

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 07 November 2023

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>16+ Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	<b>All Wards</b>		
<b>Author:</b> Gail Rogers	<b>Job title:</b> Head of Service – Children’s Commissioning		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Asher Craig Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Equalities	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Stephen Peacock Chief Executive		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> For Cabinet to ratify and approve the 16+ Commissioning Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2025 for publication, and approve the workplan that sits underneath.			
<b>Evidence Base:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Sufficiency Duty, under Section 22G of the Children Act 1989, requires the council to take steps to ensure, as far as practicable, we can provide children in care with homes that meet their needs, within our area. This involves making sure there is a sufficient range and number of providers capable of meeting the differing needs of our children in care and care leavers. Plans should be documented and published. This strategy sits alongside the main Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers, and runs to 2025 accordingly.</li> <li>2. In Bristol the 16-19 population grew by more than 10% in the 5 years up to 2023. Population projections show that the 0-19 population is expected to grow by c.4%, by 2028 with the most significant segment within that being the 16-19 age group which is forecast to grow by 31%.</li> <li>3. The 16+ age group represents our highest cohort of entrants to care. Given the high number of children already in care age 16+ and due to become care leavers in the next five years, as well as the growing population projections, this age-group is a focus of our sufficiency planning where we are looking for quality and value for money as they approach adulthood.</li> <li>4. We will need a range of provision set at the right level of support within the City to prepare them for adult lives. The 16+ Commissioning Strategy sets out our ambitions to keep our 16+ young people local and increase placement stability through developing the market and creating more specialist provision in, or close to, Bristol. This will ensure children and young people retain consistent links and access to local education, health and social care services. Our Strategy sets out how we plan to achieve this.</li> <li>5. Key activities to be undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop shared houses for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children to create an additional 28 beds.</li> <li>• Develop a move-on property for UASC who have turned 18 but are waiting for Leave to Remain and are not yet able to move on to HomeChoice Properties. This will enable a move-on pathway and free up the provision intended for our 16/17 year olds, with the intention they will move into the housing pathway as soon as LTR is granted.</li> <li>• Move away from single occupancy flats to create shared houses (creating an additional 14 beds) for</li> </ul> </li> </ol>			

16/17 year children in care / care leavers who will then move on to Home Choice. Self contained single occupancy flats is costly not the norm for most young people living independently at 16-17, block purchasing shared accommodation will enables better value for money through economies of scale

- Join the South Glos led South West Regional Framework for purchasing 16+ Accommodation, a further report will be brought back in accordance with the decision pathway, to gain approval to spend on the framework up to the maximum budget envelope.
- Develop the Strategic Partnership (as agreed at Cabinet 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023) for the development of children’s homes including step down 16+ accommodation.
- Review internal 16+ offer with a view to bring one of the KBC Housing properties and Branch Out into Children’s Services to increase the numbers of 16/17 year olds accommodated there.

6. The full 16+ Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy can be found at Appendix A.

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the 16+ Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2025 for at Appendix A.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member Children’s Services, Education and Equalities to take all steps necessary to implement the 16+ Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2025.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member Children’s Services, Education and Equalities to take all steps required to join the South West Regional Framework for 16+ Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for High Support Accommodation led by South Gloucestershire Council from April 2024.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

1. CYP1 Child Friendly City – Children and young people will be cared for and supported in the City they have grown up in and will be supported to overcome adverse childhood experiences.
2. CYP2 Supported to Thrive - Children and young people will be supported to thrive, by ensuring there are sufficient placements.

**City Benefits**

1. Meet the needs of children in care and care leavers aged 16+ in line with the Children Act 1989 and the Equalities Act 2010 2.
2. Increase the availability of provision which meets our high aspirations young people in our care, delivering in line with the assessed needs to achieve agreed outcomes.
3. Develop partnership working between Bristol City Council, Partner Organisations and Providers to meet the changing needs of the children / young people in our care.

**Consultation Details:**

All projects that are taken forward will be subject to consultation and engagement with children and families.

**Background Documents:**

[s22G Children Act 1989 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/s22G)

[Cabinet Decision Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2025](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£n/a	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	n/a
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£n/a	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	n/a
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input 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 report itself does not present any new financial burdens for the council. The different components of delivery of the strategy will be assessed as they develop for implementation.

<b>Finance Business Partner:</b> Andrew Osei, Finance Business Partner 22 September 2023		
<b>2. Legal Advice:</b> The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements		
<b>Legal Team Leader:</b> Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 7 September 2023		
<b>3. Implications on IT:</b> can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.		
<b>IT Team Leader:</b> Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect 7 September 2023		
<b>4. HR Advice:</b> The report is seeking cabinet approval of the 16+ Commissioning strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023 -2025, there are no significant HR issues arising from this report .		
<b>HR Partner:</b> Lorna Laing – HR Business Partner 14 September 2023		
<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Reena Bhogal-Welsh Director Education and Skill	13 September 2023
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Asher Craig Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Equalities	28 September 2023
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b> 16+ Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Leavers 2023-2025	<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>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of</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>