



## Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**  
**Request ID: FOI341517250**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Housing provision for young people.

You have requested the following information:

**1. Please could you provide details of current housing provisions that you have for young people in your borough/area?**

A block contract for supported accommodation commenced in November 2019 . The service meet the needs of those young people who are Looked After or supported under S.17 of the Children Act 1989, who are over the age of 16.

- 4 bed shared accommodation - with floating support 10 hours per week for first 4 weeks reducing to 5 hours
- Young parent's accommodation - with floating support 10 hours per week for first 4 weeks reducing to 5 hours
- Solo accommodation with floating support 10 hours per week for first 4 weeks reducing to 5 hours
- 24/7 shared and solo accommodation
- Supported Lodgings
- Floating support units for those in their own tenancy.

Coventry City Council also commissions accommodation via the West Midlands Framework

contract and has a number of spot contracts where the above contract is unable to meet need.

**2. Please could you provide a list of current contracts you commission relating to services for young people offering housing related support? Ideally name of provider, length of contract and contract amount.**

There are Block contracts from November 2019 to November 2022 with option to extend for 2+2 years, with:

- Valley House Young Parents accommodation
- Elysian Field Ltd
- Key 2 Futures Ltd
- Barnardos Supported Lodgings

The West Midlands Framework current contract is due to end in September 2021. A new contract is in the process of being tendered which will commence from September 2021 ending September 2025 with an option to extend up to a further 2 years. The current contracts has 66 providers of which Coventry City Council commissions:

- Elysian Field Ltd solo accommodation

Spot contracts are in place to meet specialist need and out of city placements, with:

- Bright Secure Futures
- Youth Matters
- St Basil – Supported Lodgings
- Insightflyde
- Closer2Home
- Osei Minkha

With regards to the contract amount for each individual contracted provider, Coventry City Council confirm that we hold the information however we deem to be exempt from disclosure under the exemption at Section 43(2) (commercially sensitive information) FOIA.

Section 43(2) exempts information from disclosure where disclosure of that information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

The exemption at s 43(2) is qualified, and therefore subject to a public interest test. Even where a qualified exemption is engaged it can only be applied where the public interest in withholding information outweighs that in favour of releasing it. In applying the public interest test the Council have given careful consideration to the arguments for and against disclosure.

**Arguments in Favour of Disclosure**

1. Promote accountability and transparency for the Council's decisions and in its spending of public money
2. Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions
3. Inform the public of the activities carried out on their behalf, allowing for more user involvement and collaborative decision making
4. Enable the public to better scrutinise the public monies spent
5. Help to ensure clarity around fairness, equity, value for money and quality of care in the overall

tender process

## **Arguments Against Disclosure**

1. There is a public interest in allowing public authorities to withhold information which if disclosed, would reduce providers' ability to compete in a commercial environment, for the reasons given above
2. The bidders who were shortlisted to tender operate in a competitive market. If prejudicing the commercial interests of the bidders who were shortlisted to tender would distort competition in that market, this in itself would not be in the public interest
3. There is a public interest in protecting the commercial interests of individual companies and ensuring they are able to compete fairly: "If the commercial secrets of one of the players in the market were revealed then its competitive position would be eroded and the whole market would be less competitive with the result that the public benefit of having an efficient competitive market would be to some extent eroded" (taken from the decision of the (then) Information Tribunal in *Visser v ICO EA/2011/0188* at paragraph 20)
4. Disclosure of information may cause unwarranted reputational damage or loss of confidence in the Council
5. Revealing information such as the pricing strategy, can be detrimental to a provider's commercial interest. If another organisation has knowledge of a provider or potential provider's business model, it can exploit this for its own commercial interest. This would also have a detrimental impact on the Council on other contracts and procurements by distorting the market, for the reasons stated above

## **The Balancing Exercise**

Having taken into account the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council has decided that the public interest in this case is best served by maintaining the exemption under section 43(2) FOIA and by not disclosing the information requested.

The Council considers that the possible benefits of disclosure are outweighed by the real risk of causing prejudice to the commercial interests of the bidders shortlisted to tender concerned and the Council itself. In this case there is an overriding public interest in ensuring that companies are able to compete fairly and in ensuring there is competition for public sector contracts. It is more probable than not that disclosure would prejudice both the bidders shortlisted to tenders' and the Council's commercial interests.

The supply of information in response to a Freedom of Information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**