

REPORT OF THE
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
PART II

117. PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES

1. On 22 October 2014 the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved Phase 1 of the Children's Homes programme. The programme represents a major investment in the improvement and replacement of Children's Homes, will provide six new family-unit sized Children's Homes to replace existing larger homes, and will benefit children in the care of the Council. Four of the new Children's Homes will be delivered in Phase 1 at The Green House, Chandler's Ford; Swallowfields, Andover; Anchorage, Dibden and Barncroft, Havant, at an estimated total cost of £4,504,000.

2. The new Children's Homes have been designed to look like any other family home. Inside, the layout is like that of a family home with the staff office at the front of the house, not unlike a study, a kitchen dining area for communal meal times and two sitting rooms. Upstairs there are six bedrooms and the manager's office. Each of the new Children's Homes will accommodate four children, two residential managers and other daytime staff. The internal space has been designed to be house-like and familiar to encourage the children to spend time together in a family type environment.

3. The new homes are in line with the Government guidance of providing homes within a community with sufficient infrastructure to support positive outcomes for children such as transport, schools and leisure activities. This will enable children to feel part of, and participate in, their community and develop a sense of worth and independence. The investment is also a critical aspect of Hampshire's children in care strategy as it will reduce dependency on external placements for these most vulnerable children. Such external placements are very expensive as well as outside of the council's direct control as Corporate Parents.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Provision of Children's Homes (search item reference 5909)

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