

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Decision No: (CAB 19/20 26571)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ASPIRATION, SCHOOLS & LIFELONG LEARNING
SUBJECT:	LOCAL PLACEMENT PLAN - CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE
AUTHOR:	Sharon Hawkins

THE DECISION

- (i) To approve the Local Placement Plan business case (appendix 1).
- (ii) To delegate authority to Executive Director Children & Families service, following consultation with Cabinet member for Aspiration, Children and Lifelong Learning, to take necessary steps required to implement the proposals in (i) above.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Local Placement Plan will support the delivery of the council's outcomes, namely children and young people get a good start in life. Evidence identifies that most young people prefer to live locally and that their outcomes are often higher when local placements can be made. As corporate parents of the young people who may be impacted by these proposals, it is our responsibility to ensure we provide the best possible care for these young people.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

An alternative option to tender for providers to directly manage homes provided by Southampton City Council has been rejected for a number of reasons as stated in Appendix 1, but primarily because it does not provide the council the control over the provision and the increased reputational risks.

An alternative option to do nothing and continue with current and existing contractual arrangements has been rejected for a number of reasons as stated in Appendix 1, but primarily because it does not provide the council with control over the shaping of the local market and educational attainment can sometimes be compromised.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

Cabinet took into consideration the following recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting held on 12th March, 2020:

- i) That, to aid the discussion at Cabinet and Council, the forecast 2019/20 expenditure figure of £6.3m is utilised, rather than the 2018/19 actual figure of £4.6m, as this provides a more accurate reflection of current and future residential placement costs for the Council.
- ii) That, whilst recognising that the principle of accommodating Southampton's looked after children in placements within the city is supported by the Committee, it is recommended that, prior to the Cabinet decision, Finance are asked to model the future residential care placement costs to provide greater certainty that the proposal reflects value for money.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 17th March, 2020

Decision Maker:
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:
Claire Heather

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in (*if applicable*) (*this suspends implementation*)

Call-in Procedure completed (*if applicable*)

Call-in heard by <i>(if applicable)</i>
Results of Call-in <i>(if applicable)</i>