

Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 03 December 2025
Subject:	Part A Neighbourhood Support Housing Services - Young People's Accommodation and Support Tender	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform	

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following the Cabinet report- on the 9th July 2025, Cabinet gave approval for the Community Commissioning Division to engage in a tendering exercise for Young People's Accommodation and Support Services. Following an in-depth review, a full procurement exercise is currently being carried out for the following provisions:
- **Lot 1 – Young People's Accommodation and Support Service (including care leavers) for age 18 to 25 years old**
 - **Lot 2 – Ofsted Registered Young Families Accommodation and Support Service (including care leavers) for age 16 to 25 years old.**
 - **Lot 3 – Ofsted Registered Accommodation and Support Service (including care leavers) for age 16 to 18 years old.**
- 1.2 This report outlines the approach to the procurement exercise and recommendations for completion of the tender.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 This report requests Cabinet approval to delegate finalisation for the provision of Young People's and Young Families Accommodation and Support Services, to the Director of Law and Democratic Services with approval from the Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning and the Executive Director of Children's Services.
- 2.2 Joint funding arrangements between Adult Social Care and Children's Services were previously agreed at Cabinet on 9th July 2025 and are detailed in Part B.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The current contract ends on 1st February 2026; this contract cannot be further extended. New contracts will therefore need to commence on 2nd February 2026.
- 3.2 Each Lot requires the availability of a significant number of units of accommodation. To deliver this effectively and on time, the successful provider/s will require a reasonable mobilisation period. Therefore, it is recommended that Cabinet delegate finalisation and sealing of contract awards, for the provision of Young People's and Young Families Accommodation and Support Services, to the Director of Law and Democratic Services with approval from the Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning and the Executive Director of Children's Services.

- 3.3 This decision will enable the division to inform successful providers following the conclusion of the tender evaluation process and standstill period, which is expected to be completed the week commencing 15th December 2025.

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 4.1 The current contract is due to end on 1st February 2026; previous extensions have been awarded on this contract and procurement rules do not allow any further extensions to the current contractual arrangements.

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5. Background

- 5.1 Following approval by Cabinet on the 9th July 2025 further consultation was completed and service specifications developed in partnership with the following:
- Young People
 - Young Families
 - Care Leavers
 - Children's Services Commissioning
 - Health & Adult Social Care Commissioning
 - Homelessness & Housing Services
 - A range of Stakeholders
- 5.2 Careful consideration has been given to people's views, along with national trends, research studies and a benchmarking exercise; these have all influenced the service design and specification.
- 5.3 An in-depth analysis of local data, from the current service provisions and the homelessness and housing advice service, highlighted that there has been a significant increase in the number of single young people and young families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including care experienced young people, therefore supply of accommodation and support will be increased to meet the growing demand.
- 5.4 The new services will:
- Improve life chances for young people and outcomes in relation to health, education and skills development.

- Reduce the number of young families placed in temporary hotel accommodation, where the negative impact to children's health, education, social and emotional development have been well documented.
- Reduce the use of unregulated, out of borough placements, and spot purchase arrangements for 16 and 17 year olds

5.5 The new service provisions will increase our supply as follows:

- Young People aged 18 to 25 years will **increase from 25 units of accommodation to 40 units** – enabling us to support an additional 15 young people.
- Young Families age 16 to 25 years will **increase from 12 units of accommodation to 20 units** – enabling us to support an additional 8 young families.
- The service for Young People aged 16 and 17 years is a new provision **creating 9 units of accommodation** - enabling us to support 9 young people in Ofsted Registered Accommodation.

6. Service Design

6.1 The following services have been designed and opportunities advertised on the Chest:

- I. **Lot 1 – Accommodation and Support Service for Young People age 18 to 25 experiencing or at risk of homelessness (including care leavers);** This service will provide:
 - 40 units of self-contained accommodation in a block(s) with shared communal space for social, educational and recreational opportunities.
 - Scale up accommodation over the first 12 months of the contract reaching 40 units by February 2027
 - Work in partnership with current provider ensuring the needs of young people are met.
 - Address immediate crisis, offering accommodation and assessment of need
 - 6 to 9 months outreach support for those leaving the service
- II. **Lot 2 – Ofsted Registered Young Families Accommodation and Support Service (including care leavers) for age 16 to 25;** This service will provide:
 - Provide 20 units of mixed accommodation.
 - Scale up accommodation over the first 6 months of the contract providing 12 units immediately and increasing to 20 by August 2026.
 - Address the needs of the whole family, keeping them safe, helping build their resilience, confidence and skills, facilitating access to training, education and employment, working towards successful parenting and independence.
 - 6 to 9 months specialist family outreach support for those leaving the service and young families living independently in the community.
- III. **Lot 3 – Ofsted Registered Accommodation and Support Service (including care leavers) for age 16 to 18;** This service will provide:
 - Provide 9 units of shared accommodation in dispersed properties across the borough offering space for social, educational and recreational opportunities.
 - Scale up accommodation over the first 3 months of the contract providing 6 units immediately and increasing to 9 by May 2026.

- Address immediate crisis, offering accommodation and assessment of need
- Specialist family mediation and in-home support service for 16 to 17 years olds and their families to help prevent and reduce youth homelessness.

6.2 New contractual arrangements will be for a 4-year period from 2nd February 2026 to 3rd February 2030, with the option to extend by 1 year based on performance, outcomes achieved and satisfactory review of each provision.

6.3 Contracts for each provision will be a fixed price block contract with no annual inflationary uplifts.

7. Procurement timeline

7.1 The timetable below details the stages of this exercise:

STAGE	DATES
Phase 1 Consultation using Microsoft Forms surveys / group and 1 to 1 meeting's with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People • Young Families • Current provider staff • Stakeholders 	December 2024 to March 2025
Analysis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current provider's data • Demand data from Homelessness Team • Consultation findings 	March 2025 to April 2025
Pre- Market Engagement Event	April 30 th 2025
Reports requesting permission to tender and agreeing funding arrangements to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASC Market Shaping Group • Children's Services SLT • Cabinet 	June to July 2025
Phase 2 Consultation face to face 1 to 1 sessions with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People • Young Families 	July to August 2025
Develop full specifications and prepare all tender documents.	August to October 2025
Publication of the Invitation to Tender	21 st October 2025
Tender Submission deadline	17 th November 2025
Tender Evaluation Period	20 th to 26 th November
Report to Cabinet seeking approval to delegate awarding of contracts Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning and Executive Director of Children's Services	3 rd December 2025
Standstill period and carry out due diligence	December 8 th to 15 th 2025
Reports requesting sign off and permission to award contracts to successful bidder(s) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASC Commissioning Leadership • Children's Services SLT 	11 th December 2025

Inform successful provider(s) and enter mobilisation period	15 th December 2025
Contract Commencement	2 nd February 2025

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 To achieve the above timeline and allow sufficient time for successful provider(s) to mobilise services, Cabinet are asked to approve:
- 8.2 Delegation of the finalisation and sealing of contract awards, for the provision of Young People's and Young Families Accommodation and Support Services, to the Director of Law and Democratic Services with approval from the Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning and the Executive Director of Children's Services.

9. Links with the Corporate Priorities:

- 9.1 The services being commissioned for Young People and Young Families contribute to helping us achieve our aspirations in the 'Let's Do It Strategy':

Local

- Local housing options for young people to keep close to family and social networks
- All children and young people in Bury reach their potential, are happy, healthy and safe and are therefore able to make the best use of their skills to lead independent and successful lives'
- Developing and regenerating the unique townships where young people live
- Prevent the need for young people to have to move out of the borough to have their needs met.
- Bring Bury young people back in borough if its right for them, their health, wellbeing and independence.
- Work with local developer's and providers who know the local area.

Enterprise

- Encouraging enterprise to drive inclusive economic growth through for developers and Registered Housing Providers to invest in Bury.
- Enterprising innovation and creative solutions to current housing issues for young people.
- Innovate and model new solutions and future developments for young people in a difficult housing market

Together

- Working together to design quality, fit for purpose homes for young people that are inclusive and welcoming.
- Working together with service users, their carers and families to shape accommodation options and service design.
- Working together to ensure inclusivity throughout the housing agenda.

Strengths

- Taking a strengths-based approach to recognise the assets and strengths of communities and young people.
- Recognising the strengths of young people enabling their independence, choice, and control for their current and future housing.

9.2 The services being commissioned will also support the delivery of the following 'Core Outcomes' for young people and young families in Bury:

- Improved quality of life
- Improved early years development
- Improved educational attainment
- Improved adult skill levels and employability
- Inclusive economic growth

10. Equality Impact and Considerations:

10.1 A comprehensive equality impact analysis has been carried identifying impacts across several characteristics. Having consulted service users and tenants already in place, their views have been adopted as part of mitigating factors so that all impacts are neutral or positive for this contract award. There are no outstanding concerns or considerations

11. Environmental Impact and Considerations:

11.1 An environmental impact assessment has not been undertaken for the scheme, as there are no implications or carbon emissions and Biodiversity impact of this decision.

12. Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Increase in demand from young families who may have more than 2 children and experience overcrowding in the young families provisions; lack of general needs family housing in the community to facilitate move on when needed, this can impact families mental health and wellbeing and create unmet need from those needing the service due to lack of throughput in services.	Work closely with Bury Housing Services and develop strong relationships and have regular communication around needs and demand data, allocations and direct let properties. Also consider bespoke solutions for young families to access the Private Rented Sector.
Increase in demand from young families experiencing domestic abuse and may need relocating to reduce risks.	The new service provision will have a static concierge security on-site at night. Work closely with domestic abuse accommodation services and stakeholders including GMP to mitigate risks and source placements in alternative locations if needed.
Lack of available general needs properties in the community to facilitate move on when young people are tenancy ready – this may create blockages in services and for young	Work closely with Bury housing Services and develop strong relationships and have regular communication around needs and demand data, allocations and direct let

	properties, especially for care leavers who will have band 1 priority. Also consider bespoke solutions for young people to access the Private Rented Sector.
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13. Legal Implications:

- 13.1 The procurement is being led by the Interim Head of Procurement and is conducted in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023.
- 13.2 The contract will be awarded utilising the national mid-tier contract which includes the following schedules as a minimum relating to: performance levels, continuous improvement, benchmarking, contract management expectations, sustainability, key supplier staff, background checks, business continuity & disaster recovery etc providing a fully comprehensive contract to ensure successful delivery of the contract.
- 13.3 Legal advice will be sought in respect of finalising the terms of conditions.

14. Financial Implications:

- 14.1 The Young People's Accommodation & Support contract will be funded from existing budget provision
- 14.2 As part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle, Finance and Budget holders will track the expenditure linked to Young People's Accommodation & Support contract ensuring that all expenditure aligns to the funding provided.
- 14.3 Any financial risks/pressures identified will be highlighted to the Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Childrens Services as part of the monthly budget monitoring conversation whereby an action plan will be deployed to mitigate any

15. Appendices:

None.

16. Background papers:

None.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning