

East Surrey Shadow Authority - Record of decision taken under delegation by a Member

Decision Title:	Recommissioning Supported Accommodation for Young People in East Surrey – Section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
Wards in East Surrey Impacted:	All wards
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Decision by the Leader of the Council dated 21 August 2026.
Key Decision:	Is decision key: Yes Reasons: Financial impact over £1m

Purpose of Decision

The urgent consent of the East Surrey Shadow Authority is required for Surrey County Council (SCC) to recommission its statutory, block-contracted supported accommodation provision for looked after children and care leavers. This is required to ensure the right services are in place for East Surrey from 1 April 2027, following the required end of current Surrey-wide block contracts on 31 March 2027. Contracts will be awarded by SCC and then transferred to East Surrey Council from 1 April 2027. A procurement process needs to be commenced no later than 7 September 2026 to ensure SCC is able to deliver the tender with appropriate time for the bid process, evaluation, award and mobilisation. Delays beyond this introduce a range of risks to both SCC and East Surrey Council.

Decision taken by:	Councillor Steve Wotton, Leader of East Surrey Shadow Authority, in consultation with the Interim Section 151 Officer
Decision taken on:	21 August 2026
To be implemented on/effective from:	2 September 2026

Decision made

It was AGREED that the Leader:

1. Approve the recommissioning of block contracts for supported accommodation for young people for East Surrey up to a total value of £6.73m until March 2032, so that new block contracts begin on 1 April 2027.
2. Agree that delegated authority to award (by way of predecessor Councils obtaining their consent) is granted to the Executive Director – Children, Families and Lifelong Learning to enter into the above contracts which fall within the parameters of any direction made by the Secretary of State under Section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Reasons for Decision:

- To support East Surrey Council to fulfil its statutory duties, as corporate parents, by providing the right homes locally for care experienced children and young people, with supported accommodation an important stepping stone in their transition to independent living.
- To secure value for money for East Surrey Council in providing access to high-quality, statutory and Ofsted-regulated supported accommodation for care experienced children and young people. This mitigates the impact of the ending of current supported accommodation block contracts on 31 March 2027, which secure 258 local beds for care experienced young people across Surrey.
- To deliver the right number and combination of supported accommodation beds in the right locations, to meet the current and forecast future needs of East Surrey Council – providing stability and flexibility, by awarding contracts for an initial period of 2 years, with the option to extend for up to a further three years (on a 2 year + 1 year basis), or providing a break point after two years to allow for recommissioning, should East Surrey Council decide to change its approach.
- To ensure that new block contracts are in place and services mobilised by 1 April 2027, for a safe and legal transfer to East Surrey Council. Although the timeline for recommissioning has been planned well in advance, Section 24 requirements and process means an urgent decision is required to recommission this statutory provision ahead of vesting day.

Consultation

Adam Chalmers, Interim Head of Paid Service
Nicola O'Connor, Interim Section 151 Officer

Daniel Bainbridge, Interim Monitoring Officer East Surrey Shadow Authority Executive

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Documents considered

Exempt:

Officer Report	No
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Please note that this decision sheet will be published on the public website. If your decision includes Part 2 (restricted) information, please contact the Interim Monitoring Officer.

Please send completed form to: daniel.bainbridge@eastsurrey.gov.uk