

### **Appendix 3: Comments received on Accommodation with Support for 16-25 year olds commission following Adults Committee Member briefing on August 19<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

**Cllr John Place** asked about the split of 126 beds proposed and what number had this increased from.

**Response:** The number of block commissioned beds will increase from the current level of 40 to 126 by 2028-29 of the 3 year programme, with the expectation we will have 66 block beds available by 2026-27, 92 by 2027-28, and the full 126 by 2028-29. The full breakdown of beds by 2028-29 would be expected to be as below:

LOT 1 - Supported Accommodation for 16-17-year-olds – North Cheshire East – 16 beds including 1 emergency

LOT 2 - Supported Accommodation for 16-17-year-olds – South Cheshire East – 27 beds including 2 emergency

LOT 3 - Supported Accommodation for 18-25-year-olds – North Cheshire East – 21 beds including 1 emergency

LOT 4 - Supported Accommodation for 18-25-year-olds – South Cheshire East – 42 beds including 2 emergency

LOT 5 - Supported Accommodation for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children 16–17-year-olds – ALL Cheshire East – 20 beds

**Cllr Janet Clowes** referred to the age assessment for unaccompanied children asylum seekers to make sure that they were in fact 16/17-year-old and how it was working.

**Response:** This is undoubtedly an area of focus at present, and unaccompanied asylum seekers who claim to be under 18 but would appear to be rather older will be required to undertake Age Assessments. These must be undertaken by two qualified Social Workers, who have specific training in this discipline, and these are observed formally by an independent person (from a commissioned provider) who must attend to ensure a fair, objective and open approach is taken. Where reasonable doubt exists as to the presenting young person being under 18 they are then managed through the Adult pathway for asylum seekers.

**Cllr Janet Clowes** asked what happened if we did not get organisations taking up the tenders for providing the supported accommodation as was a specialist area and registered landlords not always interested and some of the accommodation needed to be Ofsted registered.

**Response:** We will ensure through the tender process we secure providers that have the appropriate legal registrations in place for each need group, as they do vary by age and status. Both our current providers have the necessary registrations in place and market development work through the autumn with the wider provider community will help make sure we fully engage with providers with those registrations confirmed, or in the advanced stages of approval. Only providers that are registered with Ofsted (for 16-17 year olds) or who are Registered Housing Providers (for over 18's) will be

contracted. We do know from Market Engagement work already conducted that a viable provider market exists for the accommodation with support we are seeking.

**Cllr John Place** asked if the provision of a set amount of money to a person to enable them to access B&B accommodation for a short period of time and also if would be possible for volunteers to provide a room in their house to provide temporary accommodation.

**Response:** Opportunity to discuss this further with Cllr Place at the Adults Members briefing was limited by the available time, but we would like to explore this further with him to identify potential approaches. These may sit outside of the provision being commissioned that is the subject of this paper, but undoubtedly have merit in looking at ways to prevent avoidable care admissions, and supporting young people into successful independent adulthood.