

OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME RECORD OF OPERATIONAL DECISION



TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 11 th January 2019		Ref No: CS 567	
Type of Operational Decision:			
Executive Decision	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Status:			
Title/Subject matter: Increase in rate paid to providers of supported lodgings to Bury's care leavers and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children			
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance – Is the decision:			
(i)	within an Approved Budget	No, however the additional cost is minimal (see below) relative to potential savings	
(ii)	not in conflict with Council Policy	No, not in conflict with Council Policy	
(iii)	not raising new issues of Policy	No, not raising new issues of Policy	
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]		No, the impact will be positive as the decision will improve the availability of accommodation for care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seeking children with Bury families, positively supporting their transition to independent living.	

Details of Operational Decision Taken *[with reasons]*:

Increase in rate paid to providers of supported lodgings to Bury's care leavers and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children from £140 per week to £200 per week

To reduce the Council's reliance on commissioned care for Looked After Children, and the associated expenditure on placements, a commitment has been made to increase the availability of supported lodgings in Bury for care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. This commitment is also consistent with recommendations made by Ofsted following its March 2016 inspection and with the aims of the Home Officer's Controlling Migration Fund from which Bury has received funding.

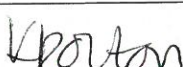
A number of changes to current provision have been identified as necessary to deliver this commitment including the rate paid to hosts. Manchester and Trafford pay hosts a weekly rate of £217 and £203 respectively. This compares to £140 in Bury. Hosts in Bury do not think this is sufficient payment and the low rate is considered a major disincentive to recruitment. It is proposed therefore to increase the payment to £200 per week.

Currently Bury has only three approved providers for supported lodgings and three young people are currently placed with them. In order to relaunch the service, work is underway to overhaul all aspects of its promotion and delivery including formal processes, recruitment and marketing. It has been agreed that the new rate – subject to approval – should be paid from 2nd March 2019 to align with related project activity. An additional twelve approved places with providers and an additional eight young people in placement by end 2019/20 are the targets for the relaunched service.

Placing eight additional young people with hosts at the new rate of £200 per week would deliver a maximum saving (benefit) each year of £291,200 (this assumes that the young people would otherwise be in HMOs at a cost of £900 per week for a full year (8 x (£900-£200) x 52)).

The additional cost of the proposed uplift is represented by (a) the cost of paying existing hosts an additional £60 per week (£9,360) and (b) the cost to the GM Transformation programme of funding an additional social worker in the fostering team for one year to meet the additional demand for assessments to expand capacity (£43,000 p.a.). As the funding for the post has already been committed, the additional cost to Bury Council of increasing the rate paid to hosts is limited to £9,360 p.a. (three existing placements x £60 x 52). In 2018/19 the additional cost will be £720, assuming the new rate is paid from March 2nd.

Relative to a maximum financial benefit of £291,200, there is therefore a very strong case for increasing the rate paid. Of even greater importance is the anticipated improvement in outcomes for young people. Evidence presented in DCLG guidance indicates that young people achieve better outcomes across a range of measures in supported lodgings as compared to other forms of supported housing.¹ Confidence in this evidence was reflected in the comments of a number of the local authority services interviewed to inform the service changes currently underway in Bury.

Decision taken by:	Signature:	Date:
Executive Director or Chief/Senior Officer		21/1/19
Members Consulted <i>[see note 1 below]</i>		

¹ Making a difference **Supported lodgings as a housing option for young people**, DCLG 2008

Cabinet Member/Chair	Sharon Briggs	21.1.19
Lead Member		
Opposition Spokesperson		

Notes

1. It is not generally a requirement to consult with any Members on Operational Decisions but where a Chief Officer considers it necessary to consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member and/or Lead Member, they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained to confirm that he/she has been consulted.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**

