

Section 6 Children in the Care of the Local Authority

Care Leavers

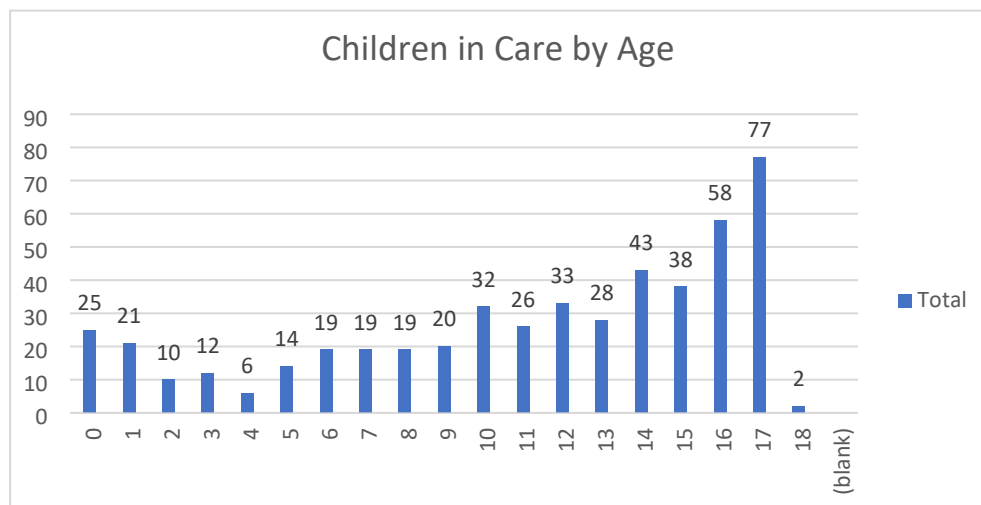
The Care Leavers Strategy Strategic Priority Two: Safe and Affordable Accommodation highlights the need for suitable accommodation for Care Leavers and acknowledges that sourcing the right accommodation is becoming more challenging.

The Strategy states agencies and services in Rotherham will work together to:

- Ensure there is a range of suitable accommodation options, including staying put, supported lodgings, semi supported, shared accommodation, houses of multiple occupancy and independent.
- Expand our in house supported accommodation to 20 dispersed properties which is staffed 24/7. These properties will help young people to get ready for independent living.
- Maintain close links between commissioning, children in care, leaving care, residential and in house supported accommodation to forecast accommodation needs and commission appropriate services.
- Establish a 16+ Panel to track young people to appropriate destinations.
- Work with trusted providers to ensure accommodation and support is of good quality.
- Support Care Leavers to develop independence skills, to ensure they transition positively to independent living, including budgeting, paying bills, food shopping, cooking and prioritising.
- Work with Care Leavers and services to jointly create Pathway plans which consider future living arrangements for young people, including what support will be offered to help to get them there.

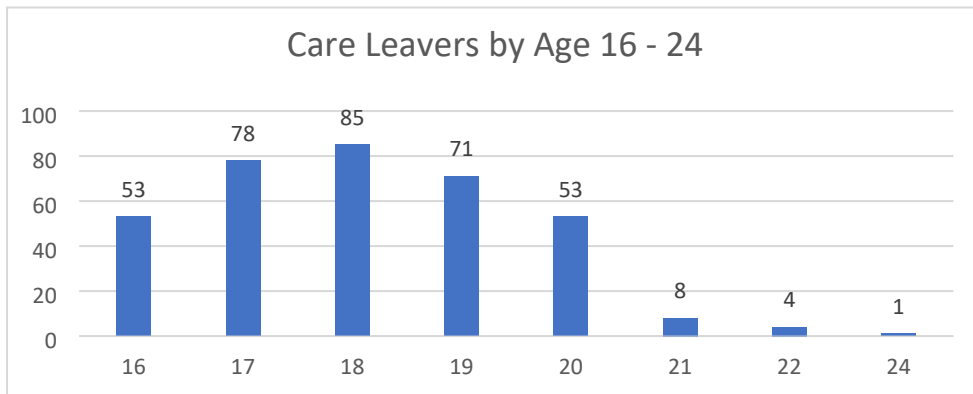
Analysis of children in care by age

At the end of May 2024 Rotherham had 502 Children in Care aged 0 – 18 with 135 of those children in care aged 16 - 17.

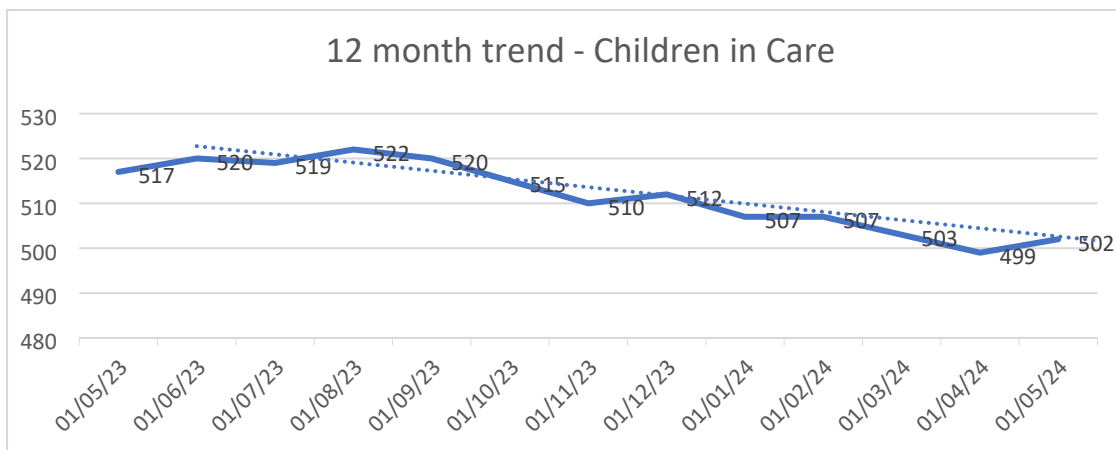


Graph 1

At the end of May 2024 Rotherham had 353 Care Leavers aged 16 – 24. This includes any young person 16 and over who is currently or has previously been in the care of the Local Authority and who has an allocated Social Worker or Personal Advisor. This does not include those young people over 21 who no longer have an allocated Personal Advisor (however they may access support from the leaving care team).

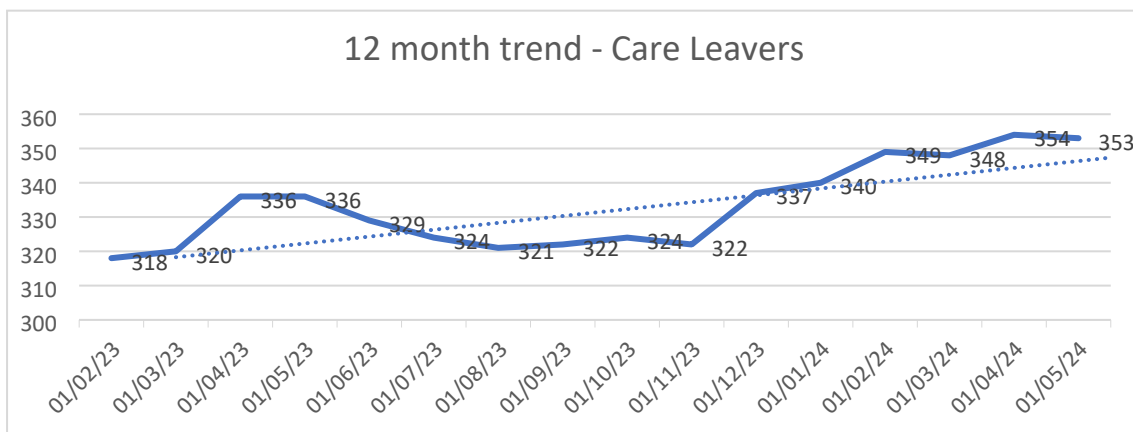


Graph 2



Graph 3

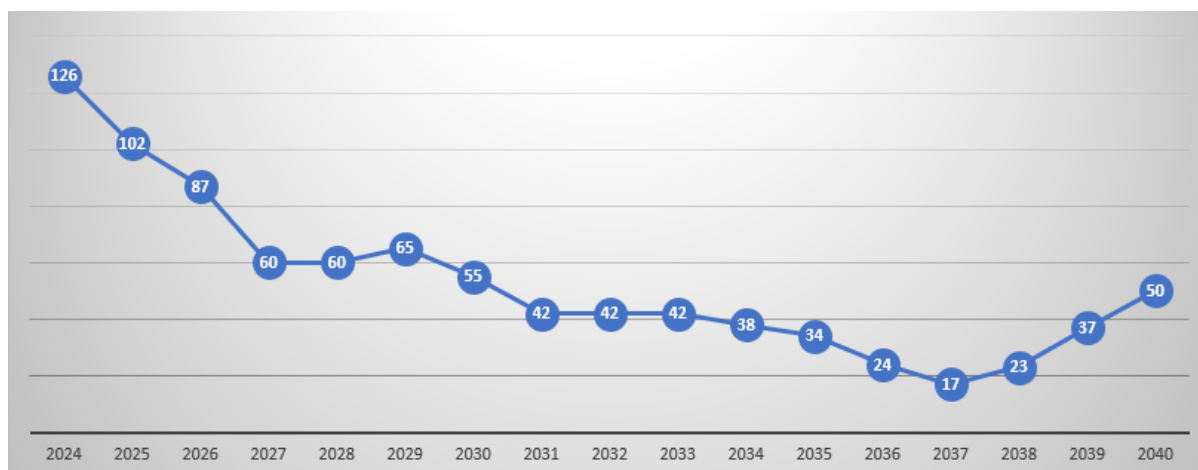
The number of children in care has reduced over the last 12 months.



Graph 4

The number of Care Leavers has increased over the last 12 months.

Graph 5 projects the Rotherham 16+ care leaver population for the next 16 years based on the current children in care remaining in care until they are 16. This does not reflect new entrances to care or discharges from care that are expected and therefore does not reflect the actual number of anticipated care leavers.



Graph 5

The graph demonstrates there will likely be a reduction in care leavers in 2031 as we see the impact of the reducing number of children in care.

Analysis of children in care Aged 14 – 17 years old

Table 1 show the breakdown on children in care aged 14 to 17 at the end of May 2024.

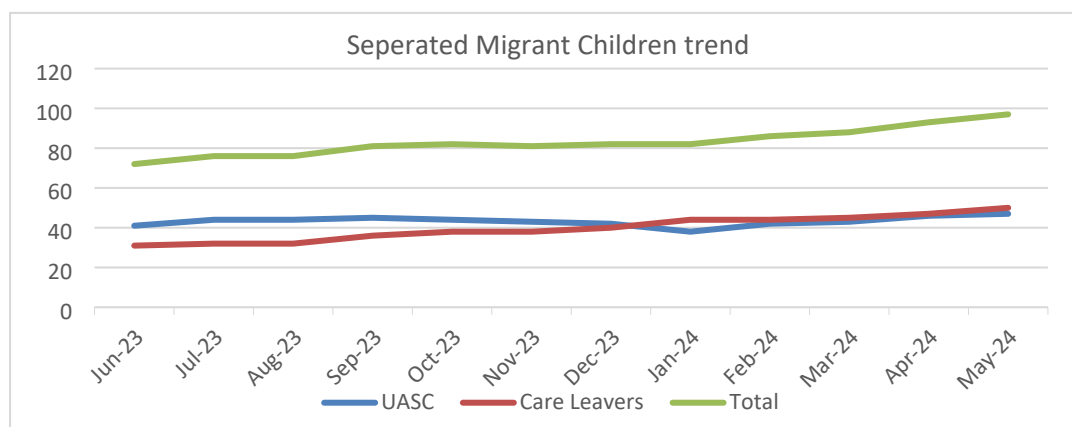
Number of Children & Young People (CYP)	Age				Grand Total
	14	15	16	17	
Placement Types					
H5 – Registered Provider of Supported Accommodation		2	16	40	58
H5 – Resid. Accom. not subject to Children's Homes Regulations.		1			1
K1 – Secure Unit			1		1
K2 – Children's Homes	8	12	5	4	29
P1 - Placed with parents or other with Parental Resp.	2	3		1	6
P2 - Independent living (flat/lodgings/friends/B&B)			2	6	8
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or Independent Fostering Agency (IFA)	2			1	3
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	16	13	11	17	57
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	14	8	22	9	53
Unregistered Unregulated Accommodation		1			1
Grand Total	42	40	57	78	217

Table 1

Rotherham will have an additional 40 children in care aged 16 and 17 within the next two years, not including any new entrances into care or discharges from care (increase of 30% per year for the next two years).

Separated Migrant Children and Young People

At the end of May 2024 Rotherham was receiving funding for 47 separated migrant children and young people at the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) National Rate (for under 18s) and 50 at the Care Leavers rate (18+).



Graph 6

The total number of separated migrant children and care leavers has increased over the last twelve months. The number of children under 18 has increased from 41 at the end of June 2023 to 47 at the end of May 2024 (37% increase). The number of care leavers over 18 has increased from 31 at the end of June 2023 to 50 at the end of May 2024 (62% increase).

Table 2 shows the number and breakdown of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children in care aged 14 and over at the end of May 2021

Number of CYP	Age				
	14	15	16	17	Grand Total
Immigration Status					
Asylum Seeker			1		1
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)				1	1
Leave to Remain			1	7	8
Pre-Settled Status – EU Settlement Scheme	1				1
Refused Asylum, appeal applied for				1	1
Settled Status – EU Settlement Scheme	5	2	4	4	15
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Child		1	13	19	33
Grand Total	6	3	19	32	60

Table 2

Table 3 shows the anticipated numbers of separated migrant children who will become 18+ (UASC) from 2024 to 2026. The table assumes that there will be 1 additional accommodated separated migrant child becoming 18+ every month and that it will take a maximum of 12 months for young people to receive a decision of their rights to remain (R2R).

Movement	Jul-Sep 24	Oct-Dec 24	Jan-Mar 25	Apr-Jun 25	Jul-Sep 25	Jan-Mar 26	Apr-Jun 26
Start of Period	28	35	25	28	32	30	27
New in @ 18	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Turn 18 in period	4	3	8	9	2	5	1
Achieve R2R	0	-16	-8	-8	-7	-11	-12
End of Period	35	25	28	32	30	27	19

Table 3

The projection for 18+ (UASC) assumes a net 25% increase year on year based on the assumptions above.

Care Leavers with a disability

11 of the 135 children in care aged 16 and 17 are recorded on the Local Children's System as having a disability.

24 (11%) of the 217 children in care aged 14 to 17 are recorded on the Local Children's System as having a disability.

Summary

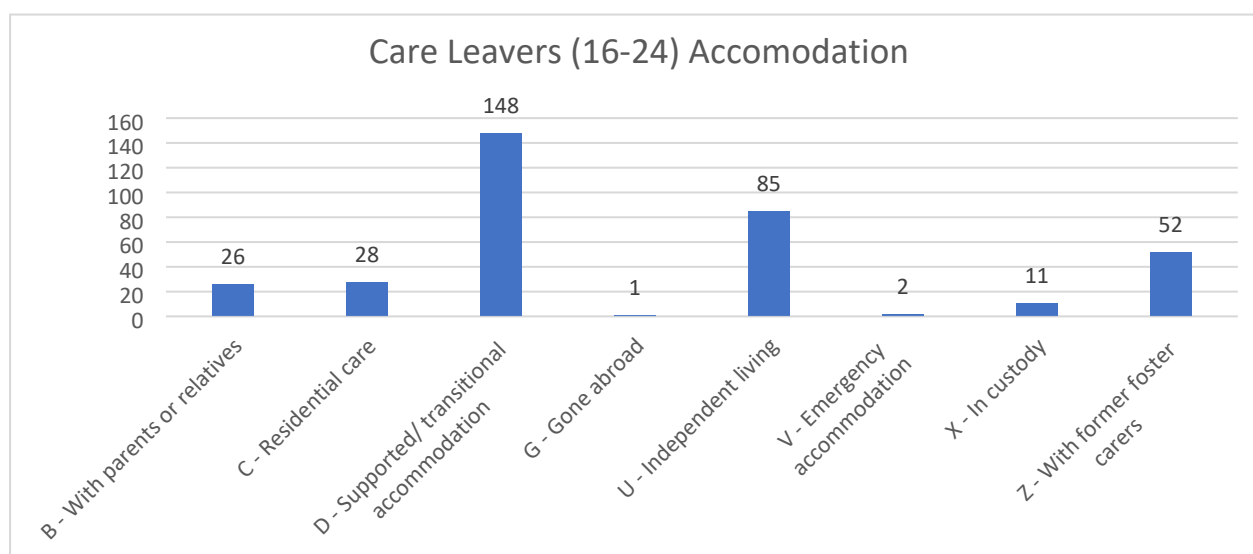
The projection for the total number of care leavers, after discharges from care, suggests a 25% increase year on year for the next 3 years.

The projection for 18+ (UASC) suggests a net 25% increase year on year based on the assumptions above.

There will likely be a reduction in care leavers in 2031 as we see the impact of the reducing number of children in care.

Section 7 Homes for Children in the Care of the Local Authority

Analysis of Leaving Care Accommodation



Graph 7

Care Leavers over 21 living independently in appropriate accommodation who are no longer allocated a Personal Advisor (PA) are not reflected in graph 7.

Table 4 shows the breakdown of provision types for children in care aged 16 to 17 at the end of May 2024

Number of CYP Placement Types	Age		
	16	17	Grand Total
H5 – Registered Provider of Supported Accommodation	16	40	56
K1 – Secure Unit	1		1
K2 – Children’s Homes	5	4	9
P1 - Placed with parents or other with Parental Resp.		1	1
P2 - Independent living (flat/lodgings/friends/B&B)	2	6	8
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA		1	1
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	11	17	28
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	22	9	31
Grand Total	57	78	135

Table 4

Care Leavers with a disability

Table 2 show the number of disabled children and breakdown of provision types for children in care aged 16 to 17 at the end of May 2024.

Number of CYP with Disability Placement Type	Age		
	16	17	Grand Total
H5 - Registered Provider of Supported Accommodation		3	3
K2 - Children's Homes	1	4	5
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering		1	1
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	2		2
Grand Total	3	8	11

Table 5

Analysis of External Leaving Care Accommodation

Table 5 shows the number of young people aged 16 and over accommodated in external leaving care provision (excluding 18-year-olds UASC already in affordable shared accommodation).

Number of CYP Provision Type	Age				
	16	17	18	19	Grand Total
Lot 1 – Group Living	16	31	10	1	58
Lot 2 – Dispersed with Floating support	2	7	12	9	30
Grand Total	18	38	22	10	88

Table 6

Lot 1 – Group Living

58 of the 88 (66%) of the young people are accommodated in high cost, supported group living arrangements.

11 out of the 58 (19%) of those young people are aged 18 and over.

Lot 2 – Dispersed with Floating support.

30 of the 88 (34%) are accommodated in dispersed properties with floating support.

21 out of the 30 (70%) are aged 18 and over.

It should be noted that the availability of accommodation can influence where young people are accommodated. Where an outcome in the pathway plan for a young person is for them to live independently in appropriate accommodation in Rotherham the preference for the service is for the young person to be accommodated in a property that can transfer into their name, preventing the need for unnecessary home moves. This is dependent upon the level of support they need, however anecdotal information from the service suggests the majority of young people could receive floating support in their own dispersed property and the decision to utilise supported accommodation is usually based on the lack of availability of dispersed properties and floating support.

Analysis of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) in external accommodation

64 UASC aged 16 - 19 are accommodated in external leaving care accommodation.

Table 6 shows the number of USAC aged 16 and over accommodated in external leaving care provision (excluding 18-year-olds already in affordable shared accommodation).

Number of UASC	Age				Grand Total
	16	17	18	19	
Provision Type					
Lot 1 – Group Living	12	20	7	1	40
Lot 2 – Dispersed with Floating support.	0	4	12	8	24
Grand Total	12	24	19	9	64

Table 7

Lot 1 – Group Living

40 of the 64 (63%) of UASC are accommodated in high cost, supported group living arrangements.

8 out of the 40 (20%) of those young people are aged 18 and over.

Lot 2 – Dispersed with Floating support.

24 of the 64 (38%) are accommodated in dispersed properties with floating support.

20 out of the 24 (83%) are aged 18 and over.

Summary

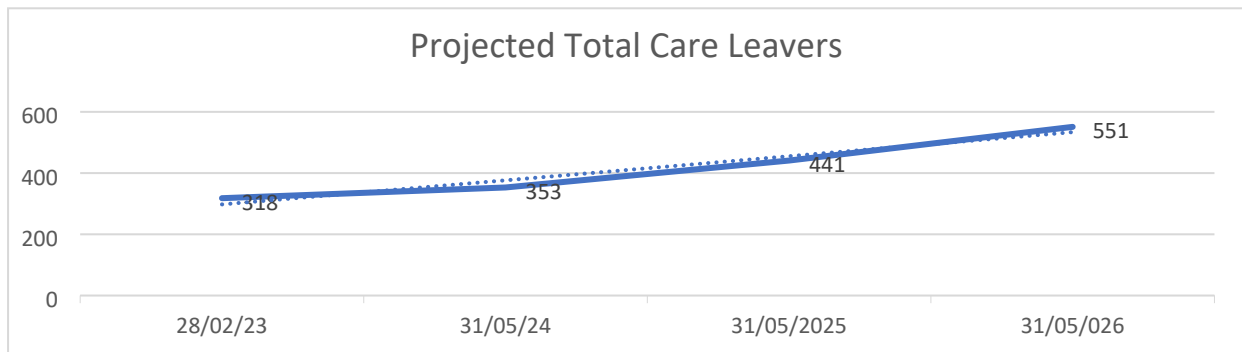
The analysis demonstrates 60 young adults (aged over 18) are currently accommodated in supported accommodation for young people. 28 may not be able to have a tenancy in their own name due to their immigration status. 32 young adults are awaiting availability of appropriate accommodation.

Supported accommodation is appropriate for 92 young people currently accommodated. When a young person is accommodated in a (dispersed) property that can transfer into their name, this prevents the need for unnecessary home moves, additional dispersed properties with the flexibility of floating support may be preferential.

There will likely be a reduction in care leavers in 2031 as we see the impact of the reducing number of children in care.

Section 8 Future Need Projections

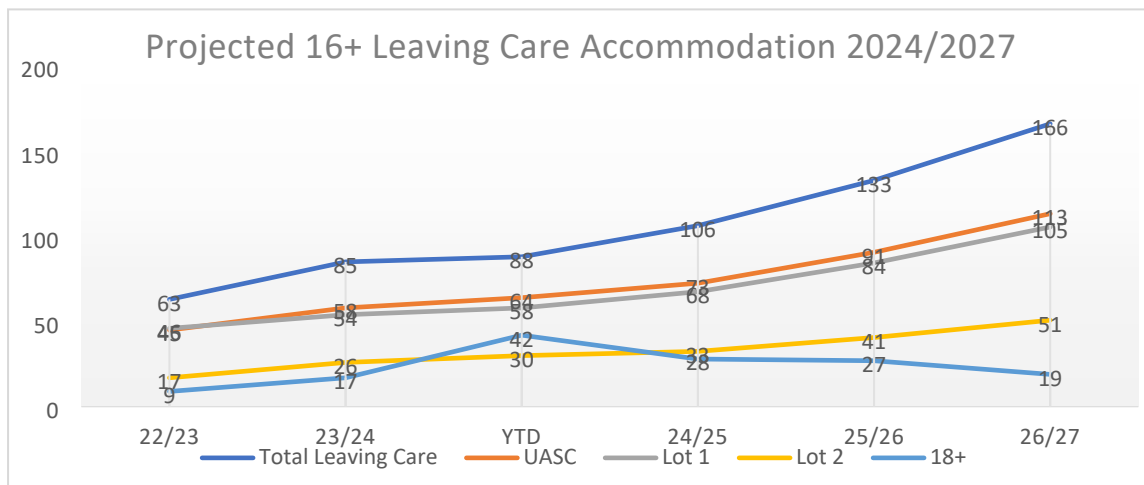
Number of Care Leavers Projection



Graph 8

Based on the anticipated 25% increase in the number of the Care Leavers for next 2 years there will be 551 care leavers aged 16 – 24 in Rotherham in the 26/27 financial year.

Projected demand for 16+ leaving care accommodation to March 27



Graph 9

If no changes are made to available in house provision and/ or practice, the projection indicates 166 young people will require external accommodation in the financial year 26/27.

The projection for total leaving care, UASC, Lot 1 and Lot 2 projections assume a net 25% increase year on year after discharges from care based on what we currently know about the 14-year-olds in the system and allows for 5% of care leavers not requiring provision.

The table shows the projected demand for 18+ (UASC) from 2024 to 2026. The table assumes that there will be 1 new 18+ (UASC) accommodated every month and that it will take a maximum of 12 months for young people to receive a decision of their rights to remain (R2R).

Movement	Jul-Sep 24	Oct-Dec 24	Jan-Mar 25	Apr-Jun 25	Jul-Sep 25	Jan-Mar 26	Apr-Jun 26
Start of Period	28	35	25	28	32	30	27
New in @ 18	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Turn 18 in period	4	3	8	9	2	5	1
Achieve R2R	0	-16	-8	-8	-7	-11	-12
End of Period	35	25	28	32	30	27	19

Table 8

The projection for 18+ (UASC) assumes a net 25% increase year on year based on the assumptions above.

Group living 18+. The 32 (Number of care leavers) is split 20 group living (9 in affordable) and (11 high cost), then 12 currently in dispersed. The 32 also assumes 50% will achieve rights to remain within 12 months of being placed. Demand could peak at 42 if there are further delay with processing rights to remain.

Summary

The analysis of future need demonstrates an increased need of an additional 47 group living placements and 21 dispersed properties over the next two years. This is in addition to the continued requirement for available housing for those ready to take on their own tenancies. (Currently 32 young adults are waiting for this).

As the preference for the service is for the young person to be accommodated in a property that can transfer into their name, preventing the need for unnecessary home moves, additional dispersed properties with the flexibility of floating support may be preferential.

Although demand is likely to reduce from 2031 the reduction could be managed by reducing the external accommodation commissioned.

Annual Expenditure Projection

Lot 1 – Group Living

The average cost of a Lot 1 – group living accommodation is £1,200 per placement per week.

The projected cost of the 58 young people is £3.6m per year.

The projected cost of the young people aged 18 and over is £686K per year.

Lot 2 – Dispersed with Floating support

The average cost of a dispersed properties with floating support is £438 per placement per week.

The projected cost of the 30 young people is £683K per year.

The projected cost of the 21 young people aged 18 and over is £478K per year.

The Council receives the Government contribution for UASC at £230 per week, which means a high percentage of current placement cost is being covered by the local authority.

Summary

The analysis of future need demonstrates an increased need of an additional 47 group living placements and 21 dispersed properties over the next two years. The financial projections above demonstrate the financial implication of externally commissioning the required accommodation is in excess of £5.2m. Better value can be achieved through meeting the accommodation needs of young adults through delivery of the accommodation strategy, increasing the number of dispersed properties, increasing the number of places in the more cost efficient in-house group living accommodation and reducing the number of external group living placements.

Homes for Care Leavers Projection of additional need

Table 9 demonstrates the required accommodation to meet the projected need. Current Capacity assume our ability to meet need internally and externally.

Whilst we can confidently project the number of care leavers (16/17) year olds transitioning through the care system over the next 3 years, based on current numbers of young people aged between 14-17, the types of properties that are required is more difficult to forecast.

By increasing our Dispersed with Floating support provision by 38 over the next 3 years it is likely to meet expected demand. Achieving above this number it is likely to reduce the reliance on higher costing commissioned services, both Lot 1 – Group Living and Lot 2 - Dispersed with Floating support and if the complexity of our leaving care population remains the same.

An increase in the complexity of our leaving care population is likely to mean an increase in demand for the higher supported/high-cost group arrangements.

All the projections with this paper assume that colleagues in Housing can identify suitable housing solutions for care leavers at the current rate, and that this does not create additional demand for dispersed properties.

			Type of accommodation			
	Number of care leavers	Number of Care leavers in external acc	Registered Provider of Supported Acc (16+)	Dispersed properties – floating support	Group living 18+	18+ (own tenancy)
Total (16-19)	353	87	52 (9 in house)	20 (10 in-house)	15	
26/27 Forecast Capacity required (16–19)	551 (based on forecast in graph 8)	166 (based on forecast in graph 9)	49	51	6	62
<u>25/26 Proposed Additional capacity</u>			38	26 Delivery of 20 additional in-house (10 already committed)	15	32
<u>26/27 Additional capacity</u>			38	15 Delivery of 10 additional in-house	21	62

Table 9