

Officer Decision Report

Title: Post 16 Supported Living – Contract Award

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Local Members Affected Warren Whyte

Decision

- **Following a full tender and evaluation process, the Council will award 5 out of the 14 proposed block contracts for post 16 supported living accommodation.**

Reasons for the decision

In June 2018, the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services agreed the Council could go out to tender for 36 units of block contracted Supported Living Accommodation for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Children in Need aged 16 -25 years old in Buckinghamshire.

The intention was to replace the current system of spot purchased supported living placements in order to support better outcomes for young people, a more equitable distribution of placements across the county and better value for money.

Authority to take this decision

The Cabinet Member agreed in June 2018, that the decision to award the contracts would be delegated to the Executive Director for Children’s Services following the procurement process.

Other options available, and their pros and cons

A full business case was written to inform the Cabinet Member decision to go out to tender for a series of 14 small block contracts for Supported Living within Buckinghamshire. Based on the options appraisal within this business case, the Cabinet Member supported the decision to go out to tender.

The full business case and details of the Cabinet Member decision can be found online at: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=9083>

Following a tender process, the final moderation of the block tender has been completed. This consisted of a robust evaluation of the paper applications in terms of finance and quality criteria, and site visits to the properties of all qualifying providers.

Based on the outcome of this evaluation, it was recommended that 5 out of the 14 contracts should be awarded. The threshold for the award of the remaining contracts was not met.

The award of the 5 contracts will reduce the significant gap in supported living provision in the south of the county where most of the standard and enhanced lots have been filled. Demand in this area has been growing and usage is proven since 2014. Hence these services should be filled with no issues with regard to void placements beyond the level allowed for natural turnover.

The new contracts will support improved outcomes for young people as outlined within the initial business case.

The original business case outlined that the award of all 14 block contracts would achieve a cost reduction of £1,008,339 over the 3 year contract period. The impact of awarding 5 contracts, and not the planned 14, is that a reduced amount of £112,511 in avoided costs will be achieved over the 3 year period. This achieves better value compared to maintaining the status quo.

A future key decision will need to be taken on re-tendering for those contracts that were not filled.

Conflicts of interest

None

Feedback from Consultation

As part of the service review work was done to gather views from providers, social care staff and young people who have been supported in these services.

Feedback confirmed that commissioning specific block contracted beds will enable a real opportunity to change the current supported living offer in terms of the needs that could be met, improved outcomes for young people, the quality of services and their geographical location.

Background papers

Cabinet Member Decision – Post 16 Supported Living:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=9083%20>

Other

None

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose email address is given at the head of the paper.