

- Creating Council run and managed in-house services through the use of developing ECC properties, recruiting staff and deploying a multi-disciplinary team.
- Creating our own managed placements using ECC properties and commissioning external providers to deliver the support and care within those properties.

The Council has approval for four solo bespoke registered Children's Homes to work with Children and Young people with high needs that struggle to live with other people for a variety of reasons.

- One is operational and internally delivered in Colchester.
- The second also in Colchester and has been tendered to a service provider. The building has been handed over and the provider is awaiting Ofsted registration to be operational.
- The third solo is currently in planning permission stages for a full rebuild and is expected to be available later this year or early 2025. A decision is yet to be made on whether this will be run and managed directly by the Council or tendered to an external care provider.
- The fourth solo has recently been subject to governance and approval sought to utilise capital underspend to purchase from the private market that can be used to operate a Children's Home.

Alongside the solo provision, the Council is repurposing another accommodation in Colchester to be a group home. This will provide a 4 bedded short term (up to 6 months) placements, staffed by a multi-disciplinary team, to support neuro-divergent young people to live in the community.

In South Essex, we are developing a similar short term service as the one referred to in Colchester. These services will be directly run and managed by the Council.

In addition to the specific developments noted above, the Council works closely with our statutory partners; the Borough & Districts and NHS along with service providers and people who use services to identify future housing needs and to develop specialist models of care and support.

Transforming Care Partnership:

As part of the Council's work with NHS England capital bids have been submitted to secure the estates investment needed to develop additional services for complex autistic young people with significant mental health issues. These include:

- A small number (likely 1 a year over the next 3 years) of single person homes with substantial care and support packages.
- A move on service for 16-18 year olds coming out of mental health inpatient beds.
- Preventative respite provision available earlier in the pathway to avoid escalation to crisis and admission. The number of units is yet to be determined but we anticipate this being in the region of 8 to 11 phased in over a 3-4 year period.

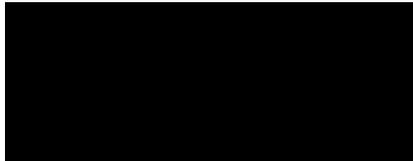
Wider Community Support and Services:

The Council commissions community based short break provision, which is directly accessible without requiring social care assessment. This includes:

- Community clubs and activities –a range of activities across the county for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Organisations providing support and services complete training on mental health as part of this offer.
- Autism and nature publications based on heritage sites across Essex.
- Adapted subsidised caravan holidays, fully adapted to include sensory lighting and equipment to support families to holiday together.
- Free days out to local attractions and Max Cards to access national attraction at lower cost and with a free carer.

Where a need is identified through social care assessment, the Council offer home based care packages with local agencies. This is sourced directly or through direct payments based on the person and family's needs and preferences.

Yours sincerely



Executive Director for Adult Social Care