

FAQ Document

Supported Accommodation for Young
People

Milton Keynes Council

January, 2024



Question No.	Question	Answer
1	Will the Service Specification for those on the current framework, and the costings previously submitted remain the same on the new DPS, or do these need to be re-submitted as part of this process?	<p>As it's intended that all Supported Accommodation placements will be commissioned via the DPS by October 2023, the Council anticipates that all current Framework Providers will, having reviewed the published Service Specification and related documents, choose to apply to join the DPS. For all placements commissioned via the DPS, the provider will need to set out their Offer price in response to the referral. Costings previously provided by Framework Providers will not apply in these circumstances.</p> <p>Existing placements with Framework Providers will continue to be paid at the previously agreed price.</p>
2	We have not been inspected by CQC yet, can we still register?	CQC registration is not a requirement for this opportunity. All providers on the DPS must however register/commit to registering with Ofsted as per the regulatory guidance for Supported Accommodation providers.
3	Must we have Ofsted registration to be approved?	All providers on the DPS must register/commit to registering with

		Ofsted as per the regulatory guidance for Supported Accommodation providers. Current guidance suggests that providers will have from April to October 2023 to complete the Ofsted registration process.
4	Hi there, is an actual ITT and a full spec available for the DPS please? If so, will that be available on the adamproviders.co.uk website?	The Service Specification for the Supported Accommodation for Young People DPS is available to view on the adamproviders.co.uk site --> https://adamproviders.co.uk/milton-keynes-city-council-supported-accommodation-for-young-people . There is no ITT in the traditional sense, as it is replaced by the Accreditation and Enrolment process that interested providers will need to complete to join the DPS.
5	We are already registered with CQC (rating is Good), do we have to also register with Ofsted?	CQC registration is not a requirement for this opportunity. All providers on the DPS must however register/commit to registering with Ofsted as per the regulatory guidance for Supported Accommodation providers.
6	Also, will prices need to submitted in response to individual referrals?	Providers are able to view individual referrals (Requirements), setting out the support needs of the young

		<p>person to be placed, on the DPS.</p> <p>Having determined that the needs can be met the Provider will be required to submit an Offer price.</p> <p>As young people's support needs vary, it's anticipated that the price offered by providers will vary from one referral to another referral.</p>
7	<p>We previously attempted to register on SProc.Net, but were not accepted because we haven't yet been inspected by CQC.</p> <p>Can we still join?</p>	<p>As the enrolment requirements are specific to Supported Accommodation for Young People, Providers may still be approved to join the DPS despite having had an application rejected previously for another DPS that the Council currently operate through SProc.Net (e.g. for Home Care Services).</p>
8	<p>Will the successful providers be ranked or tiered, and - if so - where do we find the evaluation criteria please?</p>	<p>There is no ranking at the point of enrolment. What will be checked is if the provider meets the criteria set by the Council (which are specified in the Application Guide). Having first demonstrated that they meet the Council's requirements as relates to quality, and other needs, providers will be ranked at the point that the Requirement closes for Offers.</p>
9	<p>As discussed at the event you hosted recently - are you</p>	<p>The Council isn't able to support Providers with their applications for</p>

	supporting Ofsted registration for MKC providers due to the backlog?	Ofsted registration as there is no defined role in the process for local authorities. Nonetheless, the Council will do whatever it can to assist wherever it's possible to do so.
10	<p>Hi, we currently only have provisions in Northamptonshire - should we only select these geographical localities on our SProc.Net Enrolment?</p> <p>Also as a specialist provider for Autism and Learning needs/difficulties - how would this be highlighted in the system to placement team?</p>	<p>If a provider only has provisions in Northamptonshire, then please only select the X Distribution Override Group when completing your Enrolment. These areas can be amended and added to over time through their Enrolment.</p> <p>The Council doesn't plan to commission specialist provision through DPS, as this is not currently provided for in the government's regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Nonetheless, any particular needs i.e. learning difficulty, disability, behavioural challenges, will be set out in the referral (Requirement distributed to Providers via the DPS).</p>
11	Q33 - how should we answer this Q pre Ofsted registration?	<p>Prior to October, 2023:</p> <p>Answer all Ofsted questions with a 'Yes' to demonstrate that your company commits to obtaining the required Ofsted registration when the regulatory requirement takes effect later this year.</p>

		<p>Post October, 2023:</p> <p>Answer all Ofsted questions as is true for your company, having already gone through the Ofsted registration and/or inspection process.</p>
12	Is there any ranking of suppliers on registration?	<p>There is no ranking at the point of enrolment. What will be checked is if the provider meets the criteria set by the Council (which are specified in the Application Guide). Having first demonstrated that they meet the Council's requirements as relates to quality, and other needs, providers will be ranked at the point that the Requirement closes for Offers.</p>
13	What is the criteria for awarding packages/contracts?	<p>The criteria for awarding Service Agreements is based on quality and price. All providers that successfully enrol on the DPS will have already demonstrated that they meet the essential quality criteria. The Council's Quality and Compliance will also conduct site visits to providers to check that the information provided on their Enrolment(s) is correct. When a Requirement is sent out for a particular placement, providers will</p>

		<p>be informed of the particular needs/features of the young person. Here, interested providers will need to be able to demonstrate that they can provide the specific services required at a competitive price, which will be ranked by the Council against all other provider submissions. Provided that there are no 'matching' issues arising, the Provider ranked first will be awarded the Service Agreement for the placement</p>
14	<p>What would the evaluation of a supplier be based on?</p>	<p>Applications to join the DPS are evaluated on the basis of the responses provided by the Provider in completing the enrolment, a financial risk assessment and a site visit undertaken by the Council's Quality & Compliance Team. Offers received in response to a referral (Requirement) for a particular placement are evaluated on the basis of the Provider's ability to meet the specific needs of the young person and the price quoted.</p>
15	<p>I didn't see any quality questions. How will you quality check providers?</p>	<p>Applicants must respond to an extensive set of self-assessing quality questions during the Enrolment process. Following successful completion of the</p>

		<p>Accreditation and Enrolment, Milton Keynes City Council will not place any individuals with a provider until their properties have been visited and validated by a member of the Council's Quality & Compliance Team. The purpose of the visit is to view the property and verify the answers provided by providers in the enrolment process. These inspections will act as a final checkpoint as to a provider's suitability to join the DPS.</p>
16	<p>Will there be a set split of quality and price i.e. 60/40?</p>	<p>Providers are not required to submit prices as part of the enrolment process. For Offers received from Providers in response to a referral (Requirement) for an individual placements there will be a set split (60% client review and 40% price).</p>
17	<p>Are providers required to do the insurance in advance before registration- re- YP even though you have insurance for adult services (18+)?</p>	<p>Yes, providers will need to be able to evidence the required insurances prior to being accepted on the Supported Accommodation for Young People DPS. The insurance requirements are as follows:</p> <p>Employer's Liability insurance - £10m</p> <p>Public Liability insurance - £5m</p>

		<p>Professional Indemnity insurance - £1m</p> <p>Contents insurance - at least £5k for each young person placed</p> <p>Personal Belongings insurance - appropriate level</p> <p>Buildings Insurance - appropriate level</p>
18	Is the DPS live now and open for enrolment /registration?	The Supported Accommodation for Young People DPS opened for registration and enrolment in January 2023. Providers can apply to join at any time during its lifetime.
19	There are 2 Ofsted registers: the Early Years Register and the Childcare Register— which of these do we register for?	From April 2023, Ofsted will begin regulating Supported Accommodation for Young People services. This will require providers of these services to complete a separate (and new) registration, i.e. not Early Years or Childcare.
20	What if you have not register with Ofsted?	All providers on Milton Keynes City Council's Supported Accommodation for Young People DPS will be expected to have registered with Ofsted by October 2023. As the DPS will be going live prior to this date, providers registering before October, 2023, will need to commit to registering

		with Ofsted when the regulatory requirement takes effect. For the time being, the Council have asked that providers upload blank documents in the Ofsted Enrolment slots, with an intention to updating these with their actual Ofsted certificates prior to deadline.
21	Will social benefit still be included in any tenders? When doing most call-off tenders we have to fill a form about social benefit - environment, COVID, community, etc. usually valued at 5-10%. Will this still be needed for the block contracts?	Providers will not be required to provide social value information for the individual placements that will be made through the DPS. It remains to be determine whether this will be required for the award of block contracts, as the value of block contracts will inevitably be higher than that for individual placements.
22	What will happen with existing placements?	Existing placements will not be affected by the creation of the upcoming Supported Accommodation for Young People DPS and Providers will continue to be paid at the previously agreed price. As new placements will be made via the DPS Framework Providers are encouraged to join the DPS as soon as possible. Placements that remain in place with the existing Block Contract Provider will be relocated prior to

		October 2023, which is when the contract is due to end.
23	I'm sure this would be covered in your additional training, but what sector do we register under on the website?	To begin the Accreditation process for the Supported Accommodation for Young People opportunity, select the following Client and Category. Client: Milton Keynes Council Category: Supported Accommodation for Young People
24	With regards to registration is there a need for proximity of the registered office to be within a certain distance from your MK offices?	For the Supported Accommodation for Young People DPS, the Council doesn't currently require the Providers registered office to be located within a specific proximity to the Council Offices. This is subject to review on publication of the government's regulatory guidance.
25	As we are already registered on SProc.Net, will we still need to upload the mandatory Enrolment documents, or will these be pre-uploaded automatically?	If you have previously completed an SProc.Net Accreditation and Enrolment (A&E) for a different local authority/category where you had to provide any of the same documents as are on the Supported Accommodation for Young People A&E, then you will not have to upload these documents again when you go through the new A&E process. Please note that this will only be the case where said documents are valid, i.e., where

		they have not expired on your existing A&E.
26	Can we add properties as we move forward. As we are not in MK but work with 26 LA's and would be happy to find services in a suitable location within MK?	Providers can apply to join the DPS at any point during its lifetime. i.e. between now and 2028. Providers are not be precluded from joining the DPS based on the proximity of their properties to Milton Keynes. Whilst, in most cases, the Council endeavours to place young people as 'close to home' as possible, on occasion it may be in the young person's best interest to be placed further afield. On enrolment Providers can select one or more of 3 geographical areas in which they can deliver services. This can be updated at any time during the life of the DPS if and when a Provider secures additional properties in an area not initially selected.
27	Is this for adults with providers who support learning disabilities?	The Supported Accommodation for Young People DPS is for children and young people aged between 16-25, not adults aged over 25.
28	Can you please advise on the price uplift mechanism that will be used for placements made under the terms of this DPS?	Any price uplift will usually be approved through the Council's annual budget setting process.
29	The Ts & Cs seem to state that insurance must be maintained for	Generally, for a 'simple contract' (i.e. one which is not under seal) the

	<p>12 years after expiry or termination. Many other frameworks we make placements with require six years rather than 12. Would the council consider amending the period to six years please?</p>	<p>limitation period is 6 years, however for a speciality contract (i.e. one which is under a seal) and executed as a Deed, the limitation period is 12 years.</p> <p>The DPS Supplier Agreement as currently drafted; and in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules shall be executed and delivered as a DEED under the seal of the parties. Under the circumstance, the 12 year limitation period applies and will not be amended.</p>
30	<p>Is there a minimum number of rooms that providers need to have per accommodation, e.g., could she invest in one-bedroom flats?</p>	<p>The services required are to be provided in shared accommodation with no more than residents. Currently, the Council doesn't anticipate commissioning solo placements via the DPS.</p>
31	<p>What is the minimum number of occupants they can have per accommodation before requiring a HMO license?</p>	<p>An HMO License is required when 5 or more people from different households are living within one property.</p>