

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4218

Author:

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Department:

Strategy and Resources

Contact:

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Subject:

Looked After Children - Supported Lodgings pilot

Total Value:

£104,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To approve the expenditure of £104,000 over the entirety of the contract term (1 year) for the provision of placement costs as part of a pilot Supported Lodgings scheme for older Looked After Children/care leavers, in partnership with Barnardos. 2) To dispense with Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulations 3.29, to award a contract directly to Barnardos to supply a Project Worker to manage this supported lodgings scheme for 1 year commencing from May 2021.
- 3) To delegate authority to the Head of Contracting and Procurement to sign the final contract.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Supported Lodgings is a type of placement which can be provided to older children in care or care leavers, who are making steps towards independence. Supported Lodgings are provided in a family or 'host' home in the community. The host provides a room and cooking and washing facilities, as well as offering some support and advice to the young person - the young person effectively becomes a lodger in the host home. A successful Supported Lodgings scheme would require staff to recruit and assess potential hosts, as well as the hosts themselves. Nottingham City Council does not currently have a Supported Lodgings offer.

It is proposed that Nottingham City Council work with children's charity Barnardos, to develop and run a pilot Supported Lodgings scheme in Nottingham, utilising legacy funding which has been gifted to Barnardos. Barnardos will utilise their legacy funding to employ a project worker to recruit and assess potential supported lodgings hosts. These hosts will provide accommodation and support to Children In Care / Care Leavers aged of 17 and over. There will be no cost to Nottingham City Council for the project worker.

Nottingham City Council will pay solely for the cost of the placements with the host families, on the basis of £200 per week. The pilot will operate with up to 10 host families, therefore expenditure will be up to £104,000 for the duration of the one year pilot. It is proposed for Nottingham City Council to contract directly with Barnardos to manage the scheme. Barnardos will identify and contract directly with the host families. This will be cost effective as Nottingham City Council currently pay approx. £750 per week for semi-independent accommodation for a young person. (The cost of the project worker being met by Barnardos for one year.)

There will be no obligation to utilise this supported lodgings accommodation should it not be suitable for the young people currently requiring placements. The contract is to be paid based on usage, at a rate of £200 per week. Therefore if there are any vacancies these vacant beds will not incur a cost to Nottingham City Council. The pilot will be evaluated after a year to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the scheme. A decision will then be required to determine whether to continue to provide Supported Lodgings. As part of the decision-making process, market testing will take place to inform procurement options for provision from 2022/23 onwards.

Other Options Considered:

1) Do nothing. This option would not utilise the legacy funding that Barnardos have available, which could significantly benefit Nottingham City. It would do nothing to seek alternative provision of supported living for Looked After Children nor to reduce spending on placement costs or improve the quality and range of support available. Therefore this option has been discounted. 2) Formal procurement of a provider to manage the Supported Lodgings scheme through an open tender process. This option would require greater expenditure from Nottingham City Council, as Nottingham City Council would need to pay for the costs of employing the project worker as well as the placement costs. Due to the upfront costs of employing the project worker, Nottingham City Council has been unable to offer a Supported Lodgings scheme to date. This option has been discounted due to Nottingham City Council's financial position, and the funding that Barnardos are able to provide to support the pilot scheme.

Background Papers:

None

Published Works:

None

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Dispensation from Financial Regulations:	Yes
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	N/A
Equality:	Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA Supported Lodgings - DRAFT v.1.docx
Social Value Considerations:	N/A
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	01/06/2021
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported. This type of scheme is known to have been delivered with success in other areas, but due to funding restrictions the Council has been unable to offer it previously.

Working in partnership with Barnardos will enable the Council to utilise their experience as well as their additional legacy funding in order to provide a cost efficient pilot. The pilot will allow the Council to measure the success and impact within the City. Due consideration will need to be had nearing the end of the pilot term as to whether the service should be continued and commissioned on a long term basis.

It is understood that the Council's funding will be used to pay for the hosts services and Barnardo's legacy funding will be used to engage a Project Worker who will identify and evaluate appropriate host families. The Council will need to have a contractual arrangement with Barnardos directly who will in turn be responsible for contracting with the Project Worker and the chosen host families.

For the reasons given within the report, dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, to award a contract to Barnardos is supported.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamon (Solicitor) on 07/04/2021.

Finance Advice:

Finance Observations attached. Advice provided by Christine Green (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 10/05/2021.

Advice documents: 2021 05 06 Supported Lodgings.docx

Procurement Advice:

The decision is to dispense with Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulations 3.29, to award a contract directly to Barnardos to supply a Project Worker to manage this supported lodgings scheme for 1 year commencing from May 2021. The Procurement Team have been involved in consideration of the proposal and support the Decision for the reasons provided.

Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 24/03/2021.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

Comments have been provided on EIA as attached. Will need to provide details as to how participants will be selected. EIA will need to be updated as part of review process. Advice provided by Nasreen Miah (Equality & employability consultant) on 25/03/2021.

If the evaluation recommends the scheme will be continued, a formal decision will be required and EIA would need to be updated as part of this process. Wording around this has been added to EIA to reflect this.

Advice documents: EIA Supported Lodgings - DRAFT.docx

Signatures

Cheryl Barnard (Portfolio Holder- Children and Young People)

SIGNED and Dated: 17/05/2021

Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)

SIGNED and Dated: 16/05/2021

Clive Heaphy (Chief Finance Officer/CD for Finance & Resources) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations

SIGNED and Dated: 20/05/2021

Chief Finance Officer's Comments: