

**12<sup>th</sup> September 2016****Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****CLAYFIELDS HOUSE RE-BUILD****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the Clayfields House Rebuild Project.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Scarlet Unit is the oldest part of the Clayfields site. Originally constructed around 1980, it is now suffering defects associated with movement / cracking to masonry. Since 2009, the site has been periodically monitored by Nottinghamshire County Council structural engineers. The findings of this monitoring is that the unit **is** subsiding and will not be fit for habitation in the next five years or so. To date, due to the subsidence, a drain has collapsed which has had to be replaced. In order for this work to occur, the floor had to be completely broken up, leaving the area out of bounds. On a regular basis, the maintenance team have to re-fit the internal bedroom and unit doors to ensure they are lockable and free from potential ligature points. Cracks and holes also appear in the walls which have to be filled and redecorated.

**Other Options Considered**

3. Remedial work would not significantly improve the build long term. The work could not be carried out whilst the unit is operational, which would also have serious financial implications, making remedial work not financially viable.

**Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

4. Scarlet Unit was not initially constructed in the 1980s for the complex young people that now reside in the establishment. The high level of mental health needs and violent behaviour exhibited by the young people also results in property damage.
5. Secure Children's Homes are built to specific standards which are detailed in the Secure Children's Home Design Guide – 2009. The layout of the unit is not conducive to working with the conflict and tensions often experienced by young people in a secure setting.
6. The new Scarlet Unit rebuild will be robust enough to withstand such damage and will also have further facilities to assist in observations of young people e.g. those on suicide watch. In the design it will also have the facility to become a two bedded "Step Down" unit for those transitioning back into the community. This will serve as an extra service that will

be attractive nationally for local authorities looking for creative options for their young people.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

8. The Clayfields Scarlet Block rebuild project has already received grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to bring the full project up to receipt of planning permission and enabling works to allow construction work to start onsite in the second quarter of 2016/17.
9. The inclusion of the DfE grant to build a new unit at Clayfields House was approved as part of the Management Accounts 2015/16 report to Full Council on 4 July 2016. Phase 1 will be the building of a replacement Scarlet Block, in order that residents can move into the new unit prior to demolition of the old unit, therefore not losing any generated income and young people not having to move to another secure children's home. Phase 2 is the demolition of the existing Scarlet Unit and Phase 3 is the building of the vocational block on the footprint of the demolished Scarlet Unit.

## **Human Resources Implications**

10. The rebuild will be completed by external contractors, whilst being over seen by the Council/Arc partnership and by the Senior Manager at Clayfields – Head of Facilities and Project Management.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

11. Clayfields House does not have an area that can be used for young people who are experiencing a crisis in terms of either intense behavioural issues or mental health issues e.g. psychotic break. It is envisaged creating a separate nurture area which is high dependency and where a young person can be kept separately and safe in extreme circumstances.

## **Implications for Service Users**

12. Clayfields House does not have specific rooms designated for talking therapy work. Currently young people use rooms that are also used for family visits and meetings; this is inappropriate from a therapeutic perspective. Increasingly young people are being admitted who are experiencing severe trauma reactions requiring therapy, there is an expert Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) team on site. It is envisaged creating bespoke therapy rooms within the rebuild.

13. Young people are taking increasing amounts of medications daily (including controlled drugs) due to their increasingly complex mental health needs. It is envisaged building a new and additional medical room, which is immediately accessible to Scarlet Unit, as part of the rebuild. This will improve safety by restricting movement around the centre and ensure any high risk young people on Scarlet Unit are within easy reach of the medical room both for their medication and for any urgent medical treatments required.
14. Clayfields House has recently opened self-funded vocational education and training buildings. These provide education and training in mechanics and construction for the residents and for high risk children in the local community; this also includes ex-residents who have resettled locally. The rebuild would also offer facilities for other vocational education and training in catering and, depending on space, hair and beauty in order to offer a broad range of opportunities.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the information on the Clayfields House Rebuild Project be noted.

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## **Constitutional Comments**

15. As this report is for noting only constitutional comments are not required.

## **Financial Comments (TR 09/08/16)**

16. As this report is for noting only financial comments are not required.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

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.

Secure Children's Home Design Guide – 2009.  
Management Accounts 2015-16 – Report to Full Council on 4 July 2016.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All

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