

**From:** Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

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

**Decision No:** 16/00150

**Subject:** **HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee  
16 January 2017

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** This report deals with the contractual matters relating to the contract award for the delivery of Housing Related Support for Young People at Risk.

**Recommendations:** The Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services is asked to:

- a) **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 and;
- b) **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 deals with the contractual matters relating to the contract award for delivery of 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 this contract, 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 discussed this matter and endorsed the decision at its meeting on 16 January 2017.

## **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. Housing Related Support (HRS) for Young People at Risk**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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).
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 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.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 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.

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.

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.

## 6. Equalities Implications

6.1 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.

## 7. Conclusions

7.1 This report seeks to ensure full compliance with the Council's governance for this service which provides support to vulnerable young people, older children in care and care leavers. This service is providing support for children and young people and the Council is currently paying for this service.

## 8. Recommendations

**8.1 Recommendations** The Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services is asked to:

a) **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 and;

b) **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.

## 9. Background Documents

None

## 10. Report Author

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