

1. Topic of assessment

EIA title:	Tendering of supported accommodation for vulnerable young people
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EIA author:	Jude Milan, Project Officer, Children’s Social Care and Wellbeing Commissioning Team
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2. Approval

	Name	Date approved
Approved by¹	Ian Banner	15/11/2013

3. Quality control

Version number	1	EIA completed	15/11/2013
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4. EIA team

Name	Job title (if applicable)	Organisation	Role
Jo Lee	Senior Commissioner, Children’s Social Care & Wellbeing Commissioning	Surrey County Council	Project Manager
Jude Milan	Project Officer Children’s Social Care & Wellbeing Commissioning	Surrey County Council	Project support

¹ Refer to earlier guidance for details on getting approval for your EIA.

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5. Explaining the matter being assessed

<p>What policy, function or service is being introduced or reviewed?</p>	<p>The supported accommodation provision in the county is to be jointly recommissioned by Children’s Social Care and Youth Support Services. In Surrey, the purpose of supported accommodation is to ensure that all young people countywide have safe, suitable, supported accommodation that meets their needs and enables them to achieve effective move-on towards a productive, independent adulthood.</p> <p>Supported accommodation supports a range of vulnerable people within Surrey. This includes: Looked After Children, Care Leavers (including asylum seekers aged over 18), Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), Single homeless 18-20 year olds, 16-17 year olds in need, young parents 16-21 years old, young people in the justice system including 16 and 17 year olds on bail and 18-35 year olds who are vulnerable/homeless with a housing need.</p> <p>Housing with care and support is a joint responsibility of Borough & District Councils, who hold the responsibility for meeting housing needs, and Surrey County Council, which is responsible for social care services for children and young people.</p> <p>There is an obligation to investigate the situation of any young person who presents as homeless. Applicants aged 16-17 years old will be assessed as Children In Need in line with the Southwark Judgement Ruling 2009, except if they are Looked After Children accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989. Young people aged 18+ who are homeless or likely to become homeless are entitled to apply to the local housing authority (Homelessness Act 2002) and receive a written decision. Care Leavers who are homeless or likely to become homeless will automatically be assessed as a priority need in line with the Children (leaving care) Act 2000.</p> <p>Service users will often access supported accommodation through the local housing authority or through a self or direct referral. Those young people who are Looked After Children, Care Leavers or UASC will usually access supported accommodation through social services.</p>
<p>What proposals are you assessing?</p>	<p>The recommissioning of supported accommodation provision provides an opportunity to design an integrated county-wide service. Gaps in current provision have been identified and the proposals for re-commissioning will seek to provide a comprehensive level of provision across Surrey, which is based on need.</p> <p>The recommissioning of this service has involved a thorough needs analysis and the service specification seeks to address current gaps in provision in order to provide an improved service. In particular, the project will seek to promote young people’s independence, reduce offending behaviour, promote health and wellbeing and achievement in education, employment or training, as well as social</p>

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	<p>connectedness. By equipping young people with these skills it is hoped that a better rate of move on will be achieved. Furthermore, it is proposed that collaboration between agencies, restorative practice and comprehensive provision across the county will aid further improvements to this service.</p>
<p>Who is affected by the proposals outlined above?</p>	<p>The key aspect of this recommissioning project is that it aims to positively impact the service that supported accommodation service users receive. The project aims to address gaps highlighted in the needs assessment in order to provide a more comprehensive service for vulnerable young people. In this respect the service users should find that their needs are better met by the new service as provision will be tailored to that young person, with a range of accommodation and support packages in locations across the county available. The recommissioning process also aims to involve service users throughout the process to ensure providers are meeting the needs of users.</p> <p>A key aspect of the recommissioning project is also a greater focus on move on, which has been limited in the past. By equipping young people with the right tools, such as cooking and parenting skills, this project aims to improve rates of move on and enable young people to take control of their lives and achieve independence.</p> <p>Tailored support packages which better support young people aims not only improve outcomes for young people, but also for their families, who will feel more involved in the support and progress of the young person. This will be complimented by the focus on better collaboration between all parties working with the young person.</p> <p>Council staff, such as young people’s social workers and personal advisors, should also be positively impacted as they will be more easily able to provide suitable accommodation for the young people that they work with due to a greater range of supply. Moreover, a focus on collaboration between agencies will assist these employees in supporting their young people, ultimately leading to better outcomes for supported accommodation service users.</p> <p>Providers of supported accommodation would undoubtedly be affected by the proposals. Providers may need to reconfigure their services and/or reporting frameworks to ensure their service will meet the specified outcomes for young people. For example, providers may need to provide training and guidance for staff to ensure that they are able to provide adequate support for young people with complex needs, as it has been identified that insufficient support is currently provided for these service users.</p> <p>The recommissioning of supported accommodation has also linked outcomes to a young person’s social capital. This focus may require providers to be more innovative in their support for young people in order to illustrate that service users’ social capital has been amassed.</p>

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Supported accommodation providers will also now be allocated contracts for lots which are based on four quadrants in Surrey. This is a new way of procuring this service and may affect providers as it will require them to decide upon which area(s) within Surrey they can provide services, meaning they may wish to procure new properties and increase staff levels.

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6. Sources of information

Engagement carried out
<p>Full engagement has been carried out with a wide range of stakeholders. Current providers were invited to attend several stakeholder events where they had the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals which was listened to and, where appropriate, responded to; for example, providers requested that lots be based on area rather than support need, which was the original proposal.</p> <p>The North East Looked After Children Team, Care Leavers Team and Children’s Commissioning Placement Team were integral to the whole commissioning process and enabled the Project Team to understand the current picture, and to ensure the Project Team was aware of any challenges and unmet needs.</p> <p>District and Borough housing representatives and Surrey County Council staff from Children’s Social Care and Youth Support Services have been involved throughout as members of the Project Team, and have worked on the needs assessment and the service specification, providing information and advice where necessary, and helped to evaluate bids from applicants. All of the parties aforementioned were involved in evaluating written bids and presentations from providers. This enabled a wide range of viewpoints to come together to ensure a comprehensive evaluation process.</p> <p>Consultation with Adult Social Care Commissioning has also been conducted in order to understand and learn from their use of social capital within the commissioning process.</p> <p>Feedback regarding the current supported accommodation provision from service users was requested through a questionnaire, which will help to shape the newly commissioned services.</p>
Data used

7. Impact of the new/amended policy, service or function

In the tables below you should bring together your equality analysis and set out how the new/amended policy, service or function will affect service users (including their carers as appropriate) and/or staff. This analysis should consider how the policy, function or service will:

- advance equal opportunities;
- eliminate discrimination; and
- foster good relations between people that share protected characteristics and those that do not.

You should think about the potential equality impact on all of the protected characteristics listed. Carers are also listed for consideration, although they are not a protected characteristic under the Public Sector Equality Duty. This is because we need to consider the potential impact on carers to ensure that there is no associative discrimination (i.e. discrimination against them because they are associated with people with protected characteristics). Remember that:

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- Analysis and evidence gathered should be **proportionate** to the likely scale of impact on residents and staff sharing protected characteristics.
- Analysis should be based on the information you gathered from the data and engagement activities that you listed in section six. **It is essential that the results of any consultations are taken into account in the EIA and inform subsequent reports when a decision is taken. Specific details and comments that are relevant for protected characteristics should be included in the EIA.**
- **You do not need to list every possible way the change might conceivably impact on a protected group.** It is appropriate to focus on those impacts that are most obvious and most significant.
- Your analysis may identify that the proposal needs to be amended in order to deal with the equalities implications identified in this EIA. You should provide more detail about this in section nine.
- Your analysis may also identify that mitigating actions or ongoing monitoring are required when the policy, function or service are implemented. You should provide more detail about any amendments you make in section 9.
- It is entirely appropriate to conclude that there will be no impact on particular protected characteristics. If this is the case, you need only explain briefly what evidence supports this conclusion. For example data on Surrey-i and/or findings from engagement work with groups may have told you that the proposed changes will not present an issue for residents with certain protected characteristics. **If you conclude from your assessment in this section that there are no impacts for any protected characteristics, skip sections 8-10 and complete section 11.**

Annex 1 contains more guidance about the issues you should consider when assessing impact.

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7a. Impact of the proposals on residents and service users with protected characteristics

Protected characteristic ²	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
Age	Supported accommodation is provided for young people in order to help them on their journey to independence. As this will be a more person-centred service (meaning people are supported to make informed decisions about and to successfully manage their own lives), provision should be tailored to individuals' needs which should therefore have a positive impact on all of the young people involved.	None identified.	Service specifications have been designed having taken into consideration the comments from service users and service users will be involved in evaluating the bids. Such engagement ensures that this service tailored to individual need and will therefore not have any negative impacts.
Disability	A focus on improving support for young people with complex needs will help to ensure that this service user group is more effectively supported in future.	None identified	Insufficient support for young people with complex needs was one of the issues identified in early needs assessment work.
Gender reassignment	A more person-centred approach which is central to the new service will ensure individual service users' needs are met in the most appropriate way for that individual	None identified	No comments were made in relation to this protected characteristic during engagement or research stages. However, supported accommodation providers will be expected to ensure that all service users are treated as individuals and their needs are met through adopting a person-centred approach.
Pregnancy and maternity	Supported accommodation can provide support to young parents. This service user	None identified	Through ensuring providers give a minimum level of provision and types of provision upon submitting a bid for the contract it will be ensured that adequate levels

² More information on the definitions of these groups can be found [here](#).

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	group has been identified in the service specification and providers will need to illustrate how they will support the needs of these young people.		of provision for this type of accommodation will be provided.
Race	Providers will be required to adopt a person-centred approach to their provision. This will involve taking into account any cultural needs of that individual and responding to these to ensure that person's needs are met.	None identified	No comments were made in relation to this protected characteristic during engagement or research stages. However, supported accommodation providers will be expected to ensure that all service users' cultural needs are met.
Religion and belief	Providers will be required to respond to a young person's religion and/or beliefs. A greater spread of provision across Surrey will also increase the likelihood of increased opportunities for service users to be more closely involved in any activities related to these beliefs due to the closer proximity to these institutions/communities. This could also positively impact the service users' social capital and social connectedness.	None identified	No comments were made in relation to this protected characteristic during engagement or research stages. However, supported accommodation providers will be expected to ensure that all service users' needs are met in relation to their religion and/or beliefs.
Sex	None identified	None identified	N/a
Sexual orientation	None identified	None identified	N/a

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Marriage and civil partnerships	None identified	None identified	N/a
Carers³	It is hoped that carers of young people that access supported accommodation will be more involved in that person's pathway/support plan.	None identified	Comments relating to this group were not made during the research and engagement phase. However, through involving all agencies and important people in that young person's life it is hoped that the young person living in supported accommodation will feel as supported as possible.

7b. Impact of the proposals on staff with protected characteristics

Protected characteristic	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
Age	None identified	None identified	None identified
Disability	None identified	None identified	None identified
Gender reassignment	None identified	None identified	None identified
Pregnancy and maternity	None identified	None identified	None identified
Race	None identified	None identified	None identified

³ Carers are not a protected characteristic under the Public Sector Equality Duty, however we need to consider the potential impact on this group to ensure that there is no associative discrimination (i.e. discrimination against them because they are associated with people with protected characteristics). The definition of carers developed by Carers UK is that 'carers look after family, partners or friends in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. The care they provide is unpaid. This includes adults looking after other adults, parent carers looking after disabled children and young carers under 18 years of age.'

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Religion and belief	None identified	None identified	None identified
Sex	None identified	None identified	None identified
Sexual orientation	None identified	None identified	None identified
Marriage and civil partnerships	None identified	None identified	None identified
Carers	None identified	None identified	None identified

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8. Amendments to the proposals

Change	Reason for change
n/a	n/a

9. Action plan

Potential impact (positive or negative)	Action needed to maximise positive impact or mitigate negative impact	By when	Owner
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

10. Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated

Potential negative impact	Protected characteristic(s) that could be affected
n/a	n/a

11. Summary of key impacts and actions

Information and engagement underpinning equalities analysis	Comprehensive engagement with a range of stakeholders in order to understand current levels of need and ensure any unmet needs are met in the future.
Key impacts (positive and/or negative) on people with protected characteristics	Through focusing on a person-centred approach positive impacts may be felt by some people with protected characteristics.
Changes you have made to the proposal as a result of the EIA	N/a

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Key mitigating actions planned to address any outstanding negative impacts	N/a
Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated	N/a