

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
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To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 10 July 2018

Subject: Young People's Supported Accommodation and Floating Support Service

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 1 November 2017

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary

Historically KCC has purchased accommodation-based services and floating support services for vulnerable young people through the Housing Related Support (HRS) programme. HRS services have been focused on enabling young people avoid or recover from homelessness and to acquire the skills needed to live independently.

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee previously endorsed plans to commission the Young Person's Supported Accommodation and Floating Support Service. The newly configured service will be prioritised for Children in Care and Care Leavers, in line with the Council's Corporate Parenting statutory responsibilities, and homeless 16 and 17-year olds.

The procurement of the new service started in June 2018 and is due to conclude in mid-September 2018. The annual budget for the service is approximately £2,880,000 although the exact contract value will be determined through the procurement process. The new service is due to start operating on 1 October 2018 with a 4 year a framework agreement.

Recommendations

Members of the Committee are asked to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** on the progress of the procurement of the Young Person's Supported Accommodation and Floating Support Service.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Historically, KCC has purchased accommodation-based services and floating support services for a range of vulnerable young people through the Housing Related Support (HRS) programme. HRS services have been focused on enabling vulnerable young people avoid or recover from homelessness and to acquire skills that they need to live independently.
- 1.2. Separately, KCC has purchased accommodation-based support for young people for who it has statutory responsibility (Children in Care and Care Leavers). This has largely been spot purchased through semi-independent provision in line with needs identified through care plans.
- 1.3. The key aims of the newly configured HRS service is to:
 - Ensure the accommodation and support offer is prioritised for Children in Care and Care Leavers
 - Work with District Councils to support homeless 16 and 17-year olds, to prevent young people coming into care and being placed in unsuitable accommodation
 - Reduce spend by working with the market to deliver a new model, thus reducing the need for high cost, spot purchased services
- 1.4. This paper aims to provide a progress update on the commissioning of the new service.

2. Background

- 2.1. Section 22G of the Children's Act 1989 sets out the duty of local authorities to secure sufficient accommodation for looked after children. The KCC Sufficiency Strategy 2015-2018 sets out the Kent response to this and shows what provision is currently in Kent; the need and demand for services; and how we are working to ensure the need is met going forward.
- 2.2. As part of the work to refresh the strategy, a review was undertaken of accommodation and support pathway for Care Leavers, Children in Care and homeless 16 and 17-year olds.
- 2.3. The review identified that there is an opportunity to improve the current accommodation offer for young people the authority has statutory responsibility for, by prioritising their access to services funded through the HRS budget and ensuring that the appropriate levels of support are available.
- 2.4. The new HRS service will be delivered over four areas, each expected to deliver services in line with the service specification.

East Kent	– Canterbury, Swale and Thanet
South Kent	– Ashford, Dover and Shepway
West Kent	– Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells
North Kent	– Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks
- 2.5. The service has two elements (supported accommodation and floating support) reflecting the different support needs of young people. Whilst the offer is set out as distinct Service Packages, it is anticipated that young people will be able to move across packages as appropriate to meet their changing needs, risks and vulnerabilities.

- 2.6. There are three distinct levels of support within the supported accommodation service; low, medium and high. These levels are based upon the complexity of need a young person has and subsequently the hours of support they will require to make progress towards independence.
- 2.7. The new service will be aligned to and support the services delivered by Early Help and Specialist Children's Services. Flexibility will be designed into the model to allow services to adapt to meet future needs.
- 2.8. The focus of the new service will be:
- Support for vulnerable young people to acquire independent living skills, including a focus on budgeting, education and employment skills to improve self-reliance and resilience.
 - Support for young people to integrate into local communities to encourage young people to enjoy positive recreational activities.
 - A reduction in offending behaviour and substance misuse.
 - Support to enable young people to better understand the relationship between their emotions and behaviours.
 - Promotion of clear and effective pathways for young people to access appropriate support groups as needed.
 - Promotion of stable lifestyles, and physical and mental wellbeing

3. Progress

- 3.1. During 2017/18 two programmes of work began which will improve the success of the mobilisation of the new service. First, a transition model has been in place to test the appropriateness of this type of provision for children in care and care leavers. Second, a Total Placement Service has been established to bring a consistency of approach to purchasing of placements across different teams and different need groups.
- 3.2. In addition, adult commissioners have been working with their suppliers to develop an All-Age Vulnerable Homeless Strategy which will set out the commissioning programme for homelessness. Commissioners of children's services and adult commissioners have worked closely over the past months to develop a service model with strong transition arrangements.
- 3.3. There is an interdependency between the arrangements for Children and Young People and those for Adults and as a result the commissioning and procurement processes have been aligned. The procurement of a joint framework agreement between the Council and multiple providers across the County will allow for flexibility, innovation and competition within the new services.
- 3.4. The Framework Agreement Contract will be competitively tendered via the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation, with an advert within the OJEU. Due to time constraints, and that the Council will retain the option to negotiate if required, the open (one stage) procedure will be followed.
- 3.5. The Council has undertaken a range of preliminary market engagement and has a further procurement event on 29th June 2018. This will provide confirmation of the service requirements and outline for bidders the timescale for the procurement process. The service specification and tender documents will be published before the

event ensuring that prospective bidders have a detailed understanding of the service requirements and prepare questions for the event.

- 3.6. Invitations to tender for the service were issued on 22nd June 2018 via the Kent Business Portal. The timetable below sets out timetable for the rest of the procurement process:

Procurement Timetable	
Market engagement event	29 th June 2018
Deadline for submission of clarification questions by bidders	1 st August 2018
Deadline for tender submission	10 th August 2018
Evaluation of tenders	w/c 13 th August 2018
Clarification and negotiation meetings with bidders (if required)	20 th – 31 st August 2018
Contract Award and standstill	4 th – 14 th September 2018
Pre-contract mobilisation	17 th – 31 st September 2018
New service start date	1 st October 2018

- 3.7. The voice of the Young Person has been considered throughout the commissioning process and a young person’s panel will help to evaluate the tenders.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Semi-independent services are currently funded from Specialist Children’s Service budgets, whilst Housing Related Support Services are funded from the former Supporting People budget for both adults and children.
- 4.2. The maximum available budget is £11.5m over the four-year framework agreement, although the exact values will be determined through the competitive tendering process. The on-going commissioning and contract management process will ensure that KCC maximises the return on this investment.
- 4.3. The overall contract price for each of the four areas will be evaluated through the tender process and will take account of the value and quality of each proposal as well as the cost. This will enable the Council to secure best value through the commissioning process. As the contract value is expected to exceed £1m, the contract award will require a key decision by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education.

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 (including former UASC) with support to assist in promoting their welfare, especially in relation to maintaining suitable accommodation and helping them access education, training and employment.
- 5.3. The Treaty of Rome, EU directive and UK legislation require that competition will be part of the overall procurement approach to securing work goods and services. However, a number of special circumstances exist where this may not be applicable or possible, e.g. the purchasing of adult and children's services required by law under the National Assistance Act 1948 and the Children Act 1989.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. Following the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee's endorsement of the overall commissioning approach, Children's Services Commissioning has initiated the re-tendering of the Young Person's HRS service, in partnership with Adult Services Commissioning.
- 6.2. The procurement process is now underway and is expected to conclude early in September 2018. The new service is due to start on 1st October 2018, with an annual overall contract value of approximately £11.5m over four years (£2.88m per annum).
- 6.3. The recommendation of the successful bidders will be presented to the CYPE Cabinet Committee prior to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education taking the decision to award the contract.

7. Recommendations

Recommendation: Members of the Committee are asked to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** on the progress of the procurement of the Young Person's Housing Related Support Service.

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