

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

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

Decision No: 15/00010

Subject: **SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION IN A FAMILY ENVIRONMENT SERVICE FOR OLDER CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS (SUPPORTED LODGINGS)**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee - 21 April 2015
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 contract awards for the delivery of Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment and Housing Related Support for Young People at Risk.

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

a) **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.

c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report deals with the contractual matters relating to contract awards for the delivery of Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment (SAiFE)

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 the 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 is now being asked to endorse the proposed decision.

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. 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. Conclusions

4.1 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.

5. Recommendations

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

a) **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.

(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.

6. Background Documents

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=32760&Opt=0>

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