

From: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee
16 January 2017

Decision Nos: 15/00010 and 16/00150

Subject: **15/00010 - SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION IN A FAMILY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE FOR OLDER CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS (SUPPORTED LODGINGS); AND**

16/00150 - HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: 15/00010 - Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee - 21 April 2015

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report deals with the contractual matters relating to contract awards for the delivery of Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment and Housing Related Support for Young People at Risk.

Recommendations: The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **ENDORSE** the following proposed decisions:

- a) to **AWARD** a new contract to deliver Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment (SAiFE) for Kent's Older Children in Care, Care Leavers and vulnerable young people. (Decision Number 15/00010 - Attached as Appendix A);
- b) to **RE-AWARD** 24 short term interim contracts which deliver a total of 465 Housing Related Support units for Young People at Risk from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and **AWARD** a retrospective contract for the period up to 31 March 2017. (Decision Number 16/00150 Attached as Appendix B) and;
- c) to **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decisions.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is split into two parts and deals with the contractual matters relating to contract awards for the delivery of Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment (SAiFE) and Housing Related Support (HRS) for Young People at Risk.
- 1.2 In accordance with the standing procedures Cabinet Committees are required to consider and endorse proposed executive decisions before they are formally taken by the Cabinet Member. A review of Specialist Children's Services contracts has identified that this step in the internal governance process was not undertaken for these two contracts, although the legally required procurement process had been followed. Consequently to ensure full compliance with the governance process, the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is now being asked to endorse these two proposed decisions (attached as Appendix A and Appendix B).

2. Policy Framework

- 2.1 At the heart of Facing the Challenge is the need to change the way the Council work, not only to improve services, but also to reflect the changing shape of wider public services.
- 2.2 The Council's Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy - Meeting the placement needs of children in care, sets out our approach to providing secure, safe and appropriate accommodation to children in care and care leavers.

3. Decision Number 15/00010 - Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment (SAiFE)

- 3.1 Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment (SAiFE) is a form of temporary supported accommodation for Kent's Older Children in Care (including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) and Care Leavers (including former Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) who are not ready to live independently. The service provides young people with accommodation and support, which is delivered by "Hosts" within a family setting to develop practical skills and emotional stability.
- 3.2 The new contract for the Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment for older Children in Care and Care Leavers (previously known as Supported Lodgings) commenced on 1 June 2016.

3.4 Financial Implications

- 3.4.1 The total lifetime (i.e. up to 48 months) value of the Contract is £1,343,904. In addition to the contract value the provider passports, on behalf of KCC, support payments to hosts. Costs are broken down into three areas; support paid to Hosts, housing and management fees.

- 3.4.2 Support for young person paid to Hosts:

Support levels	Weekly Cost
Support - Standard	£140
Support - Complex	£190
Support - Intensive	£240

3.4.3 Housing costs are fixed at £50 - £60 per week for young person aged 16 or 17 (ineligible to claim Housing Benefit). Housing is paid from Housing Benefit if the young person is aged 18 or over and paid directly to the Host by the young person.

3.4.4 Monthly management fees are based on demand as follows

Demand (number of arrangements)	Monthly Contract Price
< 150 Arrangements per Month	£20,291
150 – 400 Arrangements per Month	£27,998
> 400 Arrangements per Month	£32,872

3.5 Legal Implications

3.5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide suitable and safe accommodation that has the right level of support for Children in Care in accordance with the Children's Act 1989.

3.5.2 The Council must provide Care Leavers with support and financial support to assist in promoting their welfare, especially in relation to maintaining suitable accommodation and promoting education and training.

3.5.3 A fundamental component of the Care Act 2014 is the 'suitability of accommodation' in meeting the at home care and support needs of vulnerable people. The Act and the accompanying regulations and guidance outline how housing can support a more integrated approach and sets out local implementation requirements. Of particular note is that housing also includes housing related support or services.

3.6 Equalities Implications

3.6.1 An EQIA assessment has been undertaken and it has determined that awarding the SAiFE contract would have a low negative impact on service users with protected characteristics.

4. Decision Number 16/00150 - Housing Related Support (HRS) for Young People at Risk

- 4.1 The Council's Specialist Children's Services commissioning team is currently redesigning the accommodation and support pathway for Children in Care, Care Leavers and vulnerable young people.
- 4.2 In September 2015 the 16-25 Accommodation and Support Commissioning Intentions were endorsed and a public consultation on the 'Proposed Changes to Kent's Supported Accommodation and Floating Support Services' ran between 30 November 2015 and 8 February 2016 (which included changes to the HRS service).
- 4.3 All Housing Related Services were expected to be re procured during 2016 as part of a new service. Delays to this intention have resulted in a break in formal contract.
- 4.4 To be able to deliver this work, a Single Source Action to align the contracts with the new programme timetable is required. This will also support placement stability and gradual transition of service users to new service provider/s should existing providers be unsuccessful in the tendering process. In addition a retrospectively decision to rectify the anomalous situation and break in contract is required to cover the period March/September 2016 – 31 March 2017.

4.5 Financial Implications

- 4.5.1 There are 24 contracts which deliver a total of 465 Housing Related Support units for Young People at Risk. The 2016/2017 annual cost of these contracts is £2,973,950.96. Negotiations are currently underway to deliver savings in 2017/18. The period covered by the retrospective Single Source Action figure for 2016 /17 is Accommodation-Based (12 months) £2,761,015.49 plus Floating Support (6 Months) £106,467.25 Total £2,867,482.74. The total to cover these components for up to a maximum of 24 months is £5.9m

4.6 Legal Implications

- 4.6.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide suitable and safe accommodation that has the right level of support for Children in Care in accordance with the Children's Act 1989.
- 4.6.2 The Council must provide Care Leavers with support and financial support to assist in promoting their welfare, especially in relation to maintaining suitable accommodation and promoting education and training.
- 4.6.3 A fundamental component of the Care Act 2014 is the 'suitability of accommodation' in meeting the at home care and support needs of vulnerable people. The Act and the accompanying regulations and guidance outline how housing can support a more integrated approach and sets out local implementation requirements. Of particular note is that housing also includes housing related support or services.

4.7 Equalities Implications

4.7.1 An EQIA assessment for the Single Source Action for Housing Related Support Services for young people at risk has been undertaken and a low weighting has been determined. The updated EQiA is attached as Appendix 1.

5. Conclusions

5.1 This report seeks to ensure full compliance with the Council's governance for two services which provide support to vulnerable young people, older children in care and care leavers. Both of these services are providing support for children and young people and the Council is currently paying for these services.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Recommendations: The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **ENDORSE** the following proposed decisions:

- a) to **AWARD** a new contract to deliver Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment (SAiFE) for Kent's Older Children in Care, Care Leavers and vulnerable young people. (Decision Number 15/00010 - Attached as Appendix A);
- b) to **RE-AWARD** 24 short term interim contracts which deliver a total of 465 Housing Related Support units for Young People at Risk from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and **AWARD** a retrospective contract for the period up to 31 March 2017. (Decision Number 16/00150 Attached as Appendix B) and;
- c) to **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decisions.

7. Background Documents

None

8. Report Author

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