

13 June 2016

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

BLOCK PURCHASE OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS CONTRACTS

Purpose of the Report

1. To up-date the Sub-Committee regarding the progress of the block purchase of children's residential placements contracts.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has a block contract with Castle Care and G4S, trading as Homes 2 Inspire, to provide 24 beds with 20 beds expected to be in the County boundary, and at least 50% being in the north of the County.
3. The Council currently has five young people placed with Castle Care, who have existing children's homes in Nottinghamshire.
4. Castle Care have sufficient capacity to fulfil their contractual obligations to provide the required number of beds within Nottinghamshire.
5. Homes 2 Inspire at present only have one home in the County, Evans House (three bed home), and none in north Nottinghamshire. However, they are providing the Council with local beds at homes based in Nottingham City, and outside of Nottinghamshire which are paid for on the block rate. The Council has nine young people placed with Homes to Inspire.
6. Homes 2 Inspire will be opening two homes in Nottinghamshire over the coming months, with Meadow View House, in Worksop due to open at the end of June 2016 and Wendover House in Sherwood in early September 2016. Homes 2 Inspire are actively seeking a further home in Nottinghamshire and have made an offer on a property in Mansfield and, if successful, will have a sufficient number of beds in Nottinghamshire to fulfil their contractual obligations.
7. Overall, the block contact is delivering budget savings, and demonstrates the strategic intention to place Nottinghamshire Looked After Children within County boundaries. The contract will lead to savings of approximately £800,000 by 2018 which is later than envisaged (2017) due to the capacity issues.

Other Options Considered

8. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. 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 only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, 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

11. There are significant financial savings to the Council from this contract award as highlighted in **paragraph 7**.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

12. Young people will be better safeguarded via local placements with reductions associated in both Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing episodes.

Implications for Service Users

13. The County Council will deliver better outcomes for Looked After Children when they are placed in County.
14. There will be service user involvement via the Children in Care Council to monitor and evaluate this contract.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That progress on the block purchase of children's residential placement contracts be noted.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 26/05/16)

16. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 11 above.

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.

Block purchase of children's residential placements contracts – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 21 March 2016 (previously published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0835