

REPORT FOR: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date of Meeting:	3 April 2019
Subject:	Housing for Care Leavers - Update
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officers:	Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director of People Paul Walker, Corporate Director of Community
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	None

1.0 Summary and Recommendations

This report seeks to update the Corporate Parenting Panel of the housing assistance available for care leavers. Housing will continue to offer a quota of social housing for Young People Leaving Care, this will mainly be studio flats but some may have a separate bedroom. The quota is reviewed annually. In 19-20 we can increase this quota to 22 lettings.

Recommendations: That the CPP acknowledge and welcome the increase in the quota.

Reason for recommendation: To assist additional YPLC to have settled accommodation.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

Every year the planned distribution of permanent housing (i.e. quotas) for the following financial year are agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Housing. In 19/20 we have been able to increase the quota to 22. This increase has been discussed and signed off by the Portfolio Holder for Housing Services.

Options Considered

The council has chosen to make a quota of lettings available to care leavers and the council's Allocations Policy includes this.

If the quota turns out to be insufficient we can bring forward our proposals to offer accommodation in shared housing. This would probably be managed by the council, leased from a private landlord. We have agreed with the Housing Benefit Service the rent levels that could be charged (and covered by HB) which would largely cover the cost of leasing property. We consider small shared housing units for 3 care leavers to be the most suitable option, but we can agree the exact configuration if shared housing is needed. We would also need to put in place a Service Level Agreement to deal with support for the residents, arrears and excessive void periods. The Care Leaver and Housing Sub Group can finalise this. This option could be implemented within a few months of deciding it is needed, subject to agreement.

Performance Issues

Housing Service and Children & Families Service will continue to work in partnership through this sub group and actively manage and respond to care leavers' housing needs.

Environmental Impact

There is no specific environmental impact from the issues outlined in this report.

Risk Management Implications

There is no change from the last report in 2017.

(All related risks are recorded in the Children's Services risk register. There is a significant reputational risk from a poor inspection of social care, where support to children looked after and young people leaving care are crucial to mitigate risks and demonstrate developing practice and procedure support to this cohort.)

Financial Implications

There is no financial implication as the quota is part of the wider Allocation Scheme.

Legal Implications

The power to offer a quota to Care Leavers is included in the Council's Housing Allocations Policy October 2013 as amended December 2015.

Equalities implications

There is no change from the report in 2017

(Children Looked After (CLA) and care leavers are additionally vulnerable child in need. The 2009 statutory guidance "The Roles & Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services" highlights the need for Local Authorities to work corporately to improve the well-being of looked after children and young people leaving care, to make their needs a priority and seek the same outcomes that any reasonable caring parent would want for their own children. CLA consistently fare worse than their peers across a range of indicators including health, education, training, employment, homelessness and offending.

Considering the Public Sector Equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, providing a quota of lettings to care leavers is expected to have a positive impact.

Corporate Priorities

CLA and care leavers are additionally vulnerable by virtue of the experiences that led them into Local Authority care and in respect of the poor outcomes that many CLA and care leavers experience when compared to their peers,

The Council's corporate priorities include:

- Making a difference for the vulnerable.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Tasleem Kazmi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 22 March 2019		
Name: Paresh Metha	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 22 March 2019		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:	NO
EqIA cleared by:	N/A

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

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