

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

5 July 2016

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT THE OLD POST HOUSE
CHILDREN'S HOME, CALOW, CHESTERFIELD**

1. Purpose of Report

To request approval to place an order for capital improvement works at The Old Post House Children's Home, Calow, Chesterfield.

2. Information and Analysis

An OfSTED inspection in August 2015 at The Old Post House Children's Home, identified a requirement for the following building improvements to the home: full refurbishment of 4 bedrooms refurbishment of shower room, re-lighting the first floor landing, replacement of 12 internal fire doors and installation of a front door 'enter view' system linked to a staff office. The 4 bedroom refurbishments will include re-plastering of all walls, over-boarded ceilings, taking out old sinks and pipework, replacement central heating radiators, relocation and replacement of double sockets and light fittings, replacement covings and skirting boards and re-decoration.

The total cost of the works is expected to be in the region of £75,000. A detailed tender price from County Property is currently awaited.

Following investigative work into the electrical system at the home, it was discovered that no electrical changes could be made to the home unless the property was completely re-wired. This work will be carried out at the same time as the other improvements and be funded from the 2016-17 Corporate Property budget.

Both the post OfSTED refurbishment works and the re-wire can be combined into joint works that can take place over approximately 8

weeks in the summer school holidays, 2016. Children's Services have agreed to close the home for the duration of the works and transfer the children & staff to another DCC Children's Home property not currently operating as a home.

3. Financial Considerations

The refurbishment works are to be a charge on the Children's Homes Improvements allocation of £100,000 in the Children's Services Capital Programme 2016-17 which was approved at Cabinet on 24 May 2016.

4. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, legal & human rights, human resources, property and transport considerations.

5. Background Papers

Papers are held on file in the Children's Services, Development Section.

6. Key Decision No

7. Is it necessary for the call-in period to be waived? No

8. Officer Recommendation

That approval be given to place an order to the value of approximately £75,000 (an actual tender price is expected) for capital improvements at The Old Post House Children's Home.

Jane Parfremment
Strategic Director for Children's Services