Executive Officer Delegated Decision Form

Decision Title
Post 18 accommodation for care leavers

Decision Date
23/04/20

Decision Summary
Approval for post 18 funding for care leavers who ordinarily would have been allocated housing, however, this has not been possible as housing providers are ceasing allocations therefore children and young people need to remain in their current placements in the next 3 months.

Delegated Function
General Delegation to SLT - Section 11 of the Constitution

Delegated Power
Delegation to all Senior Leadership Team Member (para 1):
To exercise, within the approved budget, the day to day administrative and operational management of those services, staff and resources placed under the control of the Senior Leadership Team member. Any decisions made as part of this delegation:
- Shall not be key decisions
- Shall relate to maintaining the operation or effectiveness of those services or incidental to the discharge of the Council’s functions
- Shall comply with the Council’s Policy Framework or a policy decision taken by Council

Category of Decision
No key decision

Public / Exempt
If the decision is exempt, please tick the relevant paragraph number. Hover over each number to reveal the Exemption Paragraph.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐

Options Considered
During normal times, a young person in supported accommodation would prepare for independence with the support of the provider and the team around the young person. This would include to begin to look and complete move on options, applications etc with the chosen housing authority. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic
many housing authorities and housing providers are having to restrict their functions in order to keep members of the public, existing/potential tenant and their staff safe. This has resulted in some housing provider throughout Staffordshire suspending their allocation. This is further compounded by the fact the housing authorities, under their homelessness functions, are having to provide accommodation to rough sleepers and other at-risk groups. Therefore, they are looking toward their temporary housing, bed and breakfast options to fulfil this need. A further complication is some of these options are also having to reduce their capacity due to the aforementioned risks. The result of this is that there are little options for young people in our care who are due to transition to independence.

The Secretary of State has also been clear in his briefings that he expects care leavers to be supported through the CV-19 period and not to be moved from their current placements.

Taking all of this into consideration the following options could be considered:

1. Continue as normal. This would mean a young person could be placed at more risk been housed temporarily in substandard accommodation, out of the area they know and desire. Or in worst case scenario, be street homeless.

2. Keep the young people in our supported accommodation placements until an appropriate allocation is made. This will be at a cost of between £275-£450 per week. In doing this all parties need to work together so see if there is any contribution that can be made by housing, and that housing treat these young people with the up most priority.

As we want our young people to transition smoothly and successfully it is recommended that we peruse option 2.

A letter from Helen Riley has already been sent to all the district/boroughs around this including the ask that care leavers are given priority when housing lists are reopened.

Consultation Process

Helen Riley – Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

Electoral Divisions Affected

All

Name of Executive Officer Making Decision:

Helen Riley

Community Impact Assessment

Key Issues

- Homelessness for our Care Leavers during this current pandemic.
- Suitable accommodation options, additional pressures for housing authorities and providers
Outcomes for our care leavers, setting up a home is often the key to employment, education, accessing health care and so forth.

Expenditure increase

Resource and Value for Money Analysis

The resources involved would be using pre-existing framework contracts to deliver the accommodation and support.

Costs vary from provider to provider but the initial cost would range from £275 to £450 per week for each individual placement. It is hoped by working together with housing some of cost can be contributed by the individual housing departments. Total cost based on current placements maybe around £64,912. We are seeking to allocate this expenditure to the £1.6 billion additional funding allocated to care leavers and vulnerable groups announced by Gavin Williamson in his briefing on the 19th April 2020.

Risk Analysis

Option 1 there is a huge reputational risk, we would not be following the key corporate parenting responsibilities. In option 2 there is a financial implication.

Legal Analysis

Regulatory standards apply and are consistent with this measure

Implementation

Is any implementation action required?

Yes ☒ No ☐

To be implemented by: Shahid Munir

Implementation Status

Work to commence on: 23/04/20
Work in progress: 23/04/20
Work completed on date below: 30/06/20

Submission on Mod.Gov

Uploaded by: Kathy Maitland
Date uploaded: 23/04/20