

16 September 2013**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION COMMISSIONING
UPDATE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A PART TIME COMMISSIONING
MANAGER POST****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides an overview of the work that has taken place to deliver a planned programme of improvement and efficiencies in relation to young people's homelessness work, and seeks approval to postpone the tendering process for young people's supported accommodation from 2013-14 to 2014-15.
2. It also seeks approval for the establishment of a part time Commissioning Manager post within the Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service.

Information and Advice

3. In April 2012 commissioning responsibility for supported accommodation for young people aged 16-21 years transferred from Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection (ASCH&PP) to Children, Families and Cultural Services (CFCS). The County Council does not commission physical accommodation for young people. This is generally provided by a Registered Social Landlord and is paid for through Housing Benefit. The County Council commissions hours of support for young people within the accommodation and this varies in terms of the number of hours each week. Therefore, some projects are designated for young people with high support needs and have a higher allocation of support hours per resident per week. The current providers and the number of units of support they provide are set out in the attached Commissioning Plan paper (**Appendix 1**).
4. In preparation for the transfer of the budget and commissioning responsibility from ASCH&PP to CFCS, a Youth Homelessness Strategy and an accompanying set of commissioning recommendations for future service provision was produced. Public, service user and stakeholder consultation followed this. In July 2012, both the Early Years and Young People's Sub-Committee and Policy Committee approved the Strategy and commissioning recommendations.
5. The budget for commissioning supported accommodation is constituted from former Supporting People funding and finances within CFCS. The budget was set out as detailed overleaf.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total budget	£1,990,255	£1,803,001	£1,481,384

6. Savings and efficiencies have been achieved to date in line with the above budget reductions, which was approved by the previous administration as a part of the wider Supporting People budget reductions. This has been realised through a value for money exercise and some reductions to the numbers of supported accommodation units for young people. Savings to date have been delivered by contract variations which took place in October 2012 and April 2013. These value for money exercises achieved greater consistency in hourly rates charged for support and enabled the preservation of as high a number of units of support as possible.
7. In line with the Strategy agreed by Policy Committee, and supported by a thorough and independent needs analysis, from April 2014 supported accommodation units across the County will be further reduced by 30. This planned reduction will be subject to a risk assessment process, which will seek to balance potential safeguarding implications against the Council's savings requirements. Should the risk assessment outcome establish an active safeguarding risk, then a further report will be brought to the Committee before April 2014 that will set out these risks and propose potential mitigating actions.

Re-Commissioning of Support for Homeless Young People

8. It was originally intended to re-commission the support element of supported accommodation services during 2013-14 with new contracts commencing in April 2014, which would deliver the savings required for 2014-15. However, in light of the Council's need to deliver a further £144m savings between 2014-17, all areas of County Council expenditure are being scrutinised to identify further savings and efficiencies. It is now proposed that the re-commissioning exercise is postponed for 12 months, whilst future savings and efficiency plans are finalised and budgets agreed in February 2014 by full Council. This will allow work to be completed in relation to all supported accommodation, both for young people and adults, to better define the relationship between landlords and support providers. This relationship is key in terms of future cost and service quality and a consultation has already been commenced by the Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection Department. It is recommended that the outcomes of this consultation are used to influence the future young people's commissioning model.
9. In order to achieve the required savings required for 2014-15 therefore, a further negotiation and contract variation process will be undertaken with providers. It is anticipated that there will be no financial impact from the delaying of the re-commissioning process.

Progress of the Youth Homelessness Strategy Action Plan

10. The new operating systems described in the Youth Homelessness Strategy, approved by Policy Committee in July 2012, have now been put into place. Since the inception of the new system, Targeted Support and Youth Justice Services have dealt with 712 referrals for homeless young people. At present, 20% of referrals of 16/17 year olds return to the family home after intervention from homelessness case managers and the Service is

seeking to increase this figure still further. For those requiring supported accommodation, a new weighting system has been agreed by all service providers which ensures that those in the most need are housed first.

11. As planned within the Youth Homelessness Strategy, a multi-agency forum has been established including the participation of all the District and Borough Councils. This forum has led to the successful implementation of a joint protocol, outlining how each agency should react when a child or young person presents as homeless. The forum is now focusing on activity to prevent homelessness occurring and ensure that more young people move successfully from supported to independent accommodation.

Commissioning Capacity

12. Since October 2011 the work on commissioning, contract management and development of young people's homelessness services has been led on a temporary basis by a Programme Manager from Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection. This post has not been on establishment and has been operated as an extension to an existing contract of employment. It is now necessary to formally establish a part-time post to lead the programme of work over the next two years. This report therefore seeks approval for the establishment of a Commissioning Manager, evaluated at Hay Band E and working 26 hours per week within the Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service. This is commensurate with the hours currently worked by the Programme Manager. The cost, dependent upon spinal point, would be £35,007 - £38,891 per annum inclusive of all on-costs.

Other Options Considered

13. Continuation of the current commissioning timescale has been considered but is not felt to be appropriate due to the reasons outlined within the report. Consideration has been given to allocating the commissioning work to an existing management post with Targeted Support and Youth Justice but this is not considered practicable due to capacity and the particular skills and knowledge required.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. To ensure that the delivery of the Youth Homelessness Strategy is successful and delivers on Council priorities to safeguard children and deliver services that represent value for money.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

16. Other than the planned unit reductions agreed previously by Policy Committee for 2014/15, service users will see no change in the support they receive. The remainder of the savings will be delivered by further hourly rate reductions to support hours. Support providers will be responsible for the management of the reduction to unit numbers, and will liaise with Targeted Support to ensure that no service user is made homeless as a consequence of delivering these savings. It is anticipated that the support provider will look for alternative funding sources to maintain the accommodation, although this is not guaranteed.

Implications for Staff

17. There are no implications for staff. The Programme Manager leading work on youth homelessness has an enabling right to the post that will be established.

Financial Implications

18. A financial regulations waiver has been approved to extend existing contracts with service providers for a 12 month period from April 2014 until March 2015.
19. The post of Commissioning Manager will be fully funded from within the Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service budget and incurs no costs above those for the provision of the extended contract of the Programme Manager from Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection.
20. The financial risks described above in relation to the current decommissioning plans for 2014-15 will be fully analysed and will be presented to committee as soon as possible along with proposals for potential mitigation if required.

Equalities Implications

21. An equality impact assessment was completed as part of the development of the strategy and commissioning recommendations and will be kept under review as part of the decommissioning and re-tendering process.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1) the work that has taken place to deliver a planned programme of improvement and efficiencies in relation to young people's homelessness work be noted.
- 2) the re-commissioning exercise for young people's supported accommodation be postponed for 12 months, whilst future savings and efficiency programmes are agreed.
- 3) the establishment of a Commissioning Manager working 26 hours per week within Targeted Support and Youth Justice on a temporary basis for two years be approved.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 15/08/13)

22. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KLA 19/08/13)

23. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraphs 18 to 20 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Youth Homelessness Strategy – report to Early Years and Young People's Sub-Committee on 3 July 2012

Youth Homelessness Strategy – report to Policy Committee on 18 July 2012

Equality Impact Assessment

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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