

## **Appendix 3 : Young Persons Pathway Stakeholder Consultation**

### **Young Persons Pathway, Key Stakeholder & Provider consultation**

For the re-commissioning of Lewisham's young persons supported housing services in 2021 providers and key stakeholders were consulted. There was also a direct consultation with LBL Housing and LBL Childrens Social Care.

A full breakdown of the findings from the consultation is available.

### **Method**

#### **Online Questionnaire**

The council's online platform was used for the professionals consultation. Consultees were asked to comment on 4 areas by responding to 12 questions. The areas were:

1. Support. What support tasks should supported housing focus on. How well this support is done. How could the support be improved.
2. Buildings. What the quality of the buildings is like. How the buildings could be improved. What type of accommodation was missing?
3. Needs. What supported housing do we need more of, for example female only provision.
4. Equality and Diversity. Is any group disadvantaged in accessing supported accommodation? How can equality of access be improved?

#### **Focus Groups**

The views of colleagues from LBL Children's Social Care (CSC) and LBL Housing are crucial for making decisions about what supported housing to commission for young people. To maximise the views of LBL CSC and LBL Housing colleagues heard, focus groups with these teams were carried out over Microsoft Teams.

The questions asked were similar to the stakeholder questionnaire:

- Support. What support tasks should supported housing focus on. How well is this support done. How the support could be improved.
- Buildings. What the quality of the buildings is like. How the buildings could be improved. What type of accommodation was missing?
- Needs. What supported housing do we need more of, for example female only provision.
- Equality and Diversity. Is any group disadvantaged in accessing supported accommodation? How can equality of access be improved?
- Communication. What is the groups view on the communication from supported housing.

#### **Provider Consultation**

Officers met with representative from the young persons supported housing services. All 3 providers were invited, representatives from 2 attended. The meeting happened over Microsoft Teams.

A series of 9 questions were asked about supported housing services for young people in Lewisham.

### **Key findings of Young Persons Consultation**

- ETE, life skills and move-on should be a priority for young persons supported accommodation. Service design should reflect this. There should be a recognition that high rents of supported housing hinder meeting these goals and consideration should be given to addressing this if possible. The goal of young persons supported housing should be enabling people to live independently.
- It is thought the support on offer in young persons supported housing could be improved, this is particularly the case in priority areas of support. There is recognition that additional support around ETE and life skills would require additional funding. Improvement could be found without additional funding if links, process and communication were improved between supported housing and Childrens Social Care.
- The buildings used by supported housing are seen as good, and should be retained wherever possible. There is not enough self-contained or en suite provision, shared facilities are unpopular with professionals.
- Location of the buildings often presents a challenge to placing clients safely. Provision across a wider spread of Lewisham would be helpful.
- There is demand for more supported housing for young people in general. There is a demand for additional female and male only provision as well as services specialising in substance misuse, mental health, and learning disability. Supported housing reserved for care leavers was asked for.
- People who are working, pregnant women, carers, people with no recourse to public funds, are all thought to be disadvantaged from using young person's supported housing. Creating equalities for these people should be explored further.