

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

**Peter Oakford,  
Cabinet Member for Specialist Children’s Services**

## DECISION NO:

15/00010

## For publication

### Key decision

Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions and expenditure of more than £1m.

**Subject:** Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment Service for Older Children in Care and Care Leavers (SAiFE) (previously known as the Proposal for the delivery of Supported Lodgings for Kent Care Leavers).

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Specialist Children’s Services, I propose to:

- a) **AWARD** a new contract to deliver Supported Accommodation in a Family Environment Service for Kent’s Older Children in Care, Care Leavers and vulnerable 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 decision.

### Reason(s) for decision:

The original Supported Lodgings contract was developed as an interim solution during the integration of the 0-16 Children in Care, 16+ Care Leaver service and Service for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. It was procured via a Single Source Action (SSA), running from 1st October 2014 – 31st June 2015.

In April 2015 Children’s Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee were informed of the intention to extend arrangements with the current providers through a Single Source Action.

Subsequent legal advice identified that the existing contract could continue to operate without the need to formally extend through a SSA, on the basis that a formal procurement exercise was underway. A formal procurement exercise was commenced to meet legal requirements and maintain placement stability.

The service was procured through a competitive tender process to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The contract commenced on 1 June 2016.

A key premise of the service is that it provides a more cost effective alternative to other forms of supported placements such as adolescent foster care or spot purchased semi-independent placements. All eligible young people placed are claiming Housing Benefits.

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.

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.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

This matter will be discussed at the Children’s Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 16 January 2017, and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign when taking the decision.

**Any alternatives considered:**

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

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signed

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date