

**What
Really
Matters?**

Budget Option

Accommodation for 16-17 year olds

Savings

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
600	0	0	600

Option summary

- 1) When a 16/17 year old is assessed as at risk of homelessness accommodation may be provided in the form of a placement in care or supported accommodation. Supported accommodation is currently purchased as required, however, there are plans to develop a service delivered by a specialist provider within a Council owned property to provide emergency housing for this group. This will develop a better service and will realise an annual saving of £100,000. This is through more cost effective arrangements resourcing this need.
- 2) Children in care need good accommodation to move on to as they leave care, which provides the right amount of support to meet their needs. Similar to young people who are homeless, this accommodation is commissioned on a spot purchased basis. It is proposed that existing supporting people contracted provision is reconfigured in partnership with current providers to meet the needs of this vulnerable group of young people. This will realise an annual saving of £500,000.

Potential impact

- 1) Supported accommodation is currently purchased as required, however, there are plans to develop a service delivered by a specialist provider within a Council owned property which will realise a saving of £100,000. There may be a risk of children not moving on from the emergency accommodation causing a need to still spot purchase.
- 2) Agreement needs to be reached about how the specific needs of these young people can be met, by reconfiguring existing services. Young people present with a range of diverse needs, there may be a risk that the current services cannot be reconfigured to meet all young people's needs and that some other purchased placements may still be required.

Reducing the impact

- 1) There are staff working together to develop a multi-agency 16 plus team to support this proposal and deliver an improved emergency accommodation provision. Careful monitoring of use will support the effective management of the resource.
- 2) Work is underway to fully understand the needs of care leavers and young people. The work to date should support reconfigured services being available by 1 April 2014.