



Derby City Council

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

07 October 2014

ITEM 10

Report of the Director for Children and Young People

Children's Homes Development Project: Phase Two

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A report was presented to Corporate Parenting Board on 29 April 2014 on phase one of the Children's Homes Development Project. This has reduced capacity by five beds at Moorfield and will reduce by one further bed on completion. The report also described phase two, supported by a further £2.8 million Capital funding. This will modernise the remaining stock of children's homes and reduce capacity by a further nine beds.
- 1.2 Phase one, construction of two homes on the Moorfield site, is under way. Contractors, Bowmer and Kirkland, have been on site since June 2014 and the project is on schedule for completion in January 2015. The demolition of the existing site will then be subject to tendering and is expected to start by May 2015.
- 1.3 The table at 4.1 gives further detail of the costs and planned bed reductions of phase one and two.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the plan, bed reduction and timetable for phase one and two

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Both re-building and refurbishment of a home requires closure and relocation of the existing residents. Therefore the bulk of the planned bed reduction occurs early in the programme. Closure of more than one home at a time would increase the rate of bed reduction and require additional placements to be commissioned externally.
- 3.2 There is not enough time to complete more than one element of the programme in a twelve month period.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The table below provides further detail of the estimated cost and bed reductions of phase one and two.

Home	Plan	Cost	New beds	New flats	Total beds	Current beds	Difference
Coronation Avenue	Re-build	£1.43m	5	1	6	6	0
Cricklewood road	Re-furb	£522k	4	0	4	6	-2
Queensferry Gardens	Re-furb	£746	4	1	5	6	-1
Moorfield	Re-build	£2.07m	9	0	9	10	-1
Bute Walk	Close		0	0	0	6	-6
Total		£4.77m	22	2	24	34	-10

The programme will be spread over four financial years, finishing in 2017-18 which allows for the closure of only one home at any one time. The timetable of bed reductions will be as follows:

4.2

	1/4/14	1/1/15	1/4/15	1/4/16	1/4/17	1/4/18
Moorfield	10	9	9	9	9	9
Coronation	6	6	0	6	6	6
Cricklewood	6	6	6	0	4	4
Queensferry	6	6	6	6	0	5
Bute walk	6	6	6	6	6	0
Total	34	33	27	27	25	24

The Property Design and Maintenance Team have issued a design scheme for comment and approval. Consultation with stakeholders is under way and feedback will be evaluated within the overall context of the scheme. When the design scheme is approved it will be submitted for planning approval.

- 4.3 National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes require that children should be looked after in an environment as near as possible to that of an ordinary family home.
- 4.4 Feedback from children and young people, staff in the service, social workers, reviewing officers and inspectors is that our homes are too large to fully meet the complex needs of children living in them.

- 4.5 Changing patterns of placement mean that some young people would be supported better to make the transition to adulthood if they could access semi-independent, accommodation supported by familiar staff.
- 4.6 Bed capacity reduced from 39 to 34 in 2013. 28 beds are currently occupied. The proposed plan requires a reduction to 27 by January 2015 and an eventual reduction to 24 by 2017 to 2018.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 An options appraisal paper accompanied the report of 29 April.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Alison Parkin Liz Moore Hazel Lymbery; Director of Specialist Services, 01332 642669 hazel.lymbery@derby.gov.uk Andrew Bunyan; Strategic Director for Children and Young People
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Derby purchases independent sector placements for children not able to be placed in our own homes. The cost of independent sector placements is higher than that of our own homes.
- 1.2 Phase one involved a restructuring which delivered a saving of £59k in 2013-14 and a further saving of £310k in 2014-5, less the cost of protection of earnings relating to both the restructure and the Pay and Reward evaluation. Phase two will require a further staffing reduction.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 In Phase one 11 domestic assistants were made subject to compulsory redundancy. All other reductions were achieved by deleting vacant posts.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 Environmental sustainability has been fully built in to the design of the new homes in Phase one and will be in phase two

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 Phase one and two will achieve the closure of older buildings with high maintenance costs.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 The Children's Homes Development Project supports the Council Priority:

“Good quality services that meet local need”

and the objectives:

“All people in Derby will enjoy achieving their learning potential”

“All people in Derby will enjoy being safe and feeling safe”.