

## Transformation programme – Housing-related support pathway for young people

Briefing - Lambeth Together Executive Group

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Author: Sophie Konradsen, Acting Lead Commissioner, Supported Housing Commissioning Team

### 1. Background

1.1 The Council currently commissions two separate housing-related support options for young people aged 16+:

- Supported housing: This accommodation is offered to young people who are homeless and are considered vulnerable or in priority need in accordance with The Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. This accommodation is commissioned via block contracts of a total of 225 units with four providers. The majority of these are across two large hostels; the Centrepoint service at Camberwell Foyer (80 units) and Evolve Housing + Support at King George' House, Stockwell (87 units).
- Semi-independent living services: This accommodation is offered to children looked after and care leavers who are assessed as being entitled to accommodation under Section 20 of The Children Act 1989. The majority of this provision is outside South London and is commissioned via spot purchase agreements, currently accommodating 159 young people.

1.2 In October 2020, a needs assessment was successfully completed, which reviewed the needs of all young people who require housing-related support. This work focussed on four key areas:

1. Prevention of homelessness/ increased use of foster care and staying put arrangements
2. Assessment of needs
3. High quality, specialised housing-related support provision
4. Successful moves into independent accommodation with appropriate transitional support

1.3 Although the focus of the needs assessment was on all young people requiring housing-related support, specific attention was given to the following sub-groups: looked after children, care leavers, children in need, homeless young people, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, young parents, victims of contextual harm (sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and harmful sexual behaviour), young people involved in gangs and serious youth violence, young people with mental ill health and those identifying as LGBTQ.

1.4 The needs assessment was developed through three main sources of information: data, consultations, and review of best practice from elsewhere. Data was collated and analysed from databases including Northgate and Hope (Lambeth Council Housing), Mosaic (Lambeth Council Children's and Adult's Social Care), Police, MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference for victims of domestic abuse),

and provider's local databases. Consultations were conducted with all relevant stakeholders including young people, providers, Children's Social Care, Housing, Public Health, and the Youth Offending Service. Best practice was reviewed from services and Local Authorities across the United Kingdom.

- 1.5 The needs assessment highlighted significant problems with our current processes and services, which resulted in the services failing to meet young people's needs. With that in mind, an options appraisal was presented to Children's Services Management Team and Resident Services Management Team in December 2020. A direction of travel was approved to embark on a large-scale transformation programme, which will include greater emphasis on prevention services including mediation and floating support, de-commissioning existing services, opening smaller more specialist housing-related support provision across one pathway that will meet the needs of all of our young people, and commissioning floating support services for young people in independent living to improve chances of tenancy sustainment.

## 2. The transformation programme

- 2.1 The programme commenced in January 2021, with a target date of completion of March 2023. Not only will this innovative and trailblazing programme drastically improve outcomes for young people, but it is projected to make significant cost savings.

### 2.2 Work includes:

- De-commissioning all current housing-related support services including the two large hostels in Stockwell and Camberwell,
- Commissioning several non-accommodation-based services including mediation; floating support; early intervention; floating support; and housing first,
- Commissioning approximately 200 units of small, specialist housing-related support provision within Lambeth that will meet the needs of all young people,
- Setting-up an integrated youth hub, with co-location of all youth services including Children's Social Care; housing; sexual health; substance misuse; Youth Offending Services; education, training, and employment; and contextual safeguarding,
- Commissioning a clinical psychology service to provide interventions both directly and indirectly to those young people provided a service through the pathway,
- Commissioning an innovative two-year pilot housing-related support service outside South London for high risk young people,
- Working with Centrepoint to build 40-50 modular homes in Lambeth for employed young people.