

TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
DATE: 31 JULY 2019

**APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR THE LARCHWOOD SHORT
BREAK UNIT 2019 AND FOR NOTING LARCHWOOD SHORT BREAK UNIT ANNUAL
REPORT 2018 - 2019**

Executive Director of People

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the revised Statement of Purpose for the Larchwood Short Break Unit for 2018 – 2019 and to provide updating information on the Larchwood Short Break Unit by way of Annual Report 2018 – 2019.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the revised Statement of Purpose 2019 for the Larchwood Short Break Unit [annex 1] is APPROVED and the Larchwood Short Break Unit Annual Report 2017 – 2019 [annex 2] is NOTED.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This document fulfils the requirements of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 Schedule 1 and the Department for Education Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards April 2015. These regulations place a requirement on Registered Children's Homes to produce a Statement of Purpose under schedule 1, regulation 16. The Statement of Purpose should be child-focused, indicating how the home provides individualised care to meet the Quality Standards for the children in their care.
- 3.2 There is also a written and digital Childrens Guide that includes a summary of the Statement of Purpose for Children and Young people.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The completion of a Statement of Purpose is a legal requirement within the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, which includes a requirement for the Statement of Purpose to be approved at least annually. As this is a legal requirement alternative options have not been considered.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Statement of Purpose is essentially a live operational document, which needs to be updated as and when service provisions or regulations change, or when practice develops.
- 5.2 The current Statement of Purpose also incorporates all the learning from previous Ofsted inspections. The Statement of Purpose is a key document which is considered in all inspections. The service is currently rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, a grading which has been maintained since 2014.
- 5.3 Whilst there have been updates to the Statement of Purpose there are no significant changes from the previous year and it can be delivered within existing resources.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The report identifies and addresses the legal requirements in respect of this service provision.

Director of Finance

- 6.2 The Director of Finance is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 As outlined in the Statement of Purpose, Larchwood aims to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children in receipt of services, taking into account all factors of ethnicity, gender, religion, language, culture and disability.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None identified.

Other Officers

- 6.5 The Children's Social Care Management Team (CSCMT) has considered and endorsed this Statement of Purpose in May 2018.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 See 7.2.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 The Statement of Purpose 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. Children actively participated in the production of the Children's Guide.

Representations Received

- 7.3 There have been no representations received.

Background Papers

- 7.4 Statement of Purpose for the Larchwood Short Break Unit 2018 **[annex 1]**
7.5 Larchwood Short Break Unit Annual Report 2017 – 2018 **[annex 2]**

Contact for further information

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