

MTRP Budget Proposal – 2021/22 to 2023/24

Service Area	Children and Families Services
Proposal Title	Closure of Cambridge House as a children's home
Summary Description, Delivery Arrangements and Timescales	<p>Cambridge House (CH) is a children's home in the Stow Hill area of the city. There has been a children's home at CH for over 30 years.</p> <p>As a children's home, CH is a very large building which is out of kilter with best practice in children's residential care. The building layout is challenging to manage children with more difficult behaviours. The building is in poor condition and in order for continued safe use requires extensive capital spend. It is in the middle of the city, which again poses extensive challenges because of the risk to children being exploited and targeted.</p> <p>As a local authority (LA), Newport City Council has undertaken extensive works to maintain and enhance the residential care in Newport. This includes Forest Lodge and Rose Cottage with Rosedale due to come into operation at the end of November 2020. Windmill Farm is progressing and it is anticipated will come into operation during the autumn of 2021. Oaklands provides short breaks for disabled children. The proposed closure of Cambridge House would be in line with the developments of smaller children's homes with focussed methodologies of care set in the more rural areas of the city. Smaller homes are more able to meet the needs of children and are better suited to developing a family environment. Children's homes in close proximity to the city centre do have advantages in terms of access to facilities, public transport and other services. However, these advantages are outweighed by risks because of being close to areas of the city with inherent risks and difficulties for children and young people. Children's homes a little out of the city centre provide children with the advantages of more space, some rural activities and distance from more difficult aspects of the city centre. The developments within Newport are all within easy distance of services and facilities and do not suffer from isolation.</p> <p>The council currently has the largest number of residential homes of any Welsh LA with a commitment to quality of practice and safe care for children.</p> <p>In order to achieve a closure and savings for a full year the decision for closure will require a timely decision. The staff group across children's residential care would be consulted in order to ensure the remaining children's homes were effectively and safely staffed.</p> <p>Rosedale has been acquired and the capital works completed using Integrated Care Fund (ICF) grant funding. Rosedale is on schedule to be ready for use by early December. The revenue budget has been calculated on the same basis as Rose Cottage which has the same number of children and is working in the way planned for Rosedale. Rosedale has been planned in the same way as Rose Cottage with the original revenue budget coming with the children who have been placed out of county. If this business case is agreed, then the revenue attached to the children returning will be</p>

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	<p>reconsidered either against the pressures being absorbed within Children's Services or as the next steps to reduce the numbers of agreed placements in out of county residential.</p> <p>In order to maximise the savings element of this proposal, the final element is the targeting of one bed in Rosedale to be used by a neighbouring LA. Discussions have commenced with another LA for one child to return to Gwent and to be placed in Rosedale. This will also ensure the regional element of ICF capital funding is sustained. The current need for residential placements across Wales vastly outstrips local provision. It is therefore anticipated that one bed could consistently be used by another LA contributing towards the revenue budget for Rosedale.</p> <p>The existing Cambridge House budget is £816k. The Rose Cottage budget is £601k. Therefore £215k is the projected saving. In addition, the contribution from another LA to a placement a year will equal £124k. The total saving in this business case is thus £339k with savings being realised from June 2021 onwards.</p>			
Decision Point (Please tick appropriate box)	Head of Service		Cabinet	✓

Public Consultation Required (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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PART ONE

Net Savings (£000's)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)	2023/24 (£'000)
	254	85	
One-Off Implementation Costs (£000's)	2021/22 (£'000)	2022/23 (£'000)	2023/24 (£'000)
Revenue – Redundancy/Pension	128		
Revenue – Other			
Capital – Building related			
Capital – Other			
Implementation Cost - Total	128		

Impact on FTE Count	5.12 FTE
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Does this proposal require an FEIA and/or WFG Act assessment? (Please tick appropriate box)	YES	✓	NO	
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PART TWO

Options Considered
1. Retain Cambridge House as a children's home. 2. Cambridge House is closed as a children's home
Recommended Option
Option 2
Specific Links with Wellbeing of Future Generations (WFG) Act
<p>This proposal reflects a saving in the Children's Services core budget. In term of the links with the Wellbeing of Future Generations the link is the contribution the saving makes to ensuring the Council as a whole is able to deliver a balanced budget. Officers have looked at the five key ways of working Integration, Long Term, Prevention, Collaboration and Involvement when considering the savings and sought to ensure the proposals have the least negative impact. However, at core these savings are necessary steps towards a balanced budget as opposed to any form of improvement or positive changes to delivery. While officers are cognisant of the principles the proposals are the least damaging options as opposed to desirable steps of change.</p> <p>This proposal is a way of considering where the overall spend within Children's Services lies and the best way to consider the ways of working. All of Children's Services works to the earliest possible intervention and so focusses on prevention. Services are integrated within the Council and more widely regionally and nationally with other agencies including looking at the use of Transformation and ICF grant monies. These posts have been identified as having the lowest impact on overall service delivery.</p> <p>In addition, the closure of Cambridge House aligns with the need for children to be safely cared for in their own community with effective collaboration with local services and involvement of all agencies.</p>
Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment
Yes

For internal use:

Unique reference number	CS2122/03
Activity Code	SOC30