



**Report for:**  
**ACTION/INFORMATION**

**Item Number:**

<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b> (If yes, state to which paragraph of the Access to Information Rules the exemption relates)
<b>Title</b>	<b>Update Report on the range of accommodation provision for care leavers in Ealing 2019/20</b>
<b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>	Carol Yates Carolyn Fair
<b>Author(s)</b>	Carol Yates
<b>Portfolio(s)</b>	Cllr Yvonne Johnson
<b>For Consideration By</b>	
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	19/3/20
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	
<b>Affected Wards</b>	"All"
<b>Keywords/Index</b>	Care leavers accommodation update

**Purpose of Report:**

This is a short updating report on progress on Care Leavers accommodation.

**1. Recommendations**

Members note update in relation to care leavers accommodation.

**2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered**

**3. Key Implications**

Update on Housing for care leavers March 2020

**Quota social Housing**

There is a set criteria for the 20 quota allocations that we have from housing for 2019/20. This is that there is a formal diagnosis of learning disability, ASD or Mental Health.

We currently have 20 applications that have been submitted into housing as part of the quota scheme and we are awaiting the outcome of final 3 three cases.

All care leavers aged 18 plus are being supported to register with Housing from their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A meeting with Place (Housing), and Social Care Children and Families, Adults Directors and Executive Directors took place on 13<sup>th</sup> February to review if quota numbers for Care Leavers could be increased. Although no firm decisions in relation to numbers were able to be made at this initial meeting, a number of actions to review the current allocations is taking place and Adults are considering if the Private Rented support option would benefit their vulnerable clients. It was acknowledged that many of those allocated from children's services would be future adults clients and that some allocations outside of social care may not be targeting the most vulnerable young people. A follow up meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March should be able to ascertain if there is a definitive increase of quota for care leavers in 2020/21.

An operational meeting has been set up between Leaving Care, Adults and Place on the 16<sup>th</sup> March to plan for the 2020/21 cohort for both private rented and quota

### **Private Rented**

We have had 29 successful private rented opportunities supported by housing with Care Leavers and we currently have an additional 32 young people requiring private rented housing.

### **Future housing needs**

At present we have identified that a gender specific shared house for young women is required and a further opportunity for a shared house with young people with no recourse to public funds would also be beneficial and would support the reduction of using larger hostel type accommodation.

### **Outreach worker**

The outreach worker is currently in the process of being recruited to. The aim of this post is to ensure that those entering independent housing will be able to receive short term intensive support that increases or reduces with the level of need with an aim to maintain tenancies for care leavers. They will work with those in social housing and those moving into private rented. The recruitment and interview process will take place in May 2020 with an aim for starting in June 2020.

### **NRPF service**

The shared group private rented has proved successful and 2 people have achieved status and moved on to their own private rented accommodation. Having the opportunity to demonstrate that they are able to live in private rented accommodation successfully has meant that young people have a steady track record for future landlords to rely upon.

## **Semi independent placements**

The new West London Alliance accreditation scheme for unregulated placements is due to begin on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. There are currently 175 providers that have registered an interest with 79 providers applying. 11 have been awarded accredited status to date.

### **Voice of Young people**

The telephone survey of young people is happening in March 2020. The group of care leavers undertaking the survey have received training this month and accommodation will be included in the survey.

Mark Wiltshire, Carolyn Fair and Carol Yates will be meeting with a group of care leavers currently in semi-independent accommodation in April 2020 to get an in depth view of their views on current service provision and in May we will be meeting with a group living in privately rented accommodation to see what their experiences have been to date.

## **Council Tax for Care Leavers**

Young people have been concerned that although the Council has committed to providing council tax to all care leavers as long as all relevant benefits have been provided, there has still been a level of confusion about how the outstanding payment is applied for and received. The updated document for applying for council tax exemption has been posted to all care leavers aged 18-25 years from the Horizons Centre.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 a meeting between Alison Reynolds, the Director of Customer Services, Joanna Pavlides, LWA and Benefits Support Manager and Alan Toppin, senior local welfare assistance officer took place. This has set out some interim actions for ensuring that the leaving care team is approached prior to any enforcement letters going to care leavers for non-payment of council tax within the borough. Carolyn Fair will be leading the next phase of achieving total exemption for care leavers living in Ealing without the need to apply for additional support from April 2021. A meeting is set up for 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## **4. Financial**

There are currently no known financial implications arising from the report. All expenditure comes from existing budgets, however in seeking to provide a degree of regulation to unregulated placements via the WLA accreditation scheme there is a risk that lower cost providers may not sign up to the scheme which could potentially impact the budget in the future.

## **5. Legal**

There are currently no legal implications for this report.

## **6. Value For Money**

Please provide brief details and evidence to support an assessment of value for money, including:

- Current processes for monitoring and reviewing costs
- Internal reviews
- Cost indicators and drivers / quality of services delivered
- Benchmarking to CIPFA Family and All England
- Economy, efficiency and effectiveness

## **7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal**

N/A

## **8. Risk Management**

Although there is a potential future risk that lower cost unregulated placements may not sign up to the scheme there will be an improved quality assurance and safeguarding mechanism for looked after children and care leavers.

## **9. Community Safety**

Good quality semi independent services would aim to improve the quality of staff and input into young peoples care and support, increasing the opportunity to engage young people in meaningful activity and avoiding unemployment, safeguarding issues and anti social behaviour.

## **10. Links to the 3 Key Priorities for the Borough**

If none, say so. Please keep to one paragraph.

The council's administration has three key priorities for Ealing. They are:

- Good, genuinely affordable homes
- Opportunities and living incomes
- A healthy and great place

Improved support in semi independent placements and good joint working with housing ensure care leavers are not at risk of homelessness and will support young people to actively contribute to Ealing being a healthy and great place to live.

## **11. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion**

The decision maker must have due regard to the equality duties before making a decision. You must therefore indicate whether a full Equality Analysis Assessment (EAA) was required. If an EAA has been carried out it will be published on the Council's website, but will not automatically be appended to

the printed report unless specified. Reference should be made here to whether or not an EAA was necessary, with advice that the full EAA can be found on the Council's website; where appropriate, a summary of the equalities implications should be provided in this paragraph.

**N/A - applies to all children and young adults looked after or leaving care.**

**12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:**

None.

**13. Property and Assets**

There are no property implications.

**14. Any other implications:**

N/A.

**15. Consultation**

Young people leaving care and looked after were consulted via Horizons at the beginning of the accreditation of semi independent placements process and there will be future consultation in relation to the controlling migration project. There is also a more general care leavers survey and an aftercare survey planned in the coming 2 months that includes housing.

**16. Timetable for Implementation**

N/A.

**17. Appendices**

N/A.

**18. Background Information**

N/A.

**Consultation (Mandatory)**

<b>Name of consultee</b>	<b>Post held</b>	<b>Date sent to consultee</b>	<b>Date response received</b>	<b>Comments appear in paragraph:</b>
<b>Internal</b>				
Judith Finlay	Executive Director			
Carolyn Fair	Director of Children and Families			
Mark Wiltshire	Director of Housing			
Kerry Stevens	Director of Adults			
<b>External</b>				

**Report History**

<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Urgency item?</b>
EITHER: Key decision OR Non-key decision OR For information (delete as applicable)	Yes / No (delete as applicable) [Is it a general or special urgency key decision, which was not included in the Forward Plan with at least one month's notice ?] If yes, set out the reasons both why the item was not included and why a decision cannot be deferred.
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries: Carol Yates 6157 Head of service Leaving Care and Unaccompanied minors