

Policy and Resources Committee**17 March 2021**

REPORT TITLE:	TRANSFORMING CARE THERAPEUTIC SHORT BREAKS CAPITAL PROPOSAL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides for consideration the recommendations of the Children, Young People and Education Committee in respect of the Transforming Care Therapeutic Short Breaks Capital proposal. The report recommends the acceptance of capital grant monies of up to £700,000 from NHS England to enable the purchase by the Council of a property to be used for the purpose of providing a facility for children and young people with Learning Difficulties, Autism and presenting mental health difficulties along with the delivery of suitable services to such occupants.

The full report is due to be presented to the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 11 March and is attached. The Minutes of the Children, Young People and Education Committee will be distributed following its meeting.

This is a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Subject to approval by the Children, Young People and Education Committee due to be held on 11 March 2021, Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to:

1. the acceptance of capital grant monies of up to £700,000 from NHS England to enable the purchase by the Council of a property to be used for the purpose of providing a facility for children and young people with Learning Difficulties, Autism and presenting mental health difficulties along with the delivery of suitable services to such occupants.
2. that the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the associated grant agreement.
3. that delegated authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, the Director of Children, Families and Education and NHS England to purchase a property at market value suitable for the purposes outlined within this report; and
4. that delegated authority be given to the Director of Children, Families and Education to procure a registered care provider for the first nine months of the facility's operation.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 This matter is being referred to Policy & Resources Committee because the Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommending acceptance of capital grant monies from NHSE and the purchase by the Council of a property to be used for the purpose of providing a facility for children and young people with Learning Difficulties, Autism and presenting mental health difficulties along with the delivery of suitable services to such occupants and in accordance with the Council's Constitution the purchase of land over £100,000 is reserved to Policy & Resources Committee.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The option of not bidding for the grant has been considered given pressures of officer time and the need to quickly form a cross agency project team during COVID pressures. This option is not favoured given the level of demand within Wirral for the proposed facility.
- 2.2 A full housing option appraisal has been undertaken by officers. No suitable options have been found.
- 2.3 Expressions of interest from local registered providers have been invited and fully explored as to any stock they had available and suitability for refurbishment. No suitable options were sourced due to the extent of the accommodation needed to meet the service needs.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The report outlines a Transforming Care Therapeutic Short Breaks Capital proposal and provides context on a capital bid process which is underway with NHS England for a grant to be used for children and young people who are experiencing levels of crisis or difficulty and presenting with behaviours of concern.
- 3.2 Following a successful expression of interest stage, a full project proposal has been submitted to NHS England seeking capital funds to:
- Provide a facility for up to three young people who are at risk of attendance at Accident and Emergency, in need of assessment and treatment for mental health issues (Tier 4 admissions) or in need of a placement away from their normal residence. This would provide a short break service offering a range of interventions to support the young person and their carers at a time of crisis and difficulty.
 - Develop an integrated 'hub' across the system (health, social care and education and the third sector) to provide a range of multi service interventions and support. This will include specialist clinical advice where appropriate.

- 3.3 The provision will build on existing services, including the second phase of the Intensive Support Function in Wirral and will provide a therapeutic short break and 'safe space' for young people experiencing a high level of distress.

The proposal aims to support the strategic aims and objectives of the:

- Wirral Plan 2025 '*Brighter Futures*'
- Wirral's Sufficiency Strategy
- NHS Long Term Plan in improving community services for young people with complex needs; and
- Transforming Care Agenda

The proposal also aims to meet the specific strategic objectives:

1. A range of specialist services will be made available to respond to children and young people as and when they need them;
2. All children will be matched with good quality provision that meets their needs;
3. All children will be supported so they are prepared for adulthood;
4. Most children and young people will live locally;
5. Avoidance of 'revolving door' Accident and Emergency attendances for self-harm and other presenting mental health difficulties;
6. Decrease in tier 4 admissions and subsequent prolonged stays; and
7. Decrease in costly, both in financial terms and in impact for the young person, of out of borough children's home placements which sever their local connections with school, peers, family and support services.

- 3.4 The Council is looking to meet the needs of young people who require not only therapeutic interventions but also a facility to provide robust and timely support. Although the facility will be based in one ward, children placed there will come from wards across the borough.

- 3.5 Full background information is detailed within the report submitted to Children, Young People and Education Committee on 11 March 2021.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial implications are detailed within the report submitted to Children, Young People and Education Committee on 11 March 2021.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In accordance with the Part 3B of Constitution (Committee Terms of Reference), the Policy and Resources Committee has two main areas of responsibility, which is to provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council, including making decisions on policies and co-ordinating spend not reserved to full Council, and to maintain a strategic overview of outcomes, performance, risk management and budgets.
- 5.2 the Policy & Resources Committee is charged by full Council to provide a co-ordinating role across all other service committees and retain a 'whole-council' view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management. In particular, this includes specific responsibility for a decision regarding land and property including major

acquisition and disposals, which includes reserved decision making concerning any purchase, sale or transfer of a value in excess of, or likely to exceed, £100,000;

As part of the matter of business that was the subject of the report to Children, Young People and Education Committee falls under that responsibility reserved to the Policy and Resources Committee, the Children, Young People and Education Committee's proposed resolution is presented as a recommendation.

- 5.3 As the decision in this matter is the subject of a recommendation from another Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee must take into account the resolution of that Committee and give due regard to the guidance and comments made by its members. The Policy and Resources Committee must not, however, consider itself bound by that Committee's recommendations or otherwise fetter its discretion; its Members must come to their own decision. In doing so, the Committee must satisfy itself that it has been provided with all relevant information or a suitable précis to enable it to comply with its duties and make a lawful decision.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The resource implications are detailed within the report submitted to Children, Young People and Education Committee on 11 March 2021.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The relevant risks are detailed within the report submitted to Children, Young People and Education Committee on 11 March 2021.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The engagement/consultation is detailed within the report submitted to Children, Young People and Education Committee on 11 March 2021.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The equality implications are detailed within the report submitted to Children, Young People and Education Committee on 11 March 2021.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The environment and climate implications are detailed within the report submitted to Children, Young People and Education Committee on 11 March 2021.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – minute 43, Children, Young People and Education Committee, 11 March 2021.
(to follow)

Appendix 2 – report to Children, Young People and Education Committee, 11 March 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

‘Why Communities Matters’ report Capacity Lab

‘Englands left behind Children’ Childrens Commissioner for England Anne Longfield February 2021

‘The Art of the Possible’ Consultation review 2020

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People and Education Committee	11. 3. 21