

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION

RESIDENTIAL CHILDREN'S HOMES

Item	Outcome
Date Of Decision	13 December 2018
Decision Maker	Mr A C Roberts – Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families
Brief Description Of Decision	<p>The decision relates to the future of 5 in-house children's homes. 4 of the homes are designed to provide care for children with complex social and emotional difficulties: Rivendell, Oak House, The Riddings and Orchardene. The remaining home in scope, Hill View, is currently used as a short breaks unit for children at the edge of care and provides accommodation for children on a short-term basis where the young person has experienced placement breakdown</p> <p>As outlined in the CMR report, the recommendation was for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill View to be converted to a supported board and lodgings placement for six young people aged 16 to 18 years • Oak House to remain open as an in-house children's home • Orchardene to close at the end of the existing tenancy contract on 31 March 2019 • The Riddings to remain open as an in-house children's home, and • Rivendell to close. <p>The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families has considered the findings from the consultation process with children in relation to the revised approach to in-house children's homes and approved the proposed outcomes, as outlined in the report.</p> <p>As a service Children's Social Work continue to develop the culture of practice to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people are achieved. This means a development of social work practice in the way we use care placements and includes the way in which we care plan to permanency. In this instance this specifically relates to the use of residential care, which will be reflected in the homes statement of purpose.</p> <p>This does not mean a change in the Ofsted registration of the homes. The homes will continue to accommodate children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The change is to our cultural practice in the use of residential care, addressing what has been drift and delay in care planning and us allowing young</p>

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	<p>people to remain in care, including residential care for long periods of their life, which does not enable them achieve positive outcomes or prepare them for independence.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:</p> <p>(a) noted and considered the findings from the consultation process with children in relation to the revised approach to in-house children's homes; and</p> <p>(b) approved the proposed outcomes for the in-house children's homes, as outlined in the report.</p>
<p>Reason(s) For Decision</p>	<p>As set out in the report. The decision is made having consideration for the consultation with young people affected, the feedback from visits to each home noting specific differences in the location, fabric and building, as well as full reviews of the care plan of each young person, to ensure their wishes and needs can be met as far as possible, and having regard to the Equalities Impact Assessment.</p>
<p>Alternative Options Considered And Rejected</p>	<p>Each home in scope has been considered individually in terms of whether it should stay open, close or if another option, such as a change of purpose, could be considered.</p> <p>Specific consideration in the decision making process was given to Rivendell in light of representations to keep the home open, and close The Riddings instead. The Cabinet Member noted that to keep Rivendell open would not follow the need to be care plan-led in decision making, and would not fit with the needs of the children.</p>
<p>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Signature of Decision Maker</p>	<p>Mr A C Roberts</p>
<p>Date of Implementation of Decision</p>	<p>20 December 2018</p>