

## EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DECISION

30 JULY 2018

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### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 JULY 2018

#### ACCOMMODATION PATHWAY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee met on 20 July 2018 and considered a report concerning the Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People. The Committee unanimously supported the recommendations contained in the report.

In addition, the following comments were made:

- The Committee queried the level of consultation and engagement with local residents in relation to the intensive supported accommodation option in the south of the county. Officers confirmed that engagement with local residents was critical to the success of young people feeling part of the community, and that Children's Services were committed to working in partnership with local Communities to ensure success.
- The Committee recognised the importance of promoting the principle of supporting options for young people leaving residential care to move into local accommodation in order to 'stay close' to their previous residential homes. In addition the Committee highlighted the need to ensure that 'staying put' support was promoted through the development of continued personal connections, rather than through institutionalised support.
- In relation to the INSA Local Offer, the Committee queried what costing had been done in meeting the aspirations of this pilot scheme. Officers confirmed that there was an aspiration to consider similar schemes across the county in order to reduce significant out of county placement costs, as well as additional cost pressures as a result of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- The Committee recommended that work continued to be undertaken to develop close working relationships with Housing Associations and District Councils in relation to the availability of youth housing. In relation to the availability of single bed properties, officers confirmed that these were not always suitable for young people leaving residential care due to higher costs and the challenges of living alone.
- The Committee highlighted the importance of developing a collaborative partnership approach and stressed the need to ensure all partners were aware that Children's Services only has a duty to provide housing support for care leavers up until the age of 21, whilst advice and guidance support continues until age 25.
- The Committee highlighted the need to ensure the Council utilises the wealth of experience and knowledge of experienced foster carers currently working with Children's Services in the recruitment and development of effective accommodation pathways.