

GATEWAY SERVICE FOR 16-23 YEARS OLDS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis
Wards Affected	ALL
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1 Worcestershire County Council is in the process of reviewing Housing Related Support in the face of substantial funding reductions. As part of the changes to Housing Related Support a decision has been made to fund a young person's service at a District level for a one year period subject to further review. These new funding arrangements are expected to begin in January 2015.
 - 1.1 The County Council have therefore proposed to provide each Local Authority with £11,200 from its Future Lives budget to provide an enhanced service at District level to 16 – 23 years olds who approach with housing needs.
 - 1.2 Officers have worked with the County Council, bdht and St. Basils to develop a proposed Gateway Service for Young People which will provide crisis and emergency support to 16 – 23 years olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
 - 1.3 The Gateway officer will assess a young person's housing and support needs in conjunction with the housing options team at bdht. Any opportunities to prevent homelessness or provide housing options for the young person will be explored. The young person will also be supported to develop their skills, confidence and other opportunities in order to make a successful transition into adulthood.
 - 1.4 The proposal will be funded jointly by Worcestershire County Council, Bromsgrove District Council and St Basils. This will provide service continuity as St Basils currently provide support for young people with housing needs in Bromsgrove.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that;

- 1) Bromsgrove District Council accepts £11,200 from Worcestershire County Council and officers utilise this funding to provide the Gateway Service for 16-23 year olds.
- 2) Bromsgrove District Council supports the Gateway Service with up to £3,000 from existing budgets.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Head of Community Services to finalise negotiations with St Basils for the Gateway Service to be established and enter into any related agreements.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 The £3,000 required for Bromsgrove District Council's contribution has been identified within existing budgets.

3.2 The costs for providing the Gateway service are £20,200 to be funded in the following way:

Worcestershire County Council	£11,200
Bromsgrove District Council	£ 3,000
St Basils	<u>£ 6,000</u>
Total	<u>£20,200</u>

Legal Implications

3.3 This service will assist the Council in meeting its statutory duties of the Housing Act 1996, and Homelessness Act 2002.

3.4 It is proposed that a Service Level Agreement will be drawn up to cover the contributions and responsibilities of the parties.

Service / Operational Implications

3.5 A similar service is currently delivered by St Basils funded through the Governments Homeless Transition Fund which is due to terminate at the end January 2015.

3.6 The proposed Gateway service will commence in January 2015 and will be delivered by the current Homeless Transition Fund officer.

3.7 The officer will be co-located at the Young Persons Supported Accommodation on New Road and bdht.

- 3.8 The Gateway Officer will operate with the bdht Housing Options Team and undertake housing and support needs assessments in partnership with the Housing Options Team, Childrens Services and other referring agencies.
- 3.9 The Officer will assist young people to improve their life skills and develop positive family and other support networks. They will assist the young person to meet their housing needs either through negotiating with their families so that they can return home where appropriate, or where this is not possible secure alternative settled accommodation.
- 3.10 The Officer will also work to meet the Governments plan contained in the publication, Vision to End Rough Sleeping - No Second Night Out.
- 3.11 Officers propose not to put this out to tender as it is felt this will be a continuation of a current service provided through the Governments Homeless Transition Fund which has produced high quality and quantity outcomes and the Council will benefit from joint funding from St Basils.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.12 This grant will benefit the Council by offering young people more options to prevent their homelessness and where possible to enable them to remain in their own homes. The Gateway officer will encourage them to be more independent and take responsibility for their housing situation.
- 3.13 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.
- 3.14 The Gateway Service will take into account any equalities and diversity needs of the individual in order to provide personalised support and housing options.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 If the recommended service is not approved there is a risk that more young people who are threatened with homelessness or who are in housing need will have limited alternative options. There is the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following risks:
- Inability by the Council to meet the statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation.
 - Increased B&B costs.
 - Increased Rough Sleeping in the District

5. **APPENDICES**

None

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

7. **KEY**

Not applicable

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