

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING**  
**Date: 10 June 2014**

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**APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR THE LARCHWOOD SHORT  
BREAK UNIT 2014 - 2015 & LARCHWOOD SHORT BREAK UNIT ANNUAL REPORT  
2013 - 2014**

**Director of Children, Young People and Learning**

**1 PURPOSE OF DECISION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the revised Statement of Purpose for the Larchwood Short Break Unit for 2014.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **That the revised Statement of Purpose 2014 [annex 1] for the Larchwood Short Break Unit is APPROVED.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes 2011 are issued by the Secretary of State under section 23 of the Care Standards Act 2000 and place a requirement on Registered Children's Homes to produce a Statement of Purpose, with a clear statement of the aims and objectives of the service and what facilities they provide.
- 3.2 The compilation of the Statement of Purpose for Registered Children's Homes is a requirement in the National Minimum Standards and Regulations for all children's residential units.
- 3.3 This amended version includes requirements from The Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013.
- 3.4 This amended version includes a summary of the Statement of Purpose for Children and Young people.

The amended version covers new arrangements for Regulations 33 visits. From April 2014 a member of the Performance & Governance team for Children Young People & Learning, will undertake an unannounced inspection of Larchwood each month to comply.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The completion of a Statement of Purpose is a legal requirement within the National Minimum Standards and Regulations for all children's residential units, including a requirement for the Statement of Purpose to be approved at least annually by elected members. As this is a legal requirement alternative options have not been considered.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

## UNRESTRICTED

- 5.1 The Statement of Purpose is essentially an operational document, which needs to be updated as and when details within the service change. There have been some significant change to regulations since the last approved version, particularly in relation to Regulation 33 visits; these are reflected in the new Statement. The Statement of Purpose forms a key part of the documentation required by Ofsted for which the service is currently rated as 'good' with outstanding features.
- 5.2 'IN HOUSE' Special Edition on amendments to the Children's Homes Regulations January 2014' (Appendix 2, page 9) provides a helpful summary of new requirements.

## 6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are addressed within the main body of the report. This is an annual requirement which complies with the requirements in the regulations. .

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that based on current needs and demand, sufficient resources exist to meet the statement of purpose.

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.3 As is described in the Statement of Purpose the unit aims to achieve the best possible outcome for any child receiving services, taking into account all factors of ethnicity, religion, language, culture and disability [annex 3].

### Other Officers

- 6.4 The Children's Social Care Management Team has considered and endorsed this Statement of Purpose in May 2014.

## 7 **CONSULTATION**

### Method of Consultation

- 7.1 The statement is publicly available at the Unit for perusal and comment and is placed on the Council's public website. Service users and other interested parties are encouraged to make comments regarding both the statement and the service provided at the unit. A pictorial page to assist children and young people in understanding the statement of purpose has been added.

### Representations Received

- 7.2 There have been no representations received.

### Background Papers

Statement of Purpose for the Larchwood Short Break Unit 2014 - 2015 **[annex 1]**  
Larchwood Short Break Unit Annual Report 2013 – 2014 **[annex 2]**  
IN HOUSE 2014 **[annex 3]**  
Equalities Screening Record **[annex 4]**

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Contact for further information

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