

Health Improvement Board

Young People's Supported Housing Report

Working together to promote successful and sustainable housing

1. Oxfordshire County Council and District partners understand the supportive impact of stable and successful housing on the other aspects of a young person's life. Housing is a critical component for securing education, employment and training and sustaining good health. We also recognise the reciprocal impact of these factors on a young person's ability to secure and maintain stable and successful housing.
2. Oxfordshire's Young People's Supported Housing Pathway is envisioned working as a comprehensive whole, of which supported housing providers are one very significant part. Safeguarding young people and promoting their well-being and aspiration is a responsibility shared by a range of agencies under arrangements set out in Working Together 2013. We therefore require partners working within the Pathway to take a holistic approach to a young person's needs and support, working in partnership with these agencies, even if they are not directly delivering the intervention to address these needs.
3. Within the context described above, the primary task of the housing provider is to ensure timely and successful progression out of the Pathway into positive and sustainable accommodation for each individual entering the Pathway. We are aspirational for young people in Oxfordshire and support them to have high expectations for their long-term options while recognising that there may be several steps on the way that a young person needs to navigate to achieve their ultimate goals. The Pathway must prepare young people for all appropriate options to ensure they make a smooth transition.
4. The Young People's Supported Housing Pathway provides accommodation, housing management services and housing related support. It is recognised that care, specialist input and therapeutic intervention sit more appropriately in other services, such as health and education. Supported Housing Providers work closely in partnership with these and other services to dovetail support and deliver a seamless Service to young people.

Commissioning Young People's Supported Housing

5. The Pathway commissioned from March 2015 contracted 5 supported housing providers to deliver 222 beds spaces across 4 service packages in Oxfordshire for young people aged 16 to 24 years inclusive, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
6. In addition, the County Council developed an internally delivered service providing a minimum of 8 beds across the County. In total the Pathway delivers 230 beds across 5 service packages across Oxfordshire.

7. 4 of the service packages provide supported housing for single young people. The 5th service package is for families i.e. parents aged 16 to 24 years, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who are also pregnant or who have children. The supported accommodation within these packages is delivered within:
- shared accommodation comprised of small shared houses
 - hostel accommodation
 - supported lodgings within a family home
 - self-contained accommodation for those who are unable to be supported with other young people due to risk issues
 - bespoke provision which includes a live-in carer for example where this is needed to meet particular needs. This includes a package to support newly arrived Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers. Support within the accommodation in these packages is provided by either on-site staff or through floating support.
8. The total budget envelope for the Pathway is £2.7m per annum. Of this, the cost of the annual contract value is £2.4m. The remainder funds wrap around services aimed at meeting the needs of an increasingly complex cohort, as well as additional supported housing provision needed to meet fluctuating demand.
9. The funding for services reflects a pooled budget comprising the reduced funds of what was previously a ring-fenced 'Supporting People' budget and funding from the County Council's Children's Social Care budget. The new services were commissioned in close partnership with the City and District Councils.
10. The commissioning arrangements are overseen by the Joint Housing Steering Group which reports to the Health Improvement Board.

Positive move-on from the Pathway

11. The target for positive move-on from the Pathway was commissioned at 95%. This is a highly aspirational target.
12. The current indicator for positive move-on is defined as: "achieved or maintaining (more) independent living" as set out by the Sitra national data framework. This definition is no further refined by Sitra and is open to interpretation.
13. Over the first year of the contracts in 2015-16 the overall rate of departure to a positive move-on was recorded as 68%. The table below breaks this down by service package. Service Package 5 Supported Lodgings is not shown here as it is monitored elsewhere and the numbers are extremely small currently.

	Year 2015-16		
	All departures	To independent living	% of departures to Independent living

SP1 - families	32	31	97%
SP2 - singles shared	135	91	67%
SP3 - singles self-contained	7	0	0%
SP4 - bespoke and newly arrived UASCs	13	5	38%
Total	187	127	68%

14. Housing options for young people are becoming ever more limited and the rationale for the additional monitoring described above is to provide a better understanding of exactly where young people are moving on to from the Pathway and what factors might affect whether the move is considered 'positive'. This might for example, not include a secure tenancy for the young person, but might include engagement in education or employment for example.

15. From Quarter 1 of 2016, this indicator will be replaced with a local indicator defined as 'positive and planned' move. This will ask the provider to provide a judgment for each departure as to whether the move was a positive one. The definition for this indicator will be refined over time in partnership with the supported housing providers. To support the monitoring and refinement of this indicator, as well as to mitigate the subjectivity of the assessment, providers will also be required to record the specific housing destination for each of these departures. This will enable us to drill down into the data to differentiate progression in terms of tenancy type for example.

Recommendation

16. The proposed target for the new indicator is that it does not fall below the previous year's achieved rate. We would therefore set the target at 68% for 2016-17. As a note of caution, it is as yet unclear what the change in indicator will do to the baseline. However, as individual destination types will be recorded, the data can be provided over a number of domains. The aspiration will continue to be achieving a 95% rate of positive move-on.

17. It is important to note that we continue to see an increasing trend in the complexity of the young people moving into the Pathway. This, in addition, to the increasingly limited housing and employment options available to young people will continue to present an increasing challenge for those leaving the Pathway to achieve a positive progression.

Eleanor Stone, Placement Service Manager.
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