

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD (Non Key)

The following decision was taken on 31 January 2018 by the Director of Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning.

Date notified to all members: Wednesday 31 January 2018

Officer Non-Key decisions are not subject to call-in.

1. **TITLE**

Extension to a Contract for Dispersed Supported Housing Service for Young People.

2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That the contract held by Depaul UK, be extended for one up to one year (from 2nd February 2018 to 1st February 2019) at a reduced contract price of £455,000 (a £30,000 reduction) and a reduction of 7 supported accommodation units.

3. **Reasons For Decision**

The Council remains committed to the provision of housing related support for young people and approval of the extension of the current contract will allow time to conclude a considered review and remodelling of services, including the agreeing the process of commissioning new services. Government policy on austerity and welfare reform are having negative impacts on vulnerable people and current plans for changing housing benefits will have particular impacts on young people. It is important that we are able to consider all these impacts together in our overall plans for young people.

This service is included within the budget for services commissioned by the Housing Independence Service for 2017-18 and within the budget forecast for 2018-19.

Depaul UK has been running the young persons' dispersed supported housing service for nearly 3 years since winning the contract through an open tender process in 2014. On the back of this contract DePaul have also fund raised and brought a Night Stop Service into Sheffield to fill a service gap. The current contract which expires on 1st February 2018 includes the option to extend the contract twice for periods of up to 12 months. We have negotiated some changes to the contract which includes a contract price reduction and the Contract continues to represent value for money.

4. **Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

The alternative options are:

- Further reductions in units of supported accommodation. However, it was felt that this would have a negative impact on young homeless people and would

be premature to make significant changes outside of the newly developing commissioning strategy.

- To terminate the contract and decommission the services. This would leave up to 204 young homeless and vulnerable people a year, including young parents, without access to supported accommodation and ongoing resettlement. This may lead to a downward spiral in the health and wellbeing of these young people and a rise in antisocial behaviour, medical admissions and offending. It would certainly lead to pressures on the Council's Homeless Services and Children and Young People's Services as some of the service users will be care leavers.
- To go out to tender for one year while the review of the services take place. This would be unnecessary and costly in terms of capacity and resources in all teams and will not be the most efficient way of meeting value for money. The current contract terms were drawn up with the intention of utilising the extension clause to prevent unnecessary expenditure. We have recently negotiated value for money changes.

5. Documents used in making decision:

Officer Non-Key Executive Report

6.1 Any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member who is consulted by the Officer when making the decision

None

6.2 Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service

N/A

7. Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Executive Director, People Services