

Division(s):

CABINET 16 July 2019

RECOMMISSIONING OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUPPORTED HOUSING SERVICES

Report by Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. **Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to support the recommissioning of Young People's Supported Housing Services through co-commissioning these services with District Councils, with the County Council as the lead commissioner.**

Executive Summary

2. The aim of the Young People's Supported Housing Pathway (YPSHP) is to enable young people aged 16-24 years in Oxfordshire who need supported accommodation, to gain and maintain independence skills, to be facilitated into education, employment or training and to gain the knowledge and skills to make informed choices about their accommodation options outside of the Pathway. Services are provided by five providers who deliver 228 units of accommodation across Oxfordshire. The annual cost of the current provision is £2,562,586 which is funded by OCC.

An extensive service review was undertaken with the involvement of District, City and County Council staff, colleagues from partner agencies and young people who have used supported housing services. Over 240 stakeholders fed comments into the review, with a quarter of feedback from young people who have accessed the commissioned services.

The review has concluded that we need more preventative services to divert young people away from the pathway, more intensive and therapeutic provision and improved quality and choice. Discussions with District Council and City Council colleagues have resulted in a proposal that we co-commission a single pathway for 16-24 year olds, through a partnership arrangement with OCC as the Lead Commissioner.

Introduction

3. OCC currently has a mixed delivery model of services within its YPSHP, through commissioning services as well as delivering some services in-house. The in-house services include two Move On Homes, Supported Lodgings Scheme and the House Project. Spot purchases are made for residential provision delivered by external providers, for young people who cannot be accommodated within this provision.

There are currently 228 beds which are contracted to 5 providers to deliver, with these contracts coming to an end in March 2020. Providers have recently been approached about delivering the services for an additional 6 months until 31 August 2020, to ensure that there is adequate time to remodel, tender and mobilise services. If all providers are able to continue with delivery under a new contract for this period of time, an exemption from tendering will be sought for these contracts.

A wide-scale service review has been conducted, which included feedback from over 240 stakeholders, to increase our understanding of the effectiveness of the existing commissioned services within our YPSHP. Whilst much of the review focused on the findings from performance analysis of our commissioned services, data was also collected, analysed and reported on for our in-house provision and included within the findings of the review. This has helped us to better understand how the whole of the pathway is working for our accommodated young people aged 16-24 years, across both commissioned and in-house services, as well as the interface with the Adult Homeless Pathway (AHP).

Strengthening Services

4. The service review identified many areas which needed strengthening which included:
 - ✓ More prevention and family work to improve relationships and get them back home (where it is safe to do so)
 - ✓ Access to more intensive and specialist interventions, with flexibility to meet need
 - ✓ Increased capacity and remit flexibility in the role of the Housing Support Workers, to enable them to manage risk and deliver evidence based interventions
 - ✓ Accommodation delivered through smaller units and be of a consistent high quality, with appropriate staffing levels
 - ✓ More capacity, especially within Supported Lodgings and UASC beds
 - ✓ Different accommodation and support for the 16 and 17 year olds to the 18+ young people
 - ✓ Emergency beds with increased intensive support and family work (where it is safe)
 - ✓ Improved opportunities to move young people on successfully from the pathway, with the outreach support they need
 - ✓ Improved interface between the YPSHP and AHP services
 - ✓ Additional resources from District Councils to continue to support 18+ young people in the pathway who are not Care Leavers to retain existing pathway eligibility
 - ✓ A reduction in the gap between the quality of accommodation and intensity of support between the Move On Homes (MOH) and the SL scheme and the wider commissioned YPSHP services.
 - ✓ To review the length of time young people can remain at the MOH and consider greater flexibility in the offer to better meet individual need.

- ✓ Greater consistency with the charges made to young people across all provision within the pathway (both commissioned services and in-house provision)

There were only 27 moves (17%) last year that appeared to be positive/appropriate moves onto independent living from commissioned services. Positive or appropriate destination examples include young people moving on to secure social private housing tenancies or moving into Adult Supported Living services, if they have ongoing learning disabilities, with onward support identified.

The YPSHP needs to have less disparity between the in-house and commissioned services, to support smoother transitions between pathway services, as well as improved support services in place in the commissioned services to have a greater impact upon a young person's ability to secure or sustain living independently of supported housing services. Further detailed work also needs to be undertaken to improve the options to move young people out of pathway services when they are ready to move on.

Financial and Staff Implications

5. Detailed remodelling of the pathway will be undertaken with the resource implications identified and discussed with County Council and District and City Council managers. For the pathway to retain the existing eligibility to include vulnerable 18+ young people who are not Care Leavers, additional resources will need to be identified by the District Councils, alongside increasing the support available through County Council resources.

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Background papers: Detailed reports available at:
<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/YPSHP/consultationHome>

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