

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

13th July 2006

SUPPORTED LODGINGS SCHEME – PROGRESS REPORT

**JAN BRUNTON - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**

**PAUL THOMPSON – EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION &
SKILLS**

**TERRY REDMAYNE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of progress on the Supported Lodgings Scheme.
2. Details of the progress to date can be found in Appendix A.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

3. Corporate Parenting Board discussed the Supported Lodgings Policy in April 2005 and the Executive subsequently approved it in May 2005.
4. Training has been provided to the Leaving Care Team and members of the Family Placement Panel with regards to Policy & Procedures of the scheme.

OPTION APPRAISAL/RISK ASSESSMENT

5. Not applicable to this piece of work.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no immediate financial or legal implications arising from this report. There are no specific ward implications but as corporate parents, this report will be of interest to all Members.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Corporate Parenting Board recommends that the executive should note the information on the progress of the supported lodging scheme.

REASON

8. It is important that the elected members are aware of this work in order that they can effectively fulfil their responsibilities as Corporate Parents to children looked after and those receiving Leaving Care Services.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING – JENNI COOKE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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Children Families & Learning Leaving Care Team

Supported Lodgings Scheme Update June 2006

1. FOSTER CARE TRANSITIONS

- 1a. From the date of initial commencement until the present day, being 28 June 2006, 6 Foster Care placements have been converted into Supported Lodgings placements on the young person turning 18 years of age.
- 1b. Out of the 6 Foster Care transitions:
 - a. 2 young people have secured independent accommodation.
 - b. 1 young person has moved in with family
 - c. 3 young people still remain in placement with 1 attending university.
- 1c. There is the possibility of 6 further Foster Care transitions within the next 12 months on the young people reaching 18 years of age.

2. RECRUITMENT OF NEW SUPPORTED LODGING PROVIDERS

- 2a. An advert was placed in the Evening Gazette on 2 June 05. One expression of interest was received from this advert.
- 2b. The applicant has undergone the training and assessment procedure and was accepted at the Family Placement Panel on 27 June 06. A young person has been identified for placement.
- 2c. An article was placed in the free publication, Middlesbrough News, Autumn 05 edition. Four expressions of interest were received.
- 2d. Two applicants from these expressions of interest have since completed the training procedure and are presently undergoing the individual assessment.

- 2e. Two further applications have recently been submitted and initial visits to discuss the scheme have been completed.
- 2f. Advertising for new applicants will commence within 4 weeks.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 3a. On 29 March 05 a bid for funding was submitted to Supporting People to cover support and management costs for 8 placements for the scheme.
- 3b. Supporting People confirmed the bid for funding from 1 April 06 had been successful and approved by the Commissioning Body on 31 May 06 for the amount of £38,811.81.
- 3c. The Supporting People Contract is still under development, and once completed the grant will be allocated to the Leaving Care Team budget
- 3d. A Housing Benefit claim is made for any young person who may qualify. All Housing Benefit payments are sent direct to the Leaving Care Team towards the cost of the placement. Presently 1 young person is in receipt of Housing Benefits and a further application for benefit is awaiting assessment.
- 3e. All young people pay a contribution of a minimum of £20 towards the placement cost.

4. REHOUSING PRIORITY

- 4a. Erimus Housing have agreed to award all young people leaving a Supported Lodgings placement a management let. This enables the young person to be offered a suitable property in a planned manner rather than having to bid for properties on the Choice Based Lettings Scheme.