

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	17 July 2012
Title:	Supported Lodgings joint tendering approval
Reference:	4029
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. The decision:

- a) That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the joint tendering exercise with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for Supported Lodgings.
- b) That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves the increase in tender value by £300,000 to take into account additional funding from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. To provide vulnerable young people including looked after children and care leavers aged 16+ in Hampshire with safe and secure accommodation in conjunction with an element of support as an alternative to Bed and Breakfast accommodation, Foster Care, Residential Children's Homes or as a result of homelessness.
- 2.2. There are several benefits of tendering for Supported Lodgings jointly these include:
 - an opportunity to improve services and outcomes for young people
 - working together will enable the two departments to exploit scale economies in contract rates and reduce the cost of commissioning
 - ensure greater equity and consistency of services for Supported Lodgings users across Hampshire.
- 2.3. This decision supports the statutory duties Hampshire County Council owe to young people who face homelessness under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989. Supported Lodgings can provide suitable and low cost accommodation to young people pending assessment of their needs and to further accommodate a young person if required.

- 2.4. This decision supports the statutory duties Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have to accommodate all eligible unintentionally homeless people who are vulnerable (through having a priority need) and who have a relevant local connection with the area. By virtue of Statutory Instrument SI No 2051, all homeless 16/17 year olds and all 18-21 year old care leavers are to be considered vulnerable and in priority need. Statutory and non-statutory guidance from Communities and Local Government (CLG) expressly advises that no 16 or 17 year old should be placed in Bed and breakfast accommodation. Supported Lodgings is used as an alternative to Bed and breakfast accommodation.
- 2.5. This decision supports the priorities and outcomes of the Hampshire Children and Young People Plan, including:
- ensuring that children and young people are safe and feel safe
 - enabling them to build resilience and personal confidence
 - to reduce the incidence and impact of poverty on the achievement and life chances of children and young people.
- 2.6. This decision supports the priorities and outcomes of the Hampshire 'Open for Business' Plan, in particular:
- improving quality of life for all, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged
 - enhancing community engagement and partnership working
 - developing service provision through the award of contracts to voluntary organisations who provide services covering those priorities.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Other options to be considered were for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to tender for Supported Lodgings separately. This decision was rejected as the benefits of jointly tendering the contracts were seen to be more beneficial than tendering separately as identified in point 2.2.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

17 July 2012

**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Councillor Roy Perry**