

### **CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD 8 OCTOBER 2019**

### **YOUNG PEOPLE PLACED IN BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION**

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#### **Recommendation**

1. **The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to:**
  - a) **Note the use of bed and breakfast accommodation; and**
  - b) **Support the districts to make appropriate accommodation available for all care leavers county wide, even those young people who are deemed as vulnerable, complex and therefore seen as 'high risk'.**

#### **Background**

2. It is recognised within our Joint Protocol with the housing districts that Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation is not an appropriate accommodation option for Care Leavers, however, there are circumstances under which it continues to be used; often to prevent street homelessness where there is no other accessible option. This being said we are working very closely with housing to monitor and reduce the use of B&B. It was recognised during the most recent Ofsted inspection that this needed closer monitoring and steps have been implemented to this end to review use on a weekly basis and to incorporate this information into the CPB data set.
3. As Corporate Parents we need to strengthen pathways and processes to ensure that all care leavers have appropriate housing into the future.
4. A review of the 17 young people that used B&B during 2018/19 has been undertaken to see where we might identify areas to improve our practice and/or offer.
5. These have all been over the age of 18 years of age as before that they are managed via the 16&17 young person's protocol and no under 18 years have been placed in B&B.

#### **Themes identified from thematic audit of 17 Care Leavers who progressed to B&B June 2018-2019**

6. Some of the common presenting behaviours which are associated with progression to homelessness and an offer of B&B are:
  - Significant offending behaviours (including fire setting and violent or sexual offending)

- Anti-social, destructive or aggressive behaviours (including assaults on professionals)
- Significant unaddressed substance misuse e.g. injecting or other class A use
- Significant mental-ill health and / or personality disorder
- Low engagement with support offered
- Refusal (often understandably) to go beyond familiar area / out of county
- Refusal of communal or supported accommodation options such as Nightstop
- Poor money management leading to arrears / loss of universal credit or sanctions
- Prior evictions leading to 'Intentionally Homeless' decisions / Housing duty discharged
- Sequential narrowing of options available to Housing Officers - lack of alternative provision

#### **What we need your help with:**

- A county-wide Prevention of Eviction process – Social landlords and providers need to notify Housing Officers and PAs swiftly where concerns arise to allow assertive intervention to, where possible, prevent progression to eviction.
- A better pathway for our care leavers to access adult mental health service; this is incorporated into our service Business and Development Plan.
- The identification and development of more accommodation across Worcestershire so that Housing officers and Young Person's Pathway Workers have robust and supported accommodation options for care leavers who are vulnerable or present complex or risky behaviours and who are at risk of eviction and homelessness.

#### **Contact Points**

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