

Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

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

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Section 1: Background Information

1.

What is the proposal / issue?

The original proposal was 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 the budget to nil. This will mean that the service will need to be decommissioned.

Following consultation the proposal has changed - a pilot scheme for a new model for the young parents service has been successful and the service is now fully utilised. Therefore the proposal is now to maintain the funding for this service.

<p>2.</p>	<p>What is the current situation?</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 31st 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"> • to be safe • to become positive parents • to gain the life skills they need to achieve and maintain independent living • to become sustainably housed <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>3</p>	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>Options considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Decommission the service entirely 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. <p>As a result of the reductions proposed the service will not be viable and would therefore have to be decommissioned.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</p> <p>Reducing resources to best effect.</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with? 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">• Children’s Services• Health Visitors• Midwives• Service Provider; staff employed within the service may be subject to redundancy.• Housing Services• Children’s Centers
<p>6.</p>	<p>How will you propose to consult? 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>

Section 2: Expected Implications and Impact Assessment (These sections will be updated and expanded following the consultation period.)	
7.	<p>What are the <u>expected</u> financial and legal implications?</p> <p>There is a likelihood for increased costs to Children’s Services in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parenting assessments and /or placements • resources to manage an increase in safeguarding referrals and child protection activity • increase in numbers of children taken into care
8.	<p>What are the <u>expected</u> risks?</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"> • Increased demand across within Children’s Services including safeguarding and looked after children; • Increase in the number of families presenting to Housing Options for accommodation, advice and assistance;
Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment	
9.	<p>Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
10.	<p>What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?</p> <p>The service is currently full, and has one person waiting and works with young parents who have children on a Child Protection Plan or who have been referred by Early Help as there is a risk of Child Protection proceedings if support is not provided. Most have no other accommodation options.</p>
11.	<p>What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?</p> <p>Results from Mayor’s proposed budget questionnaire:</p> <p>The following question was asked as part of the general budget consultation:</p> <p>To reduce the annual contract budget for young parent services. This proposal is expected to save £33,000 in 2017/18, and £35,000 in 2018/19.</p> <p><i>This service currently provides 12 units of accommodation and 12 units of outreach support for young parents aged between 16 and 24 years old. The</i></p>

proposed budget for next year would be £71,000.

Do you support this proposal?	Number	Percent
Yes	208	49.9%
No	183	43.9%
No answer	26	6.2%
Total	417	100.0%

Service User Consultation (Current and former)

Three focus groups were held on the 30th November and were attended by nine people- a mix of current and former service users.

Feedback results are below, grouped into key themes with the most common first, with examples of comments made:

Q1. What support has been given to you at the Young Parents Service and how has this helped you?

Other comments made during the focus groups that were not in response to a particular question have also been added here.

Themes	Examples of comments
Life skills	“Cook and clean” “Learnt a lot”
Children	“Didn’t know what to do with baby- helped” “Moved from Child Protection to CIN [Child in Need] Status now”
Support from support workers	“Support worker to talk to and listen” “Emotional support when struggling”
Health	“Healthy lifestyles came in to talk about smoking etc.” “Support Worker helped access medication, GP appointments and support from Domestic Abuse Service.”
Preparation for the future-optimism	“Feel more optimistic about future having been in service.” “Fresh Start– especially with debts and previous life/history”
Housing and homelessness	“Got us on our own two feet and now in our own home” “Was sleeping rough and partner living with my mum - drugs, poor environment”
Support/social networks	“Support to access external groups” “Make friends”
Feel safe	“Before move in, in Domestic Abuse relationship – feel safe

	and secure, thanks to the service.”
Relationships	“Learn to be a couple and how to work together”
Finances	“Finance, forms, budget, everything”

Q2.If the Young Parents Service had not been available what would you have done?

Q3.What do you think would have happened to you and/or your child/children?

(These two questions were answered together)

Themes	Examples of comments
Support	“Support worker knows how to phrase things and how to talk to other agencies, and what information to provide.” “Weight off shoulders – here.”
Loss of children	“Threat of losing child – unsafe situation” “Risk of child being taken into care because homeless.”
Alone, no support	“On my own as parents didn’t want to know - relied on abusive partner” “Isolated”
Homeless	“If not here I would be sleeping rough” “Only been independent for short time before came here – bereavement and in temporary emergency accommodation.”
Positive for future	“Future looks more promising”
Bad health	“I wasn’t eating properly”
Control	“Can control our environment (here)”
Domestic abuse	“I would be dead (Domestic abuse history)”
Don’t know	“Don’t know where I would have been”
Safe	“Safer for us and child”
Foster care	“Came out of Foster Care to here”
Worst position	“In worst position in life”
Relationships	“Gave us a chance to be together”
Benefits	“Didn’t understand benefits”

Q4.What concerns would you have if the service is no longer able to work in the way it does?

Themes	Examples of comments
Lack of support	“Would not be able to see Support Worker” “Need Outreach after leaving service – would not know

	what to do.”
Support/social network	“Give confidence to join other groups, comfortable speaking to people” “Tigger Club – breathing space to have time on own to study, do housework etc, ‘me’ time.”
Children	“A good parent may lose their child who may not need to.”
Move on	“Help to get into college”
Lack of service for others	“Unfair – other parents won’t get the Service”
Debt risk	“Could end up back at beginning - unpaid bills etc”
Security	“Security – cameras/lock on doors, etc.”
Didn’t know	“Didn’t know where would be”

Two service users gave separate feedback which has been grouped into key themes with the most common first, with examples of comments made:

Themes	Examples of comments
Health	“Support to give up smoking.” “I am very concerned that if this service was unable to continue, my anxiety levels would become high again ...”
Life skills	“... learning life skills - cooking, keeping flat clean ...” “... wanted to gain the skills to be able to live independently.”
Homelessness	“Came here from temporary accommodation - didn't like it there and did not feel safe”
Loss of child	“Previous child - ... child was removed and placed for adoption.”
Improved relationship	“... this has also improved my relationship with my partner.”
Lack of support	“... also worry that I would not have the support myself and my baby need”
Loss of opportunity	“Really committed to this baby Would lose the opportunity if the service wasn't here.”

Service Provider

The Provider of the service submitted a written response. Feedback has been analysed and grouped into key themes, with examples of comments made:

Themes	Examples of comments
Safeguarding and risk	“The service specifically targets pre-care proceeding cases or those involved in Early Help. This includes unborn children.”

		<p>“In 2015/16 - 12 children living with their care giver at the service were subject to either Child Protection, Child in Need or Looked After Child plans. Five of those children were removed from Child Protection plans during the year.</p> <p>A further four children were identified as being at reduced risk.”</p> <p>“One adult living in the service in 2015-16 was subject to an adult safeguarding plan. Whilst living at the service the risk reduced and the plan was removed.”</p>
	Specialist service	“The Supported Parenting Service is the only specialist accommodation and support service in Torbay for vulnerable young parents.”
	<p>Helps Council meet statutory duties:</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Care Act</p>	<p>“It supports Torbay Council to meet its Housing Duty for the following priority need groups as defined in section 189 of the Housing Act 1996:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. People with dependent children d. Pregnant Women e. All 16-17 year olds f. 18-20 year old care leavers g. Vulnerable care leavers j. people who are vulnerable because they are fleeing violence” <p>“The service also helps Torbay council in its duty in The Care Act 2014 for promoting the wellbeing of every adult. Wellbeing includes "suitability of living accommodation".”</p>
	Service will not be viable in current form	“The proposal to reduce the Supporting People grant by a total of £68,000 over the next 2 years will mean that the service is not viable in its current form and may have to be decommissioned.

	<p>Avoids costly interventions: Children into care</p> <p>Housing</p>	<p>“The main aim of the Supported Parenting Service is to work as part of the team around the family to prevent the escalation of risks to children and thereby avoid costly interventions such as placing into care. The service specifically targets pre-care proceeding cases or those involved in Early Help.”</p> <p>“The Supported Parenting Services costs £142,925 per annum and provides accommodation and support to 12 families whose children are identified as being at risk or in need of early help.</p> <p>The cost of supporting each family of vulnerable young parents and their children for a year is £11,910.</p> <p>If the service prevents 12 children from becoming looked after it will save Torbay Council £1,429,075 per annum based on £131,000 average cost per looked after child in residential care.”</p> <p>“If the service is lost to Torbay it is likely that there will be increased demand across all areas of children’s safeguarding and increased presentations to Housing Options as homeless prevention cases incurring additional costs. The majority of our young parents are aged 16-17 and are not legally able to have a tenancy. This means that they are unlikely to be accommodated by either private rented or social landlords. If the service closes, this is likely to lead to a higher number of families presenting as homeless and needing to be accommodated in expensive temporary accommodation.”</p>	
	<p>Supports Council’s strategic aims:</p> <p>Corporate Plan and Delivery Plans 2015-2019</p>	<p>“In particular, the service supports Torbay Council to deliver on its Corporate Plan and Delivery Plans 2015-2019 in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to using reducing resources to best effect • Contributing to the reduction of demand through prevention and innovation • Contributing to an integrated and joined up approach to working <p>The Supported Parenting Service achieves this by working as part of a multi-agency team delivering support to families to help safely care for their children. It also provides an integrated service where families are supported in all aspects of their lives to prevent the need for more intense care.”</p> <p>“By continuing to fund the Supported Parenting Service at</p>	

	<p>Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020</p>	<p>its current level, Torbay Council will be reducing potential further demand for looked after children and keeping families together safely as stated in the Fit for the Future proposals 2016.”</p> <p>“The Service contributes to the aims of Torbay's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 in the following ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting service user views that models of care should focus on early prevention and intervention and that the service provided takes into account all of the people’s needs including housing. • Working with children and young people, the service is well placed to provide support that is focused on early identification of needs for children as well as vulnerable adults with multiple risk factors. Often the young parents we work with have support needs around use of drugs including new psychoactive substances, alcohol, mental ill-health, Domestic Abuse and further risk of harm including sexual exploitation. • The service supports the families to achieve positive outcomes in the areas of poverty, employment, education and housing.” <p>“Torbay Homelessness Strategy 2015-2020</p> <p>The Supported Parenting Service contributes to the following strategic aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority One - provide early intervention and prevent Homelessness and Crisis • Priority two - to meet accommodation needs of people with a housing need • Priority Three - to ensure that service pathways are responsive, flexible and sustainable, and to maximise integration and partnership working • Priority Four - reducing homelessness in specialist groups with individual needs; Households with dependent children.” 	
	<p>Outcomes for vulnerable groups</p>	<p>“Families moving on from the service in 2015-16 were supported into independent, affordable accommodation including living with family members, private rented accommodation and social housing. All were supported, through our outreach service, to settle into their new homes and maintain their tenancies as appropriate.”</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions Following consultation the proposal has changed - a pilot scheme for a new model for the young parents service has been successful and the service is now fully utilised. Therefore the proposal is to now maintain funding for this service.</p>		

Equality Impacts

13	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
	Older or younger people		<p>The clients using this service are aged 16 to 24.</p> <p>Mitigation – those meeting statutory criteria or safeguarding thresholds will receive help from Children’s Services.</p>	
	People with caring Responsibilities		<p>The clients using this service are young parents with very young babies or young children.</p> <p>Mitigation – those meeting statutory criteria or safeguarding thresholds will receive help from Children’s Services.</p>	
	People with a disability	No differential impact		
	Women or men		<p>The majority of clients in the service are female. Reducing this service will have a detrimental impact on young parents, some of whom are single mothers, and their ability to develop parenting skills and avoid unplanned pregnancies.</p> <p>Mitigation – those meeting statutory criteria or safeguarding thresholds will receive help from Children’s Services.</p>	

People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (<i>Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community</i>)	No differential impact		
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)	No differential impact		
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	No differential impact		
People who are transgendered	No differential impact		
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership	No differential impact		
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave		Some of the women using this service are pregnant (over 24 weeks) The rate of teenage pregnancies in Torbay is significantly higher than the rest of the South West and England, although on a downward trajectory (<i>Source - JSNA 2014</i>). This service can help prevent unplanned pregnancies and break the cycle of teenage pregnancy.	
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)		The Service supports young parents to develop parenting and independent living skills. There may also be an increase in homelessness applications, increased use of temporary	

		accommodation which may result in higher costs to the Authority.	
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)		The service supports families to live healthy lifestyles and engage in positive parenting therefore this proposal has the potential to negatively impact upon public health outcomes if the service ceases.
14	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	The impact of the reduction and potential withdrawal of this service if alternative funding cannot be found, combined with proposed reductions to the Lifestyles service commissioned by Public Health, may lead to a worsening of the impacts outlined above and may lead to a potential increase in safeguarding and child protection activity.	
15	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	Withdrawal of the Family Health Partnership and impacts on the Health Visiting Service are a related factor.	

