

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
12 NOVEMBER 2009

YOUNG PERSONS SUPPORTED HOUSING PROJECT

Report of Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP2: Healthy City; SP3: Safer City; P5: Attractive and Inclusive City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services.

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Committee with information relating to the Centrepont Supported Housing scheme which was the subject of a report to Cabinet on 7 October 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1 In March 2005 Cabinet approved the Supporting People 5-year strategy and annual plan and a key priority was to tackle the chronic shortage of immediate access accommodation for people aged 16-21 in Sunderland
- 2.2 Centrepont were selected to provide the Young Person's Immediate Access Supported Housing project following a procurement exercise. The current interim solution opened in December 2008.

3. Current position

- 3.1 Centrepont are currently based in Mowbray Road, Hendon and are utilising a building that is not 'fit for purpose' due to the layout of the accommodation, size of the building, condition of the building, office accommodation, treatment/support rooms on site and the general maintenance of the building.
- 3.2 The existing 'interim project' is in an area that has a high proportion of other similar provision. It is proposed to spread supported housing provision around the different areas of the City as currently there is a perceived concentration of supported accommodation in the Hendon area.
- 3.3 Therefore, a new site for the project has been sought to the north of the city centre – to help to ensure that supported accommodation is available in a range of areas across the City. Various sites have been previously considered and discounted as set out in appendix 2 of the Cabinet report
- 3.4 A search of available sites identified Dundas Street, Monkwearmouth as the best available to meet the needs of this client group. It enables the spread of provision across the City, while allowing easy access to a range of services for those using the project. It is also located close to a main bus

route running to the City Centre which helps to make it accessible to clients from many parts of the City.

- 3.5 A copy of the 7 October 2009 Cabinet agenda was circulated to all Members of the Council and a copy of the Cabinet report on the disposal of land at Dundas Street to Centrepont to enable the development of the proposed supported housing project for young people is attached.
- 3.6 The Centrepont scheme will form part of a wider overall solution to the housing and support needs of homeless and vulnerable young people across the city.

The scheme will compliment existing supported accommodation such as Holmewood, the YMCA foyer and the Teenage Parents project and will provide much needed immediate access accommodation within the city.

The scheme will not only provide good quality supported accommodation but will also provide life skills training and prepare and assist young people to obtain employment. An integral part of the scheme will also be a partnership with RSL's and private Approved Landlords to ensure an adequate supply of move on accommodation which will have outreach support.

- 3.7 Following the approval by Cabinet for the land transfer a robust risk assessment has been carried out by Children's Services, Health Housing and Adults Services and Centrepont to ensure that the needs of the young people who will use the scheme and those in the adjacent Children's Home are safeguarded.
- 3.8 An application for planning permission for the scheme has now been submitted and will be considered by the council in January 2010.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are invited to provide comments on the scheme.

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