

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director, Children, Young People & Education

To: Corporate Parenting Panel 19 July 2018

Subject: **Report on the types of accommodation for Children in Care and Care Leavers**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides Members with an overview of the types of accommodation available for Children in Care and Care Leavers in Kent.

Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** the report.

1.0 Introduction.

1.1 The Corporate Parenting Panel requested more detailed information on the types of accommodation available to Children in Care and Care Leavers. Kent currently has a range of accommodation options and these would be planned for in the Children's Care Plan or the young person's Pathway Plan.

2.0 Types of accommodation

2.1 Shared accommodation

2.1.1 Shared accommodation for Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers covers a range of accommodation types used to accommodate predominately small groups of young people. These properties are spread across Kent, so that Care Leavers can access college, training or work and be in an area they want to live. Shared houses are no bigger than four bedrooms, the young people living there will have been matched to help them get on well together and each person will have their own bedroom and share the kitchen, lounge and bathroom(s).

2.1.2 Shared houses can help young people to prepare for their future, and with the help of their personal advisor they can develop their independent living skills and learn to manage problems as they arise. Eligible young people are provided with a short-term occupation agreement. This agreement will include a rental agreement to enable housing benefit to be claimed (where applicable). The tenant is self-supporting and has the skills/competencies to be able to live independently.

2.1.3 The average placement cost is £125 per week.

2.2 Safety Pod

- 2.2.1 The Safety Pod is temporary two/three bedroomed houses for young people that need emergency accommodation, the maximum period a young person is permitted to stay in this accommodation is 28 days. During this time a Personal Advisor, as well as the accommodation advisor will look to identify alternative accommodation for the young person and they are normally moved to new accommodation during the 28-day period. This accommodation has been used for vulnerable young people (including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)) from the age of 16.
- 2.2.2 The average placement cost is £120 per week.

2.3 Kent SAiFE - (Supported Accommodation in a family environment, also known as Supported Lodgings)

- 2.3.1 Kent SAiFE is a form of temporary supported accommodation with support provided by a host who is a private individual (or individuals) accommodating a young person/s in their home. This service provides accommodation and support for young people, so they can live within a family-type environment whilst acquiring the skills and emotional resilience necessary to live independently on their pathway, from care.
- 2.3.2 The approved hosts within this scheme receive comprehensive training plus ongoing support and supervision from dedicated supported accommodation officers.
- 2.3.3 The average placement cost is £185-225 per week. This service is commissioned by Catch 22.

2.4 Staying Put

- 2.4.1 Staying Put is where a Care Leaver continues to live with their foster carer after their 18th birthday. Many young people have already been Staying Put in the past, but the law changed in May 2014 so all local authorities must support such arrangements if this is in the young person's interests and those of the carer. Care Leavers can continue to live with people they know and who have supported them as they have grown up. It means that they do not have to leave their former foster carers until they are ready or are 21-years-old. It can help young people to get into, or continue, in education and training whilst supporting them as they transition into adulthood. The average placement cost is £199.75 per week.

2.5 University accommodation

- 2.5.1 The University will assist in finding the first year's accommodation. This is usually on site (halls of residence) or near to the campus. After the first year, students will find their own accommodation, which may often include joining with others to share a property. The landlord or agent of these types of properties may want a deposit or ask for someone to be a guarantor for the rent, and the 18+ Service may be able to assist with these areas. Students often require accommodation during breaks which the 18+ Service will also help with.

2.6 Living independently

- 2.6.1 Living independently is a big step and usually the next stage for a Care Leaver who has been living in another accommodation option. As part of their Pathway Plan, a Personal Advisor will help Care Leavers prepare and move into independent accommodation

where they will hold a tenancy or occupancy agreement. The Personal Advisor will assist a Care Leaver with applications and bidding for social housing through one of the District Councils, or in identifying a private landlord who is able to offer safe, suitable accommodation. They will also assist Care Leavers in planning and budgeting and using their setting up home allowance.

2.6.2 The 18+ Service will provide a deposit and rent in advance where required and may be able to act as a rent guarantor to a landlord if one is needed. As part of planning towards independence, all Care Leavers are provided with tenancy training and a certificate of completion. The setting up allowance supports with the first rent payment and any items needed by the young person in relation to independent living.

2.6.3 The "Setting up Allowance" is £2,000.

2.7 Semi-independent accommodation

2.7.1 A shared living provision where an adult will be on-site from time-to-time. For some young people a Semi-independent placement may be an appropriate option and the length of time will vary dependent upon the needs of the young person, but all will have a level of support tailored to offer stability and meet the needs of a young person identified in their pathway plan.

2.7.2 The average placement cost is £368-432 per week.

2.8 Housing Related Support (HRS)

2.8.1 Currently this is a form of temporary supported accommodation for non-statutory young people who are not ready to live independently for a variety of reasons. This type of accommodation could be provided by an individual, company or voluntary organisation and will include onsite support (e.g. training flat, Foyer). The young person will also be expected to have access support and guidance to help them gain the skills they need to live independently. A new HRS Service which will be in place from 1st October 2018 and will prioritise statutory young people and 16-17 homeless vulnerable young people.

2.8.2 The average placement cost is £172 per week.

2.9 Reception Centres (UASC – only)

2.9.1 A Reception Centre is a place where newly arrived young people are supported for a maximum period of 6-8 weeks each; during this time their social care, education and health needs are assessed, and care plans put in place. They also receive orientation and independence skills, training and support. Kent's reception centre is Millbank in Ashford. The average placement cost is £974 per week.

2.10 Youth detention accommodation

2.10.1 A youth detention accommodation comprises of:

- A secure children's home
- A secure training centre
- A young offenders institution

3.0 Rent Guarantor Scheme

- 3.1 The Care Leavers Service will begin a 12-month pilot starting on 1st July 2018 and this will accept applications from all eligible Care Leavers to a maximum of 25 young people. The aim will be to build the scheme in subsequent years, to be accessed by a larger cohort of young people and the learning underpin a wider policy change in 2019.
- 3.2 Kent's pilot scheme is open to all Care Leavers, to give a more realistic test in the pilot of financial risk but equally to ensure this offer can be accessed by our most vulnerable young people, who are likely to have more restricted access to appropriate accommodation. The aim of the pilot is to open up more availability for our care Leavers in the private rental market.
- 3.3 The agreement for KCC to act as a guarantor, will be given by the Head of Service for 18plus Care Leavers, who will have overall responsibility for the tracking and monitoring of financial implications.

4.0 Data

4.1 Accommodation types and numbers of Care Leavers

With parents or relatives	164
Hospital - Non-Mental Health	1
Mental Health Based Accommodation	12
Residential Care Home (<i>Only relates to placements made by the disability service</i>)	3
Residential Educational Setting (<i>Only relates to placements made by the disability service</i>)	4
Family Centre/Mother and Baby Unit (<i>Housing Related Support Placements that provide a mother and baby provision. i.e. Cantercare, Canterbury and Life Housing, Dartford</i>)	1
Supported Accommodation (<i>Semi-Independent Provider placements, i.e. My life, 4CSR, Blue Diamond</i>)	111
Supported lodgings (<i>SLOD placement via Catch 22 contract</i>)	63
Gone Abroad	1
Ordinary lodgings (<i>Lodgings in a privately-owned property</i>)	10
Residence Not Known	98
Foyers (<i>This category includes all Housing Related Support Providers, (excluding mother and baby providers under D i.e. Trinity Foyer Maidstone, Belgic Court Ashford, YMCA Dartford)</i>)	16
KCC Contracted accommodation (<i>self-supporting - Shared housing through contracted property provider, Ready Homes and outgoing provider S&CC. This is predominantly ACL and UASC with a small number of citizen Care Leavers</i>)	515
KCC Contracted accommodation (<i>with floating support - as above but where the floating support element is commissioned separately to the placement</i>)	4
Private Rented (<i>self-supporting -private rented accommodation and 2nd/3rd University accommodation that is privately rented - does not include social housing</i>)	163
Private Rented (<i>with floating support -as above but where the floating support element is commissioned separately to the placement</i>)	2
Social Housing (<i>self-supporting- accommodation provided by a housing association through a district council</i>)	107
Social Housing (<i>with floating support- as above but where the floating support element is commissioned separately to the placement</i>)	5
Emergency accommodation (<i>Short term emergency accommodation</i>)	9
Bed and breakfast (<i>Categorised as unsuitable. To include B&B accommodation where the Care Leaver is temporarily placed by a District Council prior to moving to social housing</i>)	2
In custody (<i>Categorised as unsuitable</i>)	32
Homeless (<i>Categorised as unsuitable – to include sofa surfing where any stay is short-term temporary</i>)	38
Other accommodation (<i>To include halls of residence during first year of university</i>)	18
With Former foster carers (<i>Staying put placement via Catch 22 contract</i>)	95
Young Person transition into the Care Leavers Service	40
Grand Total	1514

5.0 Children in Care

5.1 Accommodation types and numbers of children placed

Placement type	CIC
Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	234
Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	44
Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	190
KCC Foster Care	956
Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	300
Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	6
Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	650
KCC Residential	25
Residential accommodation	24
Children's Homes	1
Leaving Care	143
Residential accommodation	30
Independent living	113
Other	27
Children's Homes	8
NHS/Health Trust	3
Family centre or mother and baby unit	1
Young Offender Institution or prison	7
All Residential schools	4
Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	1
Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	3
Private and Voluntary	108
Residential accommodation	2
Secure unit	1
Children's Homes	101
Residential care home	1
All Residential schools	3
Placed for Adoption	49
Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	1
Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	5
Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	43
Placed with Parents	16
Placed with own parents	16
Relatives and Friends	49
Foster placement with relative or friend- long term	26
Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	23
Grand Total	1607

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 Kent has been developing its Leaving Care Service and associated accommodation offer through the following work:

- Expanding the level of Personal Advisor support within the Leaving Care Service and recruited a permanent group of Team Managers and a permanent Head of Service to lead on the development of the service. Two additional Service Managers have also been appointed with a strategic lead for Transition and UASC.
- Children in foster care have the option to remain in a staying put arrangement and young people in shared accommodation can remain as Care Leavers (shared accommodation is a sub category of P2 independent living which is managed by the accommodation Service).
- Reviewed and recommissioned the Supported Lodgings Service
- Brought the Housing Related Support Services for young people into the Children's Commissioning Unit to ensure an interface with the other leaving care services available.
- Developed a Safety Pod offer.
- Agreed with all 12 District and Borough Councils a Joint homeless protocol for 16/17-year olds
- Increased the number of Citizen children requesting shared accommodation. This offer has been developed in response to a request by the Young Adult Council (YAC) and the takeover challenge day held in November 2016.

7 Recommendations

Recommendations:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** the accommodation types offered for our Children in Care and Care Leavers.

8. **Background documents:** none

9. **Contact details:**

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