



Derby City Council

Corporate Parenting Sub Board
29 April 2014

ITEM 8

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People (CYPD)

Children's Homes Development Project Phase Two

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Phase one of the Children's Homes Development Project, to replace Moorfield Children's Centre with two new children's homes, will be completed in 2014-15. This has currently reduced capacity by five beds at Moorfield and it will reduce by one further bed on completion. Phase one is supported by Capital funding of £2 million.
- 1.2 Phase two, supported by a further £2.8 million Capital funding, will modernise the remaining stock of children's homes and reduce capacity by a further nine beds.
- 1.3 It is proposed to provide one newly built home and two refurbished homes to comply with the latest standards. One home would close when all the work is completed. Bed capacity would then be reduced from 34 to 24 including two self-contained flats. It is anticipated that phase two will be completed during 2017 to 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The homes require substantial modernisation to meet the standard required of good or outstanding homes.
- 3.2 Derby has considerably higher numbers of residential beds for children in care compared to our comparators and the national average. A reduction in beds aims to ensure that we match children with the appropriate placement and reduce our fixed costs.
- 3.3 The proposal responds to the recommendations of two reviews; an internal residential review and a Member Topic review. The reviews during 2012 to 2013 recommended reducing the use of residential care by improving early intervention and prevention and developing alternative placements. It also meets the recommendation to improve the quality of care by reducing the size of the homes and ensure high quality staff across all of the Homes.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Conditions surveys of children's homes indicated that the cost of maintaining existing buildings to a satisfactory standard is unacceptably high.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Bed capacity reduced from 39 to 34 in 2013. 31 beds are currently occupied. The proposed plan requires an eventual reduction to 24 by 2017 to 2018.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not applicable

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Hazel Lymbery: Director of Specialist Services
Other(s)	

For more information contact:
Background papers:
List of appendices:

Rod Jones; Head of Regulated Services 01332 643815
rod.jones@derby.gov.uk
Appendix 1 – Implications

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 will deliver 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.

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".