

Care Leavers Accommodation Ashley House

Leaving Care Support Service

- Current support is commissioned using a regional framework through a variety of different providers who work in many different local authorities in the North West.
- In order to enable a closer contractual management relationship, enable wider opportunities for Halton Care Leavers and deliver some financial efficiencies a project was initiated regarding Ashley House.
- Ashley House is a council owned building located on the Inglefield Short Breaks Unit site, but is a separate building.
- Halton Council leased it to Ashley school to utilise it as a independent training home, but it was under utilised.
- Due to sufficiency issues regarding accommodation and shared living for Halton care leavers, notice was served on the lease.

Ashley House:-Purpose of the service

- The plan is to tender for 1 provider to deliver 2 types of support to Care Leavers in Halton for the Ashley site.
- To offer a Leaving Care/Independent Living Service for looked after young people aged 16-18 years
- Support them to acquire necessary skills in preparation for living independently, experiment safely with their increasing freedom and develop responsibilities associated with adulthood.
- A qualified and experienced staff team will provide the appropriate level of support for each young person living there.
- The service will enable young people, via the support delivered, to move on from a permanent, full time care setting to their own home and increase the likelihood of them maintaining future accommodation successfully

Group Support

- During each year approximately 10 Care Leavers require support in a group setting.
- Using the group property in Runcorn – comprising 4 individual bedrooms for young people , a communal kitchen/diner , a shared living room , bathroom/toilet facilities and a staff sleep in room / office.
- The provider will offer support 24/7 including sleep ins each evening
- This will also enable Social Workers and Personal Advisors to work from the property and offer support in developing and reviewing their pathway to independent living.
- Referrals for a place in Ashley House will be managed through the Care Leavers Accommodation Group, which is chaired by the Divisional Manager for Children in Care and Care Leavers.

Community Based Support

- Registered Social Landlords , Private landlords along with other Housing provisions are active members of the Care Leavers Accommodation Group.
- They will be working closely through the group to identify future housing and accommodation for the young people, when its been assessed that they are able to live independently in their own home.
- During each year approximately 10-15 Care Leavers require community based support.
- Under the commission to run this service, direct support will delivered into a variety of community housing settings.
- The hours of support in the community housing could range from 5 hours per week upwards and could ,when required , include sleep ins

Proposed Timeline / Contract Length

- September open to providers to pre book a visit to the setting.
- October launch tender.
- November evaluate written submission.
- December interviews involving Care Leavers on the interview panel for the commission.
- Contract begins 1st January 2021. Contract review meetings throughout tender will be attended by a member of the Children in Care Council and/or one of our Children in Care who are also a trained Young Inspectors.
- Contract length 1st January 2021 to 31st March 2022 with option to extend for 2 further periods of 1 year

Ashley House - home for our Care Leavers



Ashley House



Ashley House



Special Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to deliver praise and sincere gratitude to

Halton Veterans Community Support Service in Runcorn.

Through their kindness and commitment to the community and our Care Leavers they donated a significant amount of furniture and household items to assist in furnishing Ashley House during COVID 19 in preparation for any emergency accommodation.