

**12 December 2016****Agenda Item: 6**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

### **NEW ACCOMMODATION PROVISION FOR 16-21 YEAR OLDS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on the Supported Accommodation services for 16 – 21 year olds.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The supported accommodation pathway and provision was commissioned jointly between the Family Service, Children's Social Care and Public Health. A procurement exercise took place between February and July 2015 and the new services commenced in August and October 2015.
3. There are 257 units of accommodation and support available throughout Nottinghamshire for vulnerable young people. The service can be accessed by Looked After Children moving on from care, or as an alternative to residential settings or foster placements, 16 -17 year olds that present as homeless or are vulnerably housed, Care Leavers and 18 -21 year olds that are homeless or vulnerably housed.
4. There are four contracts: three are locality based services with 'core' and 'cluster' supported accommodation. There are 220 units throughout Nottinghamshire, and an additional seven emergency bed spaces for young people presenting in a housing crisis, for example their existing placement may have broken down or the young person has been asked to leave the family home. The fourth contract is a county wide Host Families service, this comprises of two elements of service: 20 Supported Lodging placements and ten Nightstop placements. This model is based on young people staying with a host in their home. Emergency accommodation can be provided by Nightstop hosts and longer term placements are offered by Supported Lodgings hosts following a matching process. The total cost of these services is £2,179,000 per annum.
5. The re-commissioning of the supported accommodation services has led to many improvements for the Council and the young people who require the service. The services now offer:
  - Improved access to services and a clear pathway into services
  - Improved choice of types of accommodation available
  - Parity of service provision across the three localities
  - Standardisation of quality and monitoring systems
  - Improved value for money

6. The new Supported Accommodation pathway provides greater choice around housing options for young people via the provision of 'core' and 'cluster' accommodation. The core service has staff on site 24 hours a day and has appropriate levels of staffing to support young people presenting with a range of complex needs. In addition to the core service, there are cluster units of accommodation throughout the County, some of which are self-contained but the majority of which are shared accommodation. These units have visiting support to the level required by the young person.
7. In most cases a young person will require a core setting initially, but following a period of stabilisation the young person will have developed sufficient independent living skills to be placed into cluster accommodation. Once the young person has demonstrated sufficient independent living skills to manage their own tenancy, a 'Ready to Move assessment' will be completed and the young person will be supported to bid for properties or apply for private rented accommodation. Tenancy support will be offered by the provider to help the young person set up their new tenancy and successfully maintain it.
8. The Supported Accommodation Pathway has been recognised as a model of good practice by leading experts on Youth Homelessness and has been cited in 'Provision of Accommodation for young people aged 16-18 leaving Secure Estate in the East Midlands'<sup>1</sup> as an example of what is working well.
9. Between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the Family Service received 314 referrals for Supported Accommodation. Of those referrals received, 127 young people accessed either emergency accommodation or entered into the service. The table shows a breakdown of the referrals received during the last quarter and the outcome for the young people. No young people aged below eighteen years are left homeless. Those shown as "remaining on the waiting list" are awaiting planned moves. Those aged over eighteen can also apply to District Councils who have statutory responsibility in relation to adult homelessness.

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<sup>1</sup> Anna Whalen Provision of Accommodation for young people aged 16-18 leaving Secure Estate in the East Midlands, November 2015

16+ Supported Accommodation - Qtr 2 2016-17						
Referrals		Outcome				
Presenting groups	Number	Remain on waiting list	Mediated	Deemed not to be homeless	Placed by Family Service	Unable to be placed by Family Service *
16-17 (excluding LAC)	78	29	10	11	23	5
16-17 LAC	38	25			8	5
18+ (excluding Care Leavers)	33	18		2	12	1
18+ Care Leavers	39	10			23	6
Total	188	82	10	13	66	17

\*Reasons include: unmanageable risk, capacity issues, or the young person refused the offer.

During the last quarter no child entered the formal care of the local authority (i.e. became a looked after child) because they were unable to be placed by the Family Service.

10. The providers are validated annually against a Quality Assessment Framework, and the focus of this year's work has been on safeguarding. All providers have met the minimum quality standards, and there are examples of excellent practice.
11. The new contracts have seen the implementation of a new system for monitoring outcomes for young people. Providers are required to measure service user outcomes by using an outcome star. The outcomes star enables providers to give a detailed picture of the changes taking place within a service by measuring more precisely where service users are when they arrive in a service and where they are at a later point in time in relation to ten key aspects of their life. Work to develop a reporting tool to monitor progression will commence following the Mosaic and BRMI change freeze.
12. Over 90% of the young people moving on from the service moved on in a planned and positive way. Many have returned to family or friends, or have taken up a tenancy with a local housing authority.
13. The Council has just produced its Prevention of Youth Homelessness Plan 2016-2020, as part of the development of the plan, service users were consulted about their views on accessing the service, the support they receive and their longer term housing options. Their views about accessing the service and the support they receive were positive and have been displayed in the charts in Appendix 1. Young people told us that on the whole they thought the assessment process was okay or good, the time they had to wait for an offer to be made was good, their first impression of the service was good and the support they receive is very good.
14. There are three key areas the Prevention of Youth Homelessness Plan seeks to address, these are:
  - To prevent young people from becoming homeless

- To operate a successful support and accommodation pathway
- To advocate for the needs of vulnerable young people for longer term housing options

The plan identifies the key challenges for each area and a strategy action plan has been drawn together to address these challenges and drive service improvements. The plan will be taken to the Children's Trust Board in November and the Children and Young People's Committee in December. The Youth Homelessness Forum, a multi-agency meeting including the participation of all the District and Borough Councils, have oversight of the delivery of the action plan.

### **Other Options Considered**

15. None, the report is for noting only.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

16. This report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) The content of this report is noted.

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**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

18. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (SS 23/11/16)**

19. As this report is for noting only, no Financial Comments are 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.

None

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

All

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