. The services are generally offered for no more than two years, but aim to empower young people with the life skills and confidence to gain control of their lives enabling them to sustain independent accommodation and to enter education, employment and/or training.
- (2) A summary of currently commissioned services is supplied in Appendix 1.
- (3) It is possible for young people to move between the different schemes as they develop independence.

3. Work to Date

- (1) Five accommodation-based services have already been commissioned via competitive tender:

- Dover Young Persons at Risk Service
- Tonbridge Young Persons at Risk Service
- Maidstone Teenage Parents Service
- Folkestone Young Persons at Risk Service
- Sittingbourne Young Person at Risk Service

(2) A further service will be commissioned in Ashford in the coming year.

4. The 2013 Needs Assessment – What the Evidence Tells Us

(1) A Needs Analysis of Housing-Related Support Needs was commissioned in 2013, which has been used to inform the Commissioning Plan.

(2) The high level findings for young people showed:

- Need for more 24 hour services for young homeless people
- Less reliance on the use of bed and breakfast accommodation
- Better pathways required and a need to tackle hidden homelessness, especially amongst high risk groups including those leaving young offender institutions and those who have been in care
- To address the need for a young persons' service in Sevenoaks district

5. Challenges

(1) The key challenges which we will need to address in future commissioning are:

- To create clear pathways through the services available to ensure that clients receive the levels of support they need, and that support reduces as they increase in independence
- To identify more flexible models of provision which will encourage better throughput and move-on
- Possible increase in demand

6. Future Commissioning

(1) The Commissioning Strategy sets out four strategic actions:

- Jointly commissioning services for young people, taking full advantage of the Council's transformation programme, intelligent commissioning and partnerships
- Commissioning integrated services e.g. working closely with Specialised Children Commissioning, to enable providers to collaborate even more closely to deliver services
- Empowering young people to engage with their communities and to shape the services that affect their lives
- Procuring services in a fair and consistent way, monitoring all providers to ensure services are effective, evidence based and value for money

(2) To achieve these actions Commissioned Services will:

- Align with partners to develop a commissioning process and pooled budget that ensures suitable provision, including prevention and emergency accommodation and support, is available to meet the needs of young people at risk and teenage parents
- Rationalise the existing provision, introduce greater flexibility in delivery models to include the step up and step down from supported housing services
- Establish a new accommodation based service in the Sevenoaks District
- Reduce the total number of contracts by commissioning holistic contracts on an East Kent and West Kent basis with clear pathways to independence for service users
- Increase focus in service on delivering to the health and wellbeing of young people e.g. delivery against the 'Six Ways to Wellbeing'

(3) Outcomes will be:

- Improved access to supported housing for young people at same or lower cost
- Reduction in homelessness in young people.
- Reduction in care leavers and young offenders in unsuitable accommodation
- Existing services and specialist commissioned services are better able to meet need; service users have the flexibility to receive the most appropriate service for their needs
- Reduction in repeat offending among young people
- Reduction in spend in Bed & Breakfast's
- More cost effective provision that meets the needs of the client group and deliver high quality services

7. Consultation

- (1) A full consultation will be undertaken to incorporate a range of service users, including those from hard to reach groups, stakeholders and partner agencies.
- (2) There will also be a robust market engagement process to test the market's appetite for the proposed procurement, and identify any required changes to the service model.

8. Financial Implications

- (1) Work continues to engage with partner agencies and commissioning organisations to look at opportunities to pool funding streams to deliver cohesive services, and possible efficiencies.
- (2) The final budget for each contract will be confirmed at a later date following the outcome of these discussions and configuration of each contract.

9. Risks

- (1) A risk register is being developed and will be maintained throughout the project.

10. Legal Implications

- (1) The competitive tendering process will ensure that contracts are tendered in a fair, open and transparent manner in line with Kent Commissioned Services commissioning framework.

11. Equality Impact Assessments

- (1) An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is underway, and work is being done to ensure that the service commissioned does not disadvantage any particular group.

12. Sustainability Implications

- (1) Commissioned Services remains committed to ensuring environmental sustainability of the services it commissions. The service specification will include a requirement for the provider to minimise the adverse environmental impact of the services it delivers.

13. Conclusion

- (1) Kent Commissioned Services are preparing to undertake a robust commissioning and procurement process to revise and update housing related support for young people

Recommendation

The Commissioning Body is asked to:

1. Note the report

Background Documents

None

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**A Summary of Currently Commissioned
Young People Services**

District	Scheme Type	Primary Client Group	Number of Units
Ashford	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	21
Canterbury	Short Term Accommodation	Teenage Parents	6
	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	8
	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	9
Dartford	Short Term Accommodation	Teenage Parents	4
	Short Term Accommodation	Teenage Parents	5
Dover	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	18
	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	9
Gravesham	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	6
	Short Term Accommodation	Teenage Parents	7
Maidstone	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	59
	Short Term Accommodation	Teenage Parents	6
	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	8
Shepway	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	7
Swale	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	8
	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	20
Tonbridge	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	9
Tunbridge Wells	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	37
	Short Term Accommodation	Teenage Parents	17
County	Short Term Accommodation	Young People at Risk	53
East	Floating Support	Young People at Risk	75
West	Floating Support	Young People at Risk	63