

Meeting: Housing Committee

Date: 21st January 2019

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Update on Care Leavers and Homeless Young People’s Commissioning Proposal

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1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides a timeline for the development of a framework of support and accommodation for care leavers and young people aged 16 to 25; as set out in the previous report dated 30th November 2018.
- 1.2 As previously described, the aim of the framework is to address the shortage of supported accommodation options for young people and increase sufficiency of local provision in line with our statutory responsibilities under the Children Act. Deficiencies in the Authority’s response to care leavers’ unique accommodation challenges was highlighted by Ofsted at recent inspections.
- 1.3 Children’s placement costs for the 16+ age group are significantly more expensive than the lower level supported accommodation commissioned by the JCT, with the average weekly placement costing £1600. In comparison, weekly costs for supported lodgings and the Foyer are in the region of £160 per week. Whilst these service models are aimed at lower levels of need and complexity, the variance in price suggests there is potential to work with the provider market to develop different services to facilitate a gradual step down from care and move on into independent accommodation, as well as achieving a reduction in 16+ children’s placements costs.
- 1.4 Housing Committee asked that an update be provided setting out the timescales for the project, including the delivery of a joint commissioning strategy.

2. Timescales:

2.1 Key dates for developing the commissioning strategy and a Torbay framework (possibly jointly with Plymouth) are set out below:

Activity	START	END
Cost modelling and Demand analysis (back view and projected)	02/01/2019	29/03/2019
Draft commissioning approach and plan, including scope of procurement	01/04/2019	30/04/2019

Consult and finalise approach (including decision making)	1/5/2019	30/06/2019
Service design, consultation, market engagement and preparation of specification	03/06/2019	26/07/2019
Finalise specification and approval	01/08/2019	12/09/2019
Submit OJEU Notice	18/09/2019	
Issue Tender Documents	18/09/2019	
Deadline for receipt of tenders		30/10/2019
Evaluation	31/10/2019	29/11/2019
Approval to Award	02/12/2019	06/12/2019
Intention to Award Notification	09/12/2019	
Standstill period	10/12/2019	19/12/2019
Lead in time	20/12/2019	31/03/2020
Start of framework/ service	01/04/2020	

3. Conclusion:

3.1 A new framework can be achieved by March 2020. However resources are required to address the demand modelling and costs analysis in a robust and timely way, and to determine commissioning priorities in order for the commissioning strategy to be developed and procurement to take place. These resources have been identified from within existing establishment by redefining priorities.

3.2 Demand modelling and costs analysis will inform future financial commitments which will require governance approval prior to proceeding with procurement.

3.3 Housing Committee are asked to note the timescale and resource issues set out above.