

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	2999
Author:	Kay Sutt
Department:	Children and Adults
Contact:	Kay Sutt (Job Title: Service Manager for Residential & Targeted Support, Email: kay.sutt@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158765667)
Subject:	new Internal long term residential home for two children with complex needs currently living in out of County placements
Total Value:	£391,072 per annum including £25,000 set up costs (Type: Capital and Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To agree funding for a proposed new Children's Residential Property that has been offered by Nottingham City Homes as suitable accommodation for internal provision. It is proposed that the home be utilised for long term placements with an emphasis on complex children and young people who are currently placed out of county and at considerable cost due to lack of internal options.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	To provide a home for two young persons in the care of the Local Authority with complex needs, who require long-term care between the ages of 10-18. This approach will aid to improve outcomes in relation to the young people's wellbeing and to assist with the potential significant saving in excess of £100,000 to the Children and Families budget, identified as a "big ticket" item. Nottingham City Council has a duty to accommodate children under the following legislation: The Children Act 1989, Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Children and Young Person Act 2008. In order to facilitate the provision of accommodation to young people under the care of the local Authority, Council owned accommodation is sought by Children and Adults. Providing an in-house provision is the Council's preferred route as it is less expensive and provides more stability than private residential provision. The model is already used successfully in other locations in the city. The proposal is to make the property available on a long-term basis to the Residential Services, within the Children and Adults department. Staff from the Children and Adults department will reside at the property full time to provide appropriate care and support. Nottingham City Homes will continue to manage the property with the responsibility to undertake necessary repairs and servicing of appliances as required.
Other Options Considered:	To not go with this option would mean to continue to have children and young people placed with private providers at considerably higher costs to the council. Also young people will be placed out of county impacting on their well being and contact with relevant others in their lives. It also impacts on social workers and reviewing officers time in terms of travel time and capacity having further impact on the councils budget.

Background Papers: **None**

Published Works: **None**

Affected Wards: **Bestwood**

Colleague / Councillor Interests: **None**

Any Information Exempt from publication: **Yes**

Exempt Information:

Description of what is exempt: **Detailed information on the accommodation and its location**

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual **The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because this will be a children's home and disclosure might identify its location jeopardising the safeguarding of children.**

Documents exempt from publication: **Briefing note On C Road Sept 2017.doc**

Consultations:
Date: 11/09/2017
Ward Councillors: Brian Grocock
Councillor Crocock is happy for two bed home to go ahead. He has asked that we ensure that staff working at the home park on the driveway so as not to cause traffic congestion on the street

Date: 13/10/2017
Unions: Unison

Unison are happy for this to go ahead as it will provide accommodation for children currently placed in private provision as well as provide jobs for local people.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

Not applicable

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: An EIA is not required as the decision does not refer to a change in policy or new service.

Relates to staffing:

Yes

Relates to Council Property Assets:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

16/11/2017

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Human Resources, Property, Other: Holly Macer(holly.macer@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Legal Advice:

No further legal advice to add, as reference has already been made in the document to the relevant legislation covering the local authority's statutory duties around the provision of accommodation for vulnerable children in our area.

Advice provided by Claire Knowles (Team Leader) on 19/10/2017.

Finance Advice:

This proposal aims to reduce high cost external placements by increasing our internal residential provision. Based on existing comparable homes the total cost of this programme is £345,280 per annum. In addition, set up costs of £25,000 is necessary to support minor alternations to ensure the home is fit for purpose.

The savings associated with increasing our internal provision is circa £1,180 per bed per week based on 100% occupancy. This is projected at £122,720 per year (less set up costs in year one).

Advice provided by Christine Green (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 27/10/2017.

HR Advice:

The estimated costings for this proposal include staffing costs based on a comparable home, and therefore an appropriate staffing complement has been considered, however it is not stated how many posts and at which grades this will entail. If there is to be an increase to the establishment in order to staff the home, an additional report will be required to alter the establishment and create the new posts.

Appropriate JDs and job evaluation will need to be considered. Any recruitment to the posts should be in accordance with the LA's resourcing policy. If funding for the posts is not on a permanent basis, consideration should be given to recruiting on a fixed-term or secondment basis initially, in order to mitigate potential redundancy costs going forward.

Advice provided by Joanne Zylinski (Service redesign consultant) on 19/10/2017.

Other Advice:

Internal supply of residential provision does not meet demand. There are on average 50 children and young people placed in external residential care at any single point in time. By increasing the internal estate, Nottingham will reduce the amount of children and young people with complex behaviours placed in external provision, therefore decreasing external spend and supporting more children to remain living locally and accessing local support services.

Advice provided by Holly Macer (Contracts Manager) on 13/10/2017.

Property Advice:

This is a NCH managed property and property support the proposed use subject to necessary Planning and other Statutory consents.

Advice provided by Peter Taylor (Senior Surveyor) on 20/10/2017.

Signatures

David Mellen (PH Early Intervention and Early Years)

SIGNED and Dated: 08/11/2017

Helen Blackman (Director of Children's Social Care)

SIGNED and Dated: 08/11/2017