

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

15 March 2022

Executive Response
Rapid Scrutiny Exercise: Provision of Accommodation for Young People at Transition Time – Gap Analysis

Purpose of the report

1. To present the Executive response to the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise Provision of Accommodation for Young People at Transition Time – Gap Analysis from the:
 - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills
 - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND and Transition and Inclusion

Background

2. The issue of how effective the council was at getting care leavers into the right housing, including the availability of choice and location, was first raised by the previous Cabinet member for Children's Services, Cllr Pauline Church, in 2019.
3. It was placed upon the Select Committee's forward work plan on 12 November 2019. Subsequently, it was agreed at a work planning meeting between the Select Committee Chairman and the Executive in July 2021 to start the analysis in the autumn of 2021. The scope of the exercise was widened to consider how effective the council is at meeting housing needs for young people at transition time e.g., care leavers or people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) 'ageing out' of existing provision.
4. The final report of the Rapid Scrutiny Group was presented for endorsement to the Children's Select Committee on 19 January 2022. The Children's Select Committee resolved to refer the report's findings and recommendations to the relevant parties for response.

Executive response to the Rapid Scrutiny Group's recommendations (Please note that recommendation numbers match those in the final report and include two additional recommendations added by the select committee on 19 January 2022)

Recommendation 1:

Children's Select Committee consider the draft of the accommodation strategy covering the needs of children and young people with learning disability, mental health, and autism (potentially published mid-2022)

Recommendation is agreed:

The Wiltshire Accommodation Strategy is currently in draft format and has a new working title "Wiltshire Independent Living Strategy". The strategy is currently out to consultation. The strategic lead is Robert Holman, Commissioning Transformation Lead for Whole Life Commissioning, who will present the draft strategy to Children's Select in June 2022.

Recommendation 2:

The Select Committee thereafter receives an annual update on relevant parts of the strategy's delivery

Recommendation is agreed:

Robert Holman, as strategic lead will provide Children's Scrutiny with the annual update on the relevant parts of the strategy's delivery.

Recommendation 3:

The Select Committee continues to monitor the data on care leaver accommodation provided in the Corporate Parenting annual report.

Recommendation is agreed:

Data on the suitability of care leaver accommodation is included in the Quarterly Safeguarding Children Dataset. This dataset is shared with Children's Select and will supplement the information contained in the Corporate Parenting Annual Report which is also shared.

Recommendation 4:

An exercise should be undertaken to identify the gaps/needs of Wiltshire care leavers so that any strategy developed can be targeted and include metrics to allow measurement of performance.

Recommendation is agreed:

The Placement Sufficiency Strategy is currently under review and will be finalised by the end of March 2022. It would be helpful for Children's Select to review the strategy and receive regular updates on implementation and impact.

Recommendation 5:

The Accommodation Strategy in development should reflect the challenges identified through undertaking Recommendation 4 and identify how these challenges will be addressed

Recommendation is agreed:

The Wiltshire Independent Living Strategy captures the need to forecast demand for people with learning disabilities, mental health conditions and/or autism spectrum conditions. The strategy highlights that for UASC and care leavers there is a higher prevalence of poor social, emotional and mental health within these groups. It has taken account of the metrics for this group of young people through the market position statement alongside Wiltshire Demographics. The needs analysis within the strategy

will highlight the metrics identified in regard to Wiltshire's care experienced young people and how we continue to meet need.

Proposal

5. To note the executive response to the report of the **Rapid Scrutiny Exercise: Provision of Accommodation for Young People at Transition Time – Gap Analysis**

Cllr Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills

Cllr Jane Davies, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND and Transition and Inclusion

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