

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 03 March 2022

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Extensions for Young People’s Housing &amp; Independence Pathway contracts</b>	
<b>Ward(s)</b>	Citywide	
<b>Author:</b>	Jane Houben	<b>Job title:</b> Commissioning Manager
<b>Cabinet lead:</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery & Homes, Cllr Tom Renhard	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Stephen Peacock, Executive Director: Growth & Regeneration and Hugh Evans, Interim Executive Director: People.
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff		
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To note the previous approvals granted on 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 and the contract details as outlined in this report and Appendix A, and to authorise the Executive Director: Growth and Regeneration, and the Executive Director: People, to extend and vary the contracts as set out in the recommendations.		
<b>Evidence Base:</b>		
<p>(1) On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 Cabinet viewed a report titled ‘Young People’s Housing and Independence Pathway Plan’ which sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To approve the young people's housing and independence pathway plan.</li> <li>(ii) To procure and enter into a contract with a strategic partner to establish and run a new Youth Housing Hub costing no more than £300,000 per annum.</li> <li>(iii) To procure and enter into new contracts for low support accommodation costing no more than £550,000 per annum.</li> <li>(iv) To procure and enter into contracts for high and medium supported accommodation costing no more than £785,000 per annum.</li> <li>(v) To agree that the decision to award contracts detailed in the recommendations valued over £500K and any extensions provided for in the contracts was delegated to the Strategic Directors of Neighbourhoods and People in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members.</li> </ul> <p>(2) The decision was deferred at Cabinet on the January 24<sup>th</sup> 2017, pending consideration of the budget proposals by Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017, at which approval was given to the recommendations in the report and as summarised in (1) above.</p> <p>(3) Whilst the 2017 Cabinet decision is sufficiently wide and enables the delegated decision to be made if the cost of the extensions remain within the annual amount set out in the report, this decision is being brought back to Cabinet due to the length of time that has passed since this 2017 decision and the absence of any financial/contractual time limit set out in the decision or the report.</p> <p>(4) The <a href="#">Young People’s Housing &amp; Independence Pathway plan</a> was published in January 2017, aiming to create a new approach to help young people, aged 16-25, to remain living in their family networks, or access and sustain suitable housing where this isn’t possible. The plan included proposals to improve our help for young</p>		

people and their families to prevent housing crisis and commissioning proposals setting out how we would secure the accommodation and support needed for Bristol care leavers as well as young people at risk of homelessness. This was developed following a 12-week consultation and a full Equality Impact Assessment.

- (5) This report seeks authority to vary and extend the following contracts: Youth Hub, known as Bristol Youth MAPS, with MAPS standing for Mediation, Advice, Prevention and Support, (1625 Independent People); Low Support Dispersed (1625 Independent People); Low Support Dispersed (LiveWest); High Support – St. Georges House (1625 Independent People); Medium-high Support – The Bristol Foyer (LiveWest). Details about each of the contracts, including durations, extensions available and contract values are set out in tables at Appendix A.
- (6) Contracts are managed by the Contracts & Commissioning Team (Homelessness), with regular contact and quarterly contract management meetings. KPIs are in place and performance is monitored quarterly through Housing Support Register reporting and data submitted by the providers. We will hold a review meeting, reviewing overall performance, quality, and value for money, for each contract with the provider, prior to an extension being requested. All contract extension requests will be made by submitting completed Procurement Request Forms alongside a report to both Growth & Regeneration and People EDMs with an Officer Executive Decision form.
- (7) We plan to review provision and develop a new commissioning plan for Young People’s housing and support services in late 2022-2023 so that services can be procured and in place in 2024 (April and October). This means that we have planned to use the full available extensions for these contracts which would then end in March and September 2024. Extensions are likely to include variations to the original terms to enable the services to adjust to any proposed government regulation changes or agreed service improvements required as outlined in (8) and (9) below.
- (8) In December the Government published their report on their consultation about unregulated provision for 16-17year olds. They will introduce mandatory national standards, to be overseen by Ofsted, for unregulated providers. The first draft of the standards will be published later this year. Ofsted will begin registering providers from April 2023 and the standards will come into force in the autumn of 2023, with inspections starting the following April. By autumn 2022 we should have a better understanding of the impact on our supported accommodation services, all of which are used by 16-17year olds, and particularly on our High and Medium supported accommodation. We may therefore need to consider variations to the contracts with effect from 01/04/2023 if there is a significant impact arising from the new regulations.
- (9) In July 2021 the DLUHC Homelessness Advice Support Team provided extensive feedback to Bristol City Council following a virtual visit in June, focusing on youth homelessness. The feedback has been translated into an action plan and two of the key actions, one to record all homelessness prevention cases coming through MAPS and another to aim to have joint S.20 (Children Act 1989) and Part 7 (Housing Act 1996) assessments of young people, may require changes to be made to the Bristol Youth MAPS service. We may therefore need to consider variations to the contract and so extensions may be negotiated to reflect this need.

### **Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations**

That Cabinet

1. Note the previous approvals granted on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and the contract details as outlined in this report and Appendix A.
2. Authorise the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery & Homes and the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education & Equalities, to:
  - a) Extend the Bristol Youth MAPS contract, for 2 years until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 with a maximum budget envelope of £300,000 p.a.
  - b) Vary the contract as necessary, to respond to DLUHC requirements within the maximum budget envelope set out in (2a) above.

3. Authorise the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery & Homes and the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education & Equalities, to:
  - a) Extend the low support contracts, for two years until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 with a maximum budget envelope of £550,000 p.a.
  - b) Vary the contracts as necessary, to respond to the introduction of registration and national mandatory standards for providers of supported housing for 16-17year olds, within the maximum budget envelope set out in (3a) above.
4. Authorise the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery & Homes and the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education & Equalities, and noting the Legal commentary, to:
  - a) Extend the high support and medium-high support contracts, until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 with a maximum budget envelope of £760,000 p.a.
  - b) Vary the contracts, to respond to the introduction of registration and national mandatory standards for providers of supported housing for 16-17year olds, within the maximum budget envelope set out in (4a) above.
5. Authorise the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration to invoke any subsequent variations specifically defined in the contracts awarded, up to the maximum budget envelope outlined in this report.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

This aligns very clearly with two Corporate Strategy 2022-2027 themes:

1. **Children and young people:** A city where every child belongs and every child gets the best start in life, whatever circumstances they were born into.
2. **Homes and communities:** Healthy, resilient, and inclusive neighbourhoods with fair access to decent, affordable homes.

**City Benefits:**

1. The Young People’s Housing & Independence Pathway, and specifically the five contracted services for which delegated authority to extend is sought, benefit the city, and improve outcomes for young people by:
  - Providing timely advice, support, and mediation to help young people at risk of housing crisis to safely remain at home or with friends and family.
  - Delivering specialist advice, support and assessments for young people who are in or at risk of housing crisis, so that they can be referred for suitable housing and support services.
  - Providing a small supply of emergency accommodation and assessment beds so that young people aged 16-17 and those aged 18-21 who are particularly vulnerable, are not placed in B&B accommodation.
  - Providing a housing pathway with support for young people who are care leavers or care experienced.
  - Providing a range of supported accommodation, offering different support levels (high, medium, and low) and different accommodation types so that young people are more likely to be able access accommodation and support which meets their needs, with key worker support and tailored support plans.
  - Offering accommodation rents that are within the agreed LHA rates, meaning that they are covered by housing benefit and are therefore affordable.
  - Providing ongoing support for young people including a move-on plan, so that young people can work towards full independence and move through the Pathway and on into other unsupported housing. This support includes information and advice about independent living, money management and support to access education, training, and employment.

**Consultation Details:**

1. The two providers, Livewest and 1625 Independence People, have been consulted about the proposed extensions and the legal advice received to refresh the 2017 decision delegating authority to the Executive Directors.
2. We consulted on the development of the Young People’s Housing & Independence Pathway Plan for 12 weeks in 2016.

**Background Documents:**

Young People’s Housing and Independence Pathway Plan, Cabinet Paper, Bristol City Council, 24/01/2017

Cabinet Decision, Bristol City Council, 30/01/2017  
 Introducing national standards for independent and semi-independent provision for looked-after children and care leavers aged 16 and 17 (Government Consultation Response) (DfE December 2021)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£1.610m p.a.	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	Housing Options
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£0	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	N/A
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ongoing cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**

**1. Finance Advice:** The total value of the contract will not exceed £1.610m per annum, full budget provision is included in 22/23 budget where majority of it will be funded from Council own internal resources with a small element from the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant.

**Finance Business Partner:** Aisha Bapu Finance Business Partner 26 January 2022.

**2. Legal Advice:** The extensions sought in this report are provided for within the contracts. Legal Services will advise and assist in relation to the contractual arrangements to vary and extend the contracts.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team leader, Solicitor 25 January 2022

**3. Implications on IT:** I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

**IT Team Leader:** Gavin Arbuckle – Head of Service Improvement and Performance, 28 January 2022

**4. HR Advice:** There are no HR implications evident.

**HR Partner:** Celia Williams,  
 HR Business Partner – Growth and Regeneration, 27 January 2022

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration and Hugh Evans, Interim Executive Director People	18 January 2022 and 5 January 2022
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Craig, Cabinet Member Children’s Services, Education & Equalities, Cllr Renhard, Cabinet Member Housing Delivery and Homes	31 January 2022 1 February 2022
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off</b>	Mayor’s Office	31 January 2022

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>