

Delegated Decisions report



15 August 2023

APPROVAL TO TENDER FOR A YOUNG PARENTS SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION SERVICE

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Emily Darlington (Cabinet member for Adults, Housing and Health Communities)
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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	Supporting vulnerable people / Excellent services for children and young people
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

This report seeks permission to tender a contract for support services at Springfield House, Milton Keynes, which provides supported accommodation to young parents and babies. A contract of three plus two years is proposed.

1. Proposed Decisions

1.1 That the commencement of a tender exercise for support services at Springfield House for a three year contract, with the option of extending for a further two years, be approved.

2. Why is the Decision Needed?

2.1 Springfield House meets the needs of young parents who need accommodation with additional support. It provides a safe, stable environment where young people learn independent living skills alongside parenting skills to enable a successful move on to independence.

- 2.2 The service provides 16 places to young mothers (young fathers can also be accommodated if required) with a baby aged under one year at point of admission as well as pregnant young women due to give birth. Partners are allowed to stay for at least part of the week where safe and appropriate.
- 2.3 There is consistent demand for the service - 42 referrals were received during 2022/23 of which 30 were assessed as suitable (needing support as well as accommodation) and 12 were accepted. Occupancy was at 96% for the year. One of the KPIs for the service is Preparedness for Living Independently for which the service achieved 100% in Q4 2022/23.
- 2.4 Following competitive tender, the contract for support at Springfield House was awarded to the Salvation Army in January 2017. The contract was for five years with the option to extend for a further two years, which was agreed by Delegated Decisions in September 2021. The contract is due to end on 31 January 2024 with no further scope for extension.
- 2.5 The property owner for Springfield House is Orbit Housing Association, and the Salvation Army provides housing management on their behalf. This arrangement will continue with the successful bidder for the new contract.

3. Implications of the Decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	Y
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	
Communication		Procurement	Y
Energy Efficiency		Workforce	

(a) Financial Implications

An annual budget of £0.231m has been agreed of which £0.210m will be funded from the Supporting People commissioning budget and £0.021m from Children's Services. The total budget for the duration of the contract is £1.155m (three years plus two years)

(b) Legal Implications

The support services are discretionary services that the Council provides. The Council has general powers of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to provide these services.

The services fall under light touch regime. The value of the proposed contract exceeds the threshold for publication in the FTS. Approval to commence tender is required in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The procurement will be required to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

(c) Procurement Implications

The procurement will be undertaken in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) and Regulations 74 to 77 of the Public Contracts Regulations (PCRs) 2015 (Light Touch Regime).

(d) Human Rights, Equalities and Diversity Implications

Residents of Springfield House have a need for support as well as accommodation to help develop independent living skills as well as how to be a good parent. The service promotes independence, prevents homelessness, and supports the health and wellbeing of both parent and child.

4. Alternatives

4.1 Do Nothing

Allowing the contract to expire without alternative provision in place would conflict with the Council's commitments to support children and young people and vulnerable adults at risk of homelessness.

5. Timetable for Implementation

5.1 If the recommendation is approved a tender process will commence to enable a new contract to be in place by 1 February 2024.

List of Annexes and Background Papers - None