

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

9 July 2013

**REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNGER ADULTS**

EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENT TO SUPPORT SERVICE FOR CARE LEAVERS

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for an exceptional one-off payment of £30,000 from existing 2012/13 CAYA budgets for Barnardo's Leaving Care Support Service to pay for additional costs arising from an increase in the number of care leavers eligible for support.

2. Information and Analysis

Barnardo's holds the 3 year contract for Care Leaver Support Services for the period April 2011 to March 2014 and is providing a high quality service. The initial tendering was based on 2010 figures, giving a total of 343 young people to be supported. The actual numbers of young people eligible for a service have since risen steadily and over the 6 months leading up to March 2012 have been between 368 and 366 – this represents 7% above the numbers indicated in the tender information and upon which a fixed contract price was agreed.

Derbyshire's Corporate Parenting responsibilities, and national monitoring expectations, place a high emphasis on supporting care leavers particularly with regard to their education, accommodation and reducing those who are NEET (i.e. not in education, employment or training).

A significant increase in the workload can be attributed to 16/17 year olds who present initially as homeless and who subsequently become eligible for support as care leavers. This has been recognised and addressed as part of the proposals for Care Leavers' Accommodation Services approved by Cabinet on June 18th 2013 and which will be fully implemented from April 2014.

In the meantime, in order to maintain the level of service to care leavers, and following negotiation with Barnardo's, it is proposed to make an

exceptional one-off payment of £30,000 in recognition of the additional work arising from 16/17 year olds presenting as homeless that was not foreseen as part of the tender.

Over the duration of the 3 year contract Barnardo's will have absorbed an increase of around 7% in the numbers of young people eligible for aftercare support. This one-off payment represents a contribution of 1% in addition to the annual contract value of £990,000.

The contract with Barnardo's is for 3 years and will expire on 31.03.2014. The option to extend for up to a further 2 years is under consideration and will be subject to a further report to Cabinet. That report will set out how the services can be maintained within the parameters of the contract despite fluctuating numbers of care leavers.

3. Financial Considerations

The £30,000 has been identified within existing related budgets and has been included as a creditor in the 2012-13 accounts.

4. Legal Considerations

Under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, 'it is the duty of the local authority looking after a child to advise, assist and befriend him with a view to promoting his welfare when they have ceased to look after him.'

5. Equality of Opportunity Considerations

Care leavers are a highly vulnerable group, hence the need to maintain services to support them.

6. Other Considerations

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

7. Officer Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member agrees to an exceptional one-off payment of £30,000 from existing 2012/13 CAYA budgets for Barnardo's Leaving Care Support Service.

That the Cabinet Member agrees to an exceptional one-off payment to Barnardo's of £30,000 from existing 2012/13 CAYA budgets in recognition of the additional work undertaken over and above that contained within the contract.

Ian Thomas
Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults