

## Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Proposal:	Budget reduction to Young Parents Support and Accommodation Service
Executive Lead:	Councillor Julien Parrott
Director / Assistant Director:	Caroline Taylor

Version:	1.0	Date:	October 2016	Author:	Shirley Beauchamp
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<b>Section 1: Background Information</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>What is the proposal / issue?</b></p> <p>The proposal is to reduce the annual contract budget to the Young Parents Support and Accommodation Service from £103,500 to £70,500pa in 2017/18, and a further reduction of £35,000 in 2018/19, bringing budget to nil. This will mean that the service will need to be decommissioned.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>What is the current situation?</b></p> <p>The Young Parents Support and Accommodation Service provides 12 units of accommodation and 12 units of outreach support for young parents aged 16-24 years old.</p> <p>The contract has been extended via a waiver to run until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.</p> <p>The service works with vulnerable young parents and their children and deliver support for them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to be safe</li> <li>• to become positive parents</li> <li>• to gain the life skills they need to achieve and maintain independent living</li> <li>• to become sustainably housed</li> </ul> <p>The service supports and promotes engagement and access to positive parenting and life skills; and specifically targets pre-care proceedings cases or those where high level Early Help is involved, and the case risks tipping into statutory assessment. The pilot has recently been extended to include Early Help cases due to a lack of demand from pre-court cases, partly due to issues for those undergoing court assessment around existing tenancies, and referrals are now increasing.</p> <p>A parent can stay in the Supported Parenting Service for a maximum of 12 months and receive outreach support for a further four weeks after leaving the service.</p>

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>What options have been considered?</b>  Options considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Decommission the service entirely</li> <li>2) Reduce the budget and seek alternative funding to facilitate the procurement of a future service. There is no committed funding at this time to allow the service to continue beyond May 2017 or to fund any shortfall.</li> </ol> <p>As a result of the reductions proposed the service will not be viable and would therefore have to be decommissioned.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</b></p> <p>To be updated.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</b>  The proposal to reduce and then withdraw the budget will mean that the service will not be viable and will be unable to provide support for these families, and will cease.</p> <p>Vulnerable young parents and their children will be most affected. This includes families working with Children’s Services either at an early intervention or social care level (i.e. families on child protection plans and Common Assessment Framework plans, or going through court to assess parenting ability). The service supports young parents to adhere to statutory plans and is a key partner in the safeguarding of children using the service.</p> <p>Housing Services may also be affected and see an increase in assistance required for young parents with children who will be considered to have a priority need under homelessness legislation.</p> <p>Key stakeholders affected are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Services</li> <li>• Health Visitors</li> <li>• Midwives</li> <li>• Service Provider; staff employed within the service may be subject to redundancy.</li> <li>• Housing Services</li> <li>• Children’s Centers</li> </ul>

6.	<p><b>How will you propose to consult?</b></p> <p>A consultation exercise will be undertaken with clients of the service, the service provider and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>All stakeholders will be given information about the proposal and invited to complete a consultation questionnaire or attend a focus group.</p> <p>We will use Torbay Voice members (former service users) to facilitate focus groups and consultation meetings. We will also obtain individual feedback via email or letter.</p> <p>The proposal will also be included as part of the general consultation on the budget proposals.</p>
<p><b>Section 2: Expected Implications and Impact Assessment</b> (These sections will be updated and expanded following the consultation period.)</p>	
7.	<p><b>What are the <u>expected</u> financial and legal implications?</b></p> <p>There is a likelihood for increased costs to Children’s Services in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parenting assessments and /or placements</li> <li>• resources to manage an increase in safeguarding referrals and child protection activity</li> <li>• increase in numbers of children taken into care</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>What are the <u>expected</u> risks?</b></p> <p>If the proposal is <u>not implemented</u> the savings will need to be met elsewhere.</p> <p><u>Risks associated with approving the proposal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased demand across all areas of Children’s Services including safeguarding and looked after children;</li> <li>• Increase in number of families presenting to Housing Options for accommodation, advice and assistance;</li> </ul>