

# Accommodation Proposal - Children's

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# Background

- Historical – difficulties securing accommodation for young people – resulting in expensive placement – circa £5.5k per week (50 young people = approx. £14.4m in spend per year.
- Relationships with other directorates – created an opportunity to respond to the challenge – leading on a project that was designed to address accommodation issues but also respond to the number of empty properties – town wide.

# Areas of focus

## 1) Those with No Recourse to Public Funds

- Families who are in the middle of an asylum claim or have a decision whereby their claim has failed.
  - Requirement – a number of home options for small families is required on a temporary basis where accommodation is needed pending a claim.

## 2) Crisis situation – Crash Pad

- Short term / temporary requirements which allow a domestic or social situation to defuse, prior to return. Often requires distant or out-of-area requirements.
  - Requirement – two or three homes for short term lets.

## 3) Looked after children – bespoke arrangements

- LA is unable to source a regulated package through fostering or residential - need to put in place a staff package to look after a child for long term and for children with complex needs.
  - Requirement – three or four bed homes for children and a staff team for several weeks or months at a time. Two staff required up to four children = four placements = six bed home.

## 4) Care leavers

- Children in residential care up to 18 - leaving care and transitional arrangements for young people i.e independent tenancies
  - Requirement – smaller homes for care leavers to live alone and cluster flats for 2/3 young people

## 5) Direct Delivery of Residential Homes

- Avoidance of significant expense – LA owned.
  - Requirement - Larger properties up to six bedrooms which can be converted to care homes (subject to planning and consultations)

# Care leavers

- Good opportunity for some quick wins as well as putting in place a long term strategy to ensure on-going cost savings.
- Detailed dialogue has been started with Thirteen to secure properties in the right locations to house this cohort of young people.
- Liaising closely with Benefit Services to align the costs.
- Thirteen group seek security of tenure and income possibility of a SLA for a number of properties – exclusively for care leavers, progressing to a tenancy for the young person at the right time to remove council financial burden.
  - [Life cycle solution for our young people.](#)

# Case study / cost avoidance

## SG & VG:

- Siblings aged 16 and 17 were cared for by their sister, however this arrangement broke down. Both young people have support needs. We had no availability in house to provide a placement.
- Children's Services had to place both sisters together for a period of five days – The cost was £8,460 per child with a private provider.
- Children's Services then placed both sisters in an external supported provision – Cost £5,000 per week. Full cost of placement per annum: £269,160

## JT:

- Young person 16 years old - placement with grandparent broke down. Young person has support needs. The young person had to be placed in a regulated setting due to having no in-house provision.
- Cost of registered provision per week: £4,500. Full yearly cost of placement: £234,630

# Case study / cost avoidance – Example for illustrative purposes only.

## Capital Costs

**Total capital cost = £0**

## Revenue Costs

- Rental x 2 flats per annum: £10,400 (let privately or with RSL)
- Staffing support costs per annum (including on-costs) £70,609
- Utilities, Repairs, Refresh and Furnishings per annum: £20,000

**Total in-house revenue cost per annum: \*£101,009**

- Estimated annual revenue required (including all staffing, operations and maintenance (2022 prices))

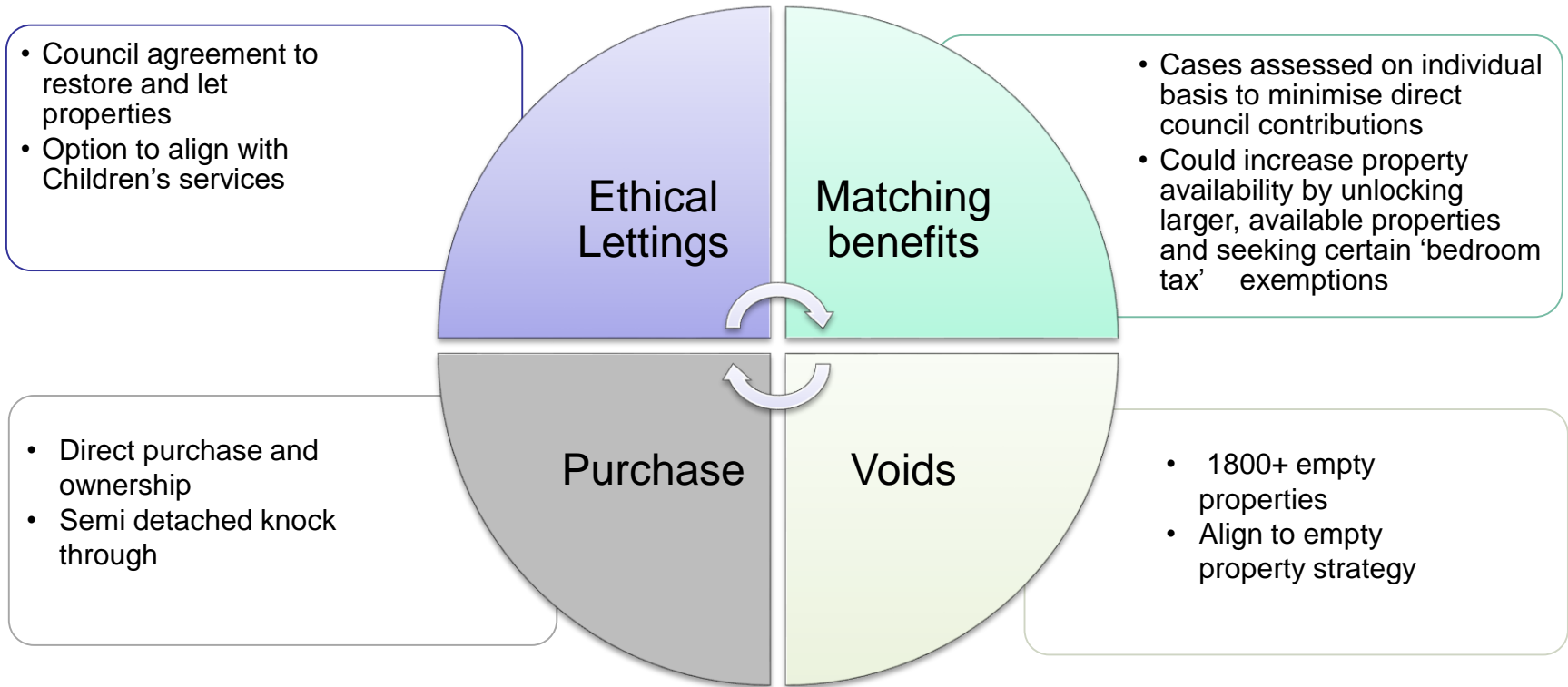
## Overall cost avoidance

(A) Cost avoided £503,790 (External provision)

(B) Service running cost £101,009

(C) Total annual cost avoided (A) – (B) = £402,781

# Other identified opportunities



# Actions

## ➤ Options Appraisal - RSLs

- Joint working with Thirteen to look at scenarios – working toward a menu of opportunities to address problem.

## ➤ Activate Nominations Strategy

- Solution to be developed that will align to all areas and maximise use of available properties for both new builds and existing stock.

## ➤ Purchasing Opportunities

- Affordable solutions when external offerings are not suitable.

## ➤ Empty properties strategy

- Bringing empty properties back in to use to address accommodation shortfalls.

Nb.. Actions will also support other areas such as adults / homeless where accommodation is providing an increased burden to council finances.



Questions???