

Working agreement Framework between the Young People's Accommodation Service and Thames Valley Police Officers

1. Purpose of the agreement

This working agreement framework has been developed to ensure that young people accessing the Young People's Supported Accommodation (YPSA) service receive the best possible support through effective and consistent partnership working between YPSA staff and officers within the Thames Valley Police force. This agreement outlines how these two services will work together, to achieve the best outcomes for young people.

This working agreement is not legally binding in any way and whilst it outlines how services will endeavour to work together, it is recognised that it may require changing or that a party may choose to withdraw from the agreement if circumstances change, notifying the other party in writing if this is the case.

2. Context

Oxfordshire County Council's existing Young people's Supported Housing Pathway contracts will finish on 30th September 2020. Prior to commissioning new services, a review of existing services was conducted to evidence how future services could be strengthened to better meet demand and the needs of young people.

This review concluded that significant changes were required in order to deliver better outcomes for children and young people. The major changes are that:

- **16 and 17 year olds and over 18 year olds will no longer live together.** Services for 16- and 17-year olds will now be provided in house by OCC. Services for over 18's have still been commissioned and will continue to be delivered by a range of external providers.
- **No young person will live in accommodation with more than 3 other young people** (excluding the parent provision which can be provided through larger units). Therefore, no large hostel/foyer provision will be used to deliver future services.
- **There will be renewed focus on keeping children and young people at home (where safe)**, rather than them entering accommodation services. Where young people are unable to live at home, staff will provide support for them to develop positive relationships with family members where this is possible.

2.1 16 and 17 year Olds and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

The new YSPA service will deliver supported accommodation services in-house for 16 and 17 year olds and unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people (UASC), through expanding the Residential Edge of Care Service (REoC). This will provide intensive, targeted support to children to reconnect them with their families (where it is safe), develop independent living skills and access and maintain employment, education or training. The YSPA service will be using smaller properties of no more than 4 units, to accommodate these children so that they gain experience of living in shared accommodation. There will be approximately 22 of these properties across Oxfordshire. The YSPA service will have some emergency beds specifically for this age group where there is family breakdown and the need to resolve short term issues.

The YSPA service will continue to have two Move On Homes within REoC which will be prioritised for young people who have been in a residential children's home or are moving back into Oxfordshire from an out of county placement. There will also be the Supported Lodgings Scheme which offers accommodation in a smaller/family environment.

2.2 18+ young people, Parents and Out of County Provision

Oxfordshire County Council, with its District and City Council partners, will continue to commission services for young people aged 18+, young parents and out of county provision (for young people who cannot live safely in Oxon). It is envisaged that young people aged 18+ will not be in supported accommodation services for longer than 18 months as there will be more intensive support provided for young people whilst they are in these services. Upon exiting services, outreach support for up to a year will be available to young people to provide them with some support whilst in their own accommodation.

There will be shared and single provision commissioned for young people aged 18+, with the single provision for those young people where it is unsafe for them to live with others. There will be some emergency beds specifically for this age group.

There will be approximately 75 properties across Oxfordshire delivering commissioned services. The in-house Supported Lodgings Scheme will continue to also be available for young people aged 18-24 years.

3. Roles and responsibilities

In past supported housing services' there have been varied experiences received by individual young people in the supported housing service and the staff supporting them which was evidenced in the review of the Young People's Supported Housing service completed in 2019¹. Collectively supported housing projects did not all have a consistent offer and communication, between this service and partners, was an area which could be strengthened.

¹ <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/YPSHP/consultationHome>

By having a working agreement framework in place, it is hoped that there will be clearer understanding between Thames Valley Police Officers and YPSA providers (both in-house and commissioned) service from the outset about how they will aspire to work together.

3.1 YPSA Service

The key aim of the YPSA service will be to provide intensive, evidence-based interventions to prepare Young People for sustainable independence, whilst supported in temporary, high quality accommodation. Staff from all teams must ensure that any offer or support given is shared with the other to ensure a joined up approach which avoids duplication and ensures consistent working relationships to help deliver positive outcomes for young people.

The YPSA worker is responsible for the daily accommodation support which includes:

- Setting up a new home
- Support to develop general household skills
- Support to access education, work placements, employment via referral to EET service and social activities
- Budgeting and money management, including supporting young people to claim the benefits they are entitled to
- Support with personal health
- Support and guidance in preparation for independent Accommodation
- Support with individual personal and emotional matters
- Support with setting up first independent home at 18 and move on

3.2 Working Together to Keep Young People Safe

The table below outlines key tasks which the YPSA Service and TVP will strive to offer, to aid working together to keep young people safe:

YPSA Key Tasks	TVP Key Tasks
The YPSA service will make TVP aware of the addresses for properties they are considering for the YPSA in-house service for 16 and 17 year olds as well as the commissioned service houses for 18+ young people.	TVP will conduct intelligence checks on the identified properties for 16/17 year olds and those properties in the immediate vicinity. TVP will then share any safeguarding issues that the YPSA service need to be made aware of.
The YPSA service will provide contact details for a nominated responsible person or the commissioned provider responsible for each property (responsible nominee)	TVP will flag each property on their Contact Management database specifying that it is a YPSA service property and record the contact details of the responsible nominee.
When sharing concerns about a young person, the YPSA service will also provide details of their linked worker.	TVP will inform the YPSA service in relation to how information should be shared and

YPSA Key Tasks	TVP Key Tasks
	provide them with the relevant forms and contacts.
YPSA workers will invite TVP contact officers to house meetings or other gatherings where helpful to build relationships or de-escalate emerging issues for one or more residents.	When an issue arises, this would be brought to the attention of the Neighbourhood policing team who will respond. A problem profile would be created for a particular issue and a named officer assigned (which would likely be the safeguarding lead in the locality to act as the single point of contact).
YPSA will invite TVP to quarterly provider forums with all providers of YPSA services, to build relationships and allow providers/TVP to share themes of emerging concerns.	When possible TVP will assist the YPSA service in training their staff in relation to Child Criminal Exploitation and Cuckooing in their properties. This may be done by either providing literature on the subject, providing presentations at training days or signposting, for example to training provided by the Children's Safeguarding Board.
The YPSA service will take the appropriate action against its residents if it is brought to their attention that they are involved in criminal acts or antisocial behaviour.	When possible the Neighbourhood Police Teams for each LPA will visit properties containing residents under 18, or who are particularly vulnerable, as practicable. This will be in order to build a relationship so that residents feel able to report cases of crime, exploitation or cuckooing within the household.
Information will be shared between the two partnerships when necessary under the information sharing agreement (ISA) held by the Community Safety Partnership. (Both agencies are specified within this ISA as a responsible authority). In line with the ISA, the information shared should be related to safeguarding matters or preventing/reducing crime and disorder. (TVP will not share information however if it would jeopardise an investigation, a person's safety or Police operations)	

4. Summary of Information Sharing Process between the YPSA Service and TVP

Police Emergency response required

- Crime in progress or has just happened
- Person or property in immediate danger
- Violence is being used or threatened
- You see something suspicious that is happening now or has just occurred



Call 999

Emergency response not required

- To report a crime that is not in progress and hasn't just happened.
- To ask for advice
- To contact a specific officer
- Update an existing crime report



Call 101 or use the online reporting form on the TVP website

Sharing information with the police

- Providing information that might indicate someone's involvement in committing crime. (Not to report a specific crime or crime in progress)
- Providing information that might indicate someone is a potential victim of crime or vulnerable. (Not where attendance of Police/Social Care/Child Services is required)
- Details of suspicious vehicles/events (where Police attendance not required)
- Suspicious property (i.e. address where numerous bikes or new electrical equipment etc)



Fill out the Partnership Agency Intelligence Sharing Submission form and email to:

OxfordshireReaders@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Do not use:

- For reporting of a crime by or on behalf of the victim (this should be dialled in)
- To replace existing referral procedures (particularly child & vulnerable person referrals)
- Where a response or attendance is time critical or time specific.