

**16+ Supported
Accommodation
for Young People -
Market Position
Statement
2024-2026**

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the 16+ supported accommodation provision for young people in Nottinghamshire, including the current market, and commissioning and contract arrangements that are in place. It will also highlight opportunities that may be available for potential providers. For clarification, young people refer to those aged 16-21 and care experienced young people up to the age of 25.

The county and people of Nottinghamshire

The County Council area (excluding the city of Nottingham) consists of 805 square miles covering both urban and rural areas. The rural areas of the county contain approximately 20% of the total population, the majority of whom live in small towns and villages. Nottinghamshire has a two-tier structure comprising of the County Council and seven district and borough councils. The Council is the 10th largest Local Authority in the UK.



Key population data

Nottinghamshire has a population of 824,800, which is an increase of 39,000 since the 2011 census (source: Census, 2021). The total population of Nottinghamshire is expected to increase by 67,000 persons to 895,000 from 2019 to 2031, an 8% increase. Children and young people (0-17 years old) make up 20% (168,500) of the population.

Nottinghamshire is a large diverse county, with some of the most deprived and affluent wards in the country. The levels of deprivation vary considerable across the County’s seven districts. Nottinghamshire is ranked 9th most deprived out of 26 Shire Counties in England, and 101 out of 151 Upper Tier Local Authorities in England. Mansfield is in the top 20% of most deprived districts in the country. Rushcliffe is within the top 3% of least deprived districts in the county (Source: Indices of Deprivation, 2019)

The numbers of Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire

The numbers of children looked after by Local Authorities is rising nationally (Source DFE: 2023) and in Nottinghamshire a similar growth in numbers has been seen. As of 13/06/2024 there were 953 Looked After Children (LAC), in Nottinghamshire. The highest percentage of looked after children is in the 16 and 17-year age group.

Table 1: Breakdown of Looked After Children in Nottinghamshire by age (13/06/2024)

Age	Number	%
0	44	5
1	42	4
2	32	3
3	19	2
4	24	3
5	31	3
6	18	2
7	32	3
8	31	3
9	29	3
10	43	5
11	41	4
12	54	6
13	60	6
14	72	8
15	79	8
16	129	14
17	173	18
Total	953	100.0%

Source: NCC Commissioning and Contracts Management Team

Local and National Drivers

Nationally there has been a rise in the number of young people approaching their Council as homeless or about to become homeless. In the UK it is estimated almost 136,000 young people aged 16-24 were homeless or at risk of homelessness in 2022/23 (Source:

Centrepont, 2023). Young people are being disadvantaged across the labour and housing market and within the welfare system.

In addition to rising number of children looked after by Local Authorities, the numbers of care leavers in Nottinghamshire are also increasing. More homeless 16/17-year-olds are electing to become looked after, resulting in an increase in the care leaver population.

In terms of presenting needs, a high proportion of young people accessing services experience issues with their emotional well-being or mental health alongside substance misuse, and a high number are also not in education, employment, or training at the time of their referral. Young parents are presenting with multiple needs and risks, many are in violent relationships and lacking parenting skills but aren't suitable to be accommodated within 'core' provision. Generic supported accommodation services previously struggled to meet the needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASCs) due to language and cultural barriers.

Consideration of the gaps and challenges, views of young people and feedback from stakeholders and providers led commissioners in Nottinghamshire to develop the current vision for services to meet the needs of young people.

2. Supported accommodation for young people in Nottinghamshire

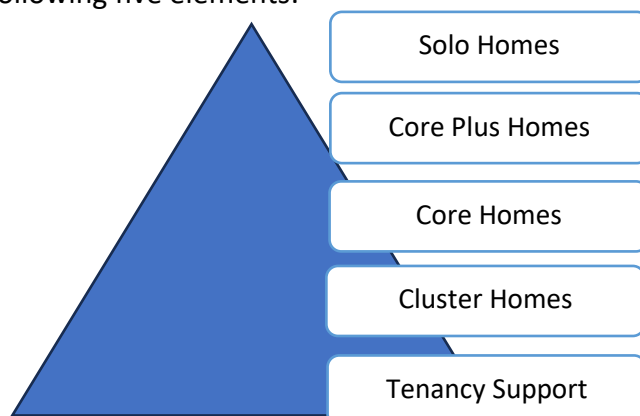
Nottinghamshire County Council has two key arrangements in place for the commissioning of different elements of supported accommodation, which homeless 16/17-year-olds, Looked After Children aged 16/17, and care experienced young people aged 16-25 can access as part of their transition to adulthood:

1. The main NCC commissioned 16+ Supported Accommodation Provision
2. The Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire, Nottingham (D2N2) Supported Accommodation Framework

The main NCC commissioned 16+ Supported Accommodation Provision

The County Council commissions supported accommodation for homeless 16/17-year-olds, Looked After Children and care experienced young people transitioning from residential or foster placements, and vulnerable young homeless young people aged over 18.

The Supported accommodation provision is delivered countywide and comprises of the following five elements:



Solo Homes – Intensive support and accommodation for young people aged 16 or 17 years who are assessed by the placing authority as unable to live with other young people due to high-risk behaviours which may include gang affiliation, drug dealing, carrying weapons, sexual offences, arson, and young people subject to MAPPA. Young people will be expected to transition into an alternative setting (core plus, core or cluster) within 6 months.

Core Plus Homes - Intensive support and accommodation for young people aged 16 or 17 years that are assessed to be able to live with other young people in a small, shared accommodation setting of approximately 3 – 4 beds. Staff are on site 24 hours a day. Young people will be expected to transition into an alternative setting (core or cluster) within 6 months.

Core Homes - Support and accommodation for young people aged 16-21 years that are assessed to be able to live with other young people in a larger setting than the core plus. Young people will have some independence skills. Staff are on site 24 hours a day to support young people with a range of complex needs.

*Emergency accommodation forms part of the core service. The service will provide short term accommodation for up to three weeks, to young people aged 16 to 17 years and care leavers. It aims to safeguard any young person who is assessed as being at risk of immediate and significant harm due to homelessness or housing related issues. The service also aims to enable professionals to identify the most appropriate support and housing option for each young person, including reunification work to support a young person to reconnect with their family and mediate a safe return to the family home (where it is safe and appropriate).

Cluster Homes - Support and accommodation for young people aged 16-25 years that are assessed as having the necessary skills to manage a tenancy with visiting support. This consists of solo units of accommodation or shared 2 bed houses. Packages of support are tailored to the young person's needs, including visiting support during daytime hours and an out of hours call system.

Tenancy Support – This is provided to young people up to the age of 25 that have moved on from the service to support the initial set up of the tenancy. Support is offered for approximately 3-6 months and is likely to taper off in response to the young person's growing independence. Tenancy support may also be offered to care leavers up to age 25 that have secured a tenancy but are not moving on from cluster accommodation.

The key aims of the supported accommodation service are:

- To prepare young people for sustainable independence, through the provision of individually tailored support in high quality accommodation.
- To create supported accommodation settings where young people feel safer in their homes and are better protected from the harm caused by the risks associated with contextual safeguarding.
- To create a whole system approach to service provision where young people form strong positive relationships with well trained staff who can support them through their journey towards independence preventing any unplanned departures.

- To reduce reliance on high-cost individual placements and improve value for money.
- To support young people in reaching potential positive outcomes.

Key message for providers:

Contracts for the main supported accommodation service, commenced on 01 August 2022 for a period of five years to 31 July 2027 with the option for three 24-month extensions available. Five providers - Framework Housing Association, New Roots, Bright Futures, NCHA and YMCA were awarded contracts from the tender process. It will be the Council's sole discretion whether to take up any contract extension provision or to re-tender this contract.

Derby City Council (the commissioner) now has responsibility for the Supported Accommodation Framework on behalf of D2N2 (Local Enterprise Partnership for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire). Further details on this can be found in Section 7 in this document.

In addition to the above services, Nottinghamshire County Council has also commissioned specialist young parent supported accommodation and UASC supported accommodation.

Young Parents Accommodation and Support Service

The Young Parent service aims to offer safe accommodation and support to parents and their children. It operates on a 'Core' and 'Cluster' model, with young parents being supported to maintain their own tenancy and secure suitable move on accommodation. Young parents aged 16-21, who are Looked After, Leaving Care, are homeless or experiencing considerable overcrowding, are eligible to be referred to this service. As part of this service, providers work collaboratively with Nottinghamshire County Council's children's centres staff to support young parents to understand effective attachments, positive parenting, and child health development.

The Key aims of this service are:

- For young parents to have access to dedicated, safe, outcome focused supported accommodation, where they can be supported to effectively care for their children.
- For young parents to be supported as a family, including fathers and partners where it is safe to do so.
- For young parents to have a good sense of emotional wellbeing, that they understand the needs of their children, form positive attachments, and enjoy leisure time with their children.
- To reduce the number of care proceedings initiated by NCC in the cohort and to reduce the number of cases escalating from Child in Need to Child Protection Plan.
- To encourage formal and informal learning for young parents and their children.
- To encourage good physical health and development for young parents and children.
- To prepare young parents for independence and securing their own tenancy.

Key message for providers:

Contracts for the supported accommodation service for young parents, commenced on 01 August 2022 for a period of five years to 31 July 2027 with the option for three 24-month extensions available. Three providers - Framework Housing Association, New Roots and P3 were awarded contracts from the tender process. It will be the Council's sole discretion whether to take up any contract extension provision or to re-tender this contract based on a range of factors.

Supported Accommodation for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People

Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under the Children Act 1989 to accommodate children seeking asylum (referred by the Home Office as UASC). These are usually children and young people that either arrive in Nottinghamshire through the mandatory National Transfer Scheme (NTS) or those that arrive 'spontaneously' in the county via hiding/using transport links.

As part of the NTS local authorities are requested to engage with an allocation of UASC up to 0.1% of their total regional child population. In Nottinghamshire this equates to around 136 children looked after UASC. This scheme is designed to distribute UASC across the UK in a fairer way. In the main, dispersing young people under 18 who have already arrived in the UK, usually through the port of Dover (Kent). Those UASC who arrive as part of the National Transfer Scheme may be under or over 16 but will all remain the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council as Looked After Children until the age of 18 and as former UASC up to the age of 25.

The UASC Supported accommodation service aims to offer safe accommodation and culturally appropriate support to 16-21 year old UASC. It operates on a 'Core' and 'Cluster' model, with UASC who are able being supported to maintain their own tenancy and secure suitable move on accommodation.

The Key aims of this service are:

- For newly arrived 16 and 17-year-old UASC to have safe and appropriate accommodation, and a suitable venue for social work teams to complete age assessments where required.
- For UASC to be supported via a knowledgeable staff team who understand the specific needs and vulnerabilities of their group.
- For UASC to have access to staff with specialist knowledge of the UK asylum process
- For UASC to achieve good physical and emotional wellbeing, being able to draw upon support from staff and peers in the dedicated service.
- For UASC to develop links with their local community, including social, cultural, and religious support where required.
- For UASC to have access to local Education, Training or Employment opportunities in line with their legal status.
- For UASC to have access to translation services and to be supported to improve English as their second language.
- For UASC to develop appropriate independence skills to manage their own tenancy.

In addition to the specialist UASC supported accommodation scheme, Nottinghamshire County Council are currently exploring the potential for a specialist UASC Supported Lodgings Scheme. Supported lodgings is a service where hosts share their family home with a young person aged 16+ in addition to providing the young person with some level of support. Should the Council proceed to commission a UASC Supported Lodgings Service we expect that this will happen in the 2024/25 financial year.

Key message for providers:

Nottinghamshire ran two tenders to commission UASC provision. The Council has entered a block contracting arrangement (Lot 1) with Framework Housing Association (FHA) and YMCA. Framework were awarded a block contract from 01 August 2022 for 5 years to 31 July 2027. YMCA were awarded a block contract from 01 April 2023 for five years until 31 March 2028. Both contracts have the option for three 24-month extensions available. It will be the Council's discretion whether to take up any contract extension provision or to re-tender this contract.

As part of the tendering exercise, a framework agreement (Lot 2) is in place for a small number of providers to offer accommodation where accommodation is not available through the contracts with Framework and YMCA. There are currently four providers on this framework.

The D2N2 Supported Accommodation Framework

Where provision via the main contracts (above) is not available due to capacity or risk factors, individual placements can be commissioned via the D2N2 Supported Accommodation Framework.

Derby City Council (the commissioner) now has responsibility for the Supported Accommodation Framework on behalf of D2N2 (Local Enterprise Partnership for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire). Further details on this can be found in Section 7 in this document.

3. What have young people have told us?

As part of the design for the contract service specifications, work was carried out with the different cohorts of young people on what they would need and like from a supported accommodation offer. The key messages were:

16+ Supported Accommodation

- Consistency of support – Good relationships with their support team and maintaining relationships during transitions and placement is vital.
- Reduce isolation – More social space, activities, and a sense of community within their supported accommodation.
- For young people, the most important aspects to supported accommodation are privacy, location, access to affordable transport links and shops/amenities and the size of their personal space. They also wish for their accommodation to be of a standard which they can make it a home and take pride in its upkeep.

- Placement matching and transition support was a key theme for young people. In the new services, they wish for staff to consider the psychological impact of sharing a property with someone new and how this can be better managed and think a matching process should be used.
- Having access to specialist support – The majority felt that mental health support would be most important.

Young Parents

- All young parents felt that a core setting would be extremely positive – ideally self-contained flats and smaller units with a limited number of other residents, which would include a shared communal area and safe outdoor space.
- Requiring adequate size of accommodation – having enough space for both them and their child including belongings and the necessary equipment for a young child.
- Making the home feel like their home – being able to decorate or make their property feel like their home.
- Feeling safe and secure in their accommodation.
- Reducing loneliness and social isolation – having a communal space within a core setting for parents and their babies to interact and having access to positive activities designed specifically for young parents so they do not feel judged and to reduce their anxieties in this respect.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People

- To live in the south of the county (Broxtowe, Gedling, or Rushcliffe).
- To live in an area which serves their cultural, religious, dietary, and social needs well.
- To have easy access to college.
- To live with no more than 4 other young people, ideally other UASC/ former UASC who have similar values, for example abstinence from alcohol, and can provide peer support.
- To live in a small, settled provision with positive daily routines which compliment attending education.
- To have staff who are knowledgeable about their specific needs, including support with asylum processes.
- To be able to move on to their own accommodation/tenancy in a similar area.

4. Demand

Supported accommodation overall data and trends

Between 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 there were 421 referrals for supported accommodation, including emergency bed requests. During this period, the highest number of referrals was for the main 16+ supported accommodation service, which comprised of 340 referrals (201 were LAC after and 139 non-LAC). There were 15 referrals for UASC and 6 referrals for young parents. Emergency bed requests comprised of 60 referrals.

Between 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 there were total of 544 referrals for supported accommodation, including emergency bed requests. During this period, the highest number of referrals was for the main 16+ supported accommodation service, which comprised of 357 referrals (238 were LAC after and 119 non-LAC). There were 38 referrals for UASC and 66 referrals for young parents. Emergency bed requests comprised of 83 referrals. The increase in referrals compared to the previous year could be explained by the introduction of the block contract arrangements.

Between 01 January 2024 to 19 June 2024 there were 182 referrals for supported accommodation, including emergency bed requests. During this period, the highest number of referrals was for the main 16+ supported accommodation service, which comprised of 121 referrals (84 were LAC after and 37 no LAC). There were 21 referrals for UASC and 13 referrals for young parents. Emergency bed requests comprised of 27 referrals.

Young Parents

Referrals have risen for young parents' accommodation in the past two years. Between 01 August 2022 (*start of new contract) to 31 December 2022 there were 6 referrals and between 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 there were 66 referrals. From 01 January 2024 to 19 June 2024 there were 13 referrals.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People

It is anticipated that between 24 - 40 UASC will arrive in Nottinghamshire via the national transfer scheme per year. As a county which hosts major transport links, Nottinghamshire County Council also have between 4 and 8 spontaneous arrivals per year. However, figures have increased in the past two years. Between 01 August 2022 (*start of new contract) to 31 December 2022 there were 15 referrals and between 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 there were 38 referrals. From 01 January 2024 to 19 June 2024 there have been a total of 21 referrals.

The Council projects that demand for the service will increase in future years, however, should the demand for service not grow as anticipated the Provider is required to scale up or down the number of bed spaces in line with demand at that time. Service capacity will be carefully monitored at regular monthly meetings and reviewed on a six-monthly basis.

Waiting List Data and D2N2 Provision

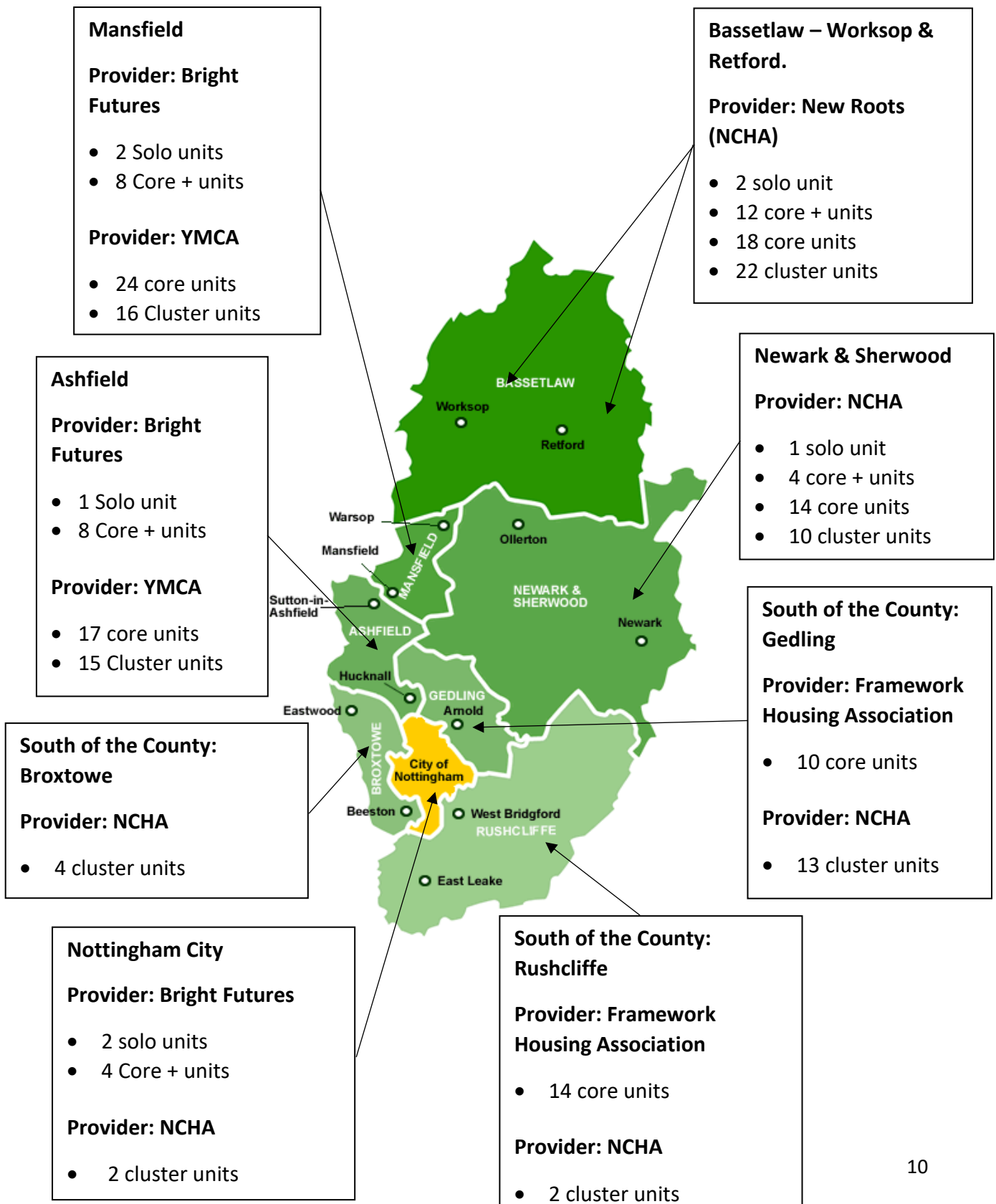
Between 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 there were 42 young people waiting for supported accommodation. Between 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 there were 17 young people waiting for supported accommodation. From 01 January 2024 to 19 June 2024 there were 61 young people waiting for supported accommodation.

Between 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 there was 1 request for D2N2 accommodation. Between 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 there were 10 requests for D2N2 accommodation.

5. Supply

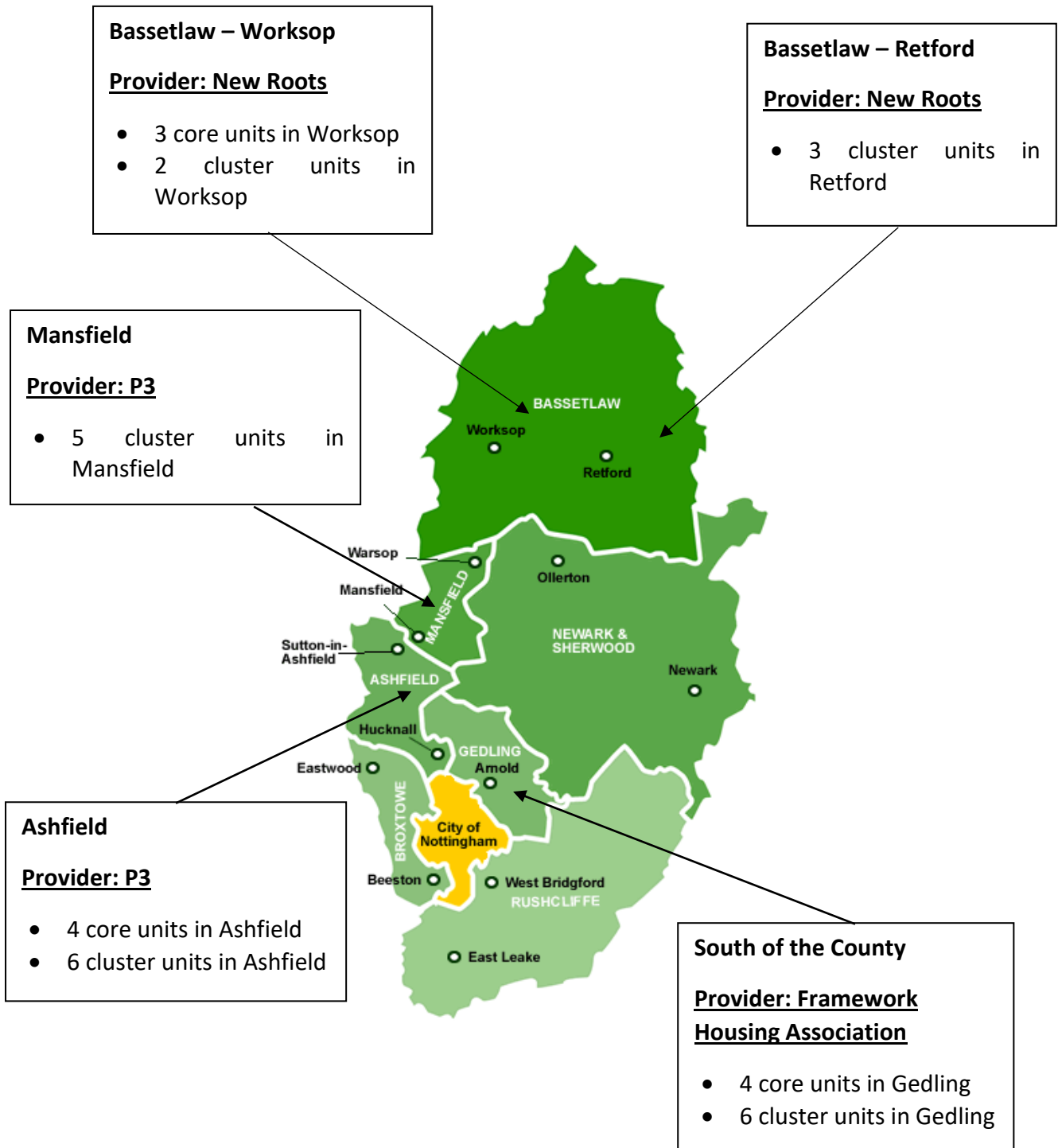
Main Supported 16 + Accommodation Provision

Supported accommodation provision covers all districts of Nottinghamshire through contracts with five providers with a combined total of 225 units. This comprises of 97 core units, 36 core plus units, 84 cluster units and 8 solo units.



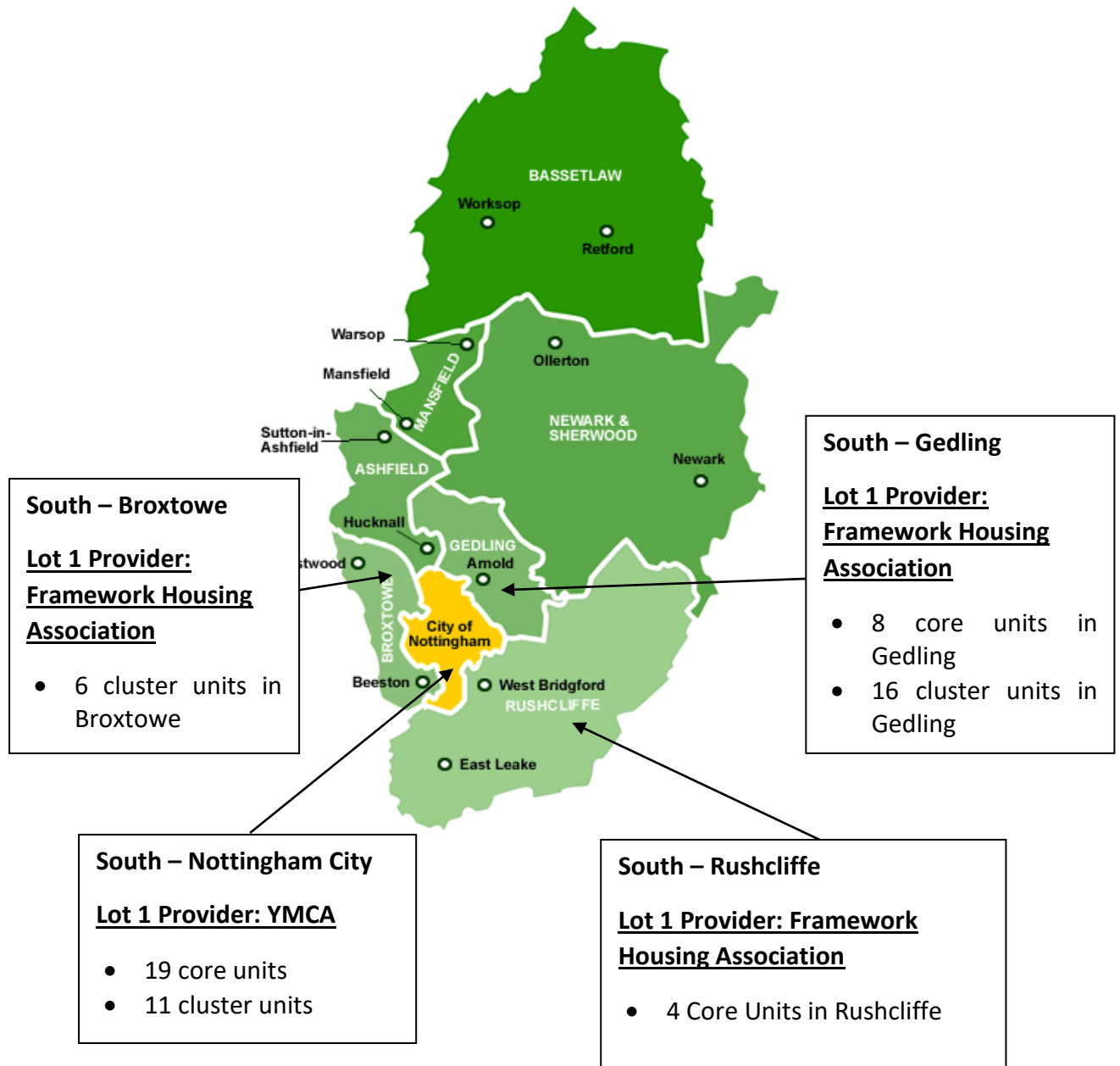
Young Parents

Young parents' accommodation provision covers four districts in Nottinghamshire through contracts with three providers with a combined total of 33 units. This comprises of 11 core units and 22 cluster units.



Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People

Supported accommodation provision for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people covers three districts in the south of the county plus Nottingham City, which are the areas where these young people stated a preference to live. This accommodation is provided through contracts with two providers with a combined total of 64 units. This comprises of 31 core units and 33 cluster units.



- Lot 2 providers – provision of emergency accommodation for UASC**
- Young People First
 - Avantis
 - Brightside
 - TM Healthcare

D2N2 Framework Provision

There are currently 33 providers on the D2N2 framework for young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, challenging and high-risk taking behaviours requiring small/solo placements. There are 10 providers who offer accommodation in Nottinghamshire and 15 in the Nottingham City area.

6. Expenditure

All our NCC main supported accommodation contracts and young parent supported accommodation contracts are block contracts with annual costs that cover the infrastructure and support costs. Providers are responsible for applying housing benefit to cover the accommodation costs. Where referrals are not eligible to claim housing benefit (LAC) then the County Councils Children's LAC Service covers the rent equivalent to the amount of housing benefit should the young person have been eligible.

Table 2: Total supported accommodation expenditure 2023-2026

The annual spend and projected budgets for the main supported accommodation contracts and young parent supported accommodation contracts are as follows – this does not include rent costs:

Type of Provision	2023-24 Expenditure	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget
Main supported accommodation provision	5,486,395	c£5,600,000*	c£6,000,000
Young Parent supported accommodation provision	£794,374	c£850,000**	c£850,000**

* As of July 2024, there are a couple of providers that are not operating at full capacity

** This figure may increase or decrease depending on demand and whether new units are added or decommissioned.

The UASC supported accommodation is calculated based on the actual number of service users placed in the service based on the rates of 16/17 year olds £650 per week and 18+ year olds £250 per week. Providers are again responsible for applying for Housing Benefit to cover accommodation costs for former UASC who are eligible for claim housing benefit. UASC supported accommodation expenditure for 2023/24 was: c£172,000.

Costs for D2N2 supported accommodation provision vary depending on the chosen provider and what type of provision they are providing – solo provision with intensive support, shared provision with intensive support, solo provision with visiting support, shared provision with visiting support.

D2N2 supported accommodation expenditure for 2023/24 was c £900,000.

7. Contracting arrangements and commissioning intentions

When purchasing services, Nottinghamshire County Council, as a 'Best Value' authority is under a duty to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness." When undertaking a procurement this involves challenging how services are provided, consulting with service users, comparing the performance of suppliers, and using fair and open competition wherever possible to secure efficient and effective services. Nottinghamshire County Council runs tender processes through ProContract found at www.eastmidstenders.org where organisations apply for contract opportunities.

Supported Accommodation for young people 16+

Contracts for the supported accommodation service for young people commenced on 01 August 2022 for a period of five years to 31 July 2027 with the option for three 24-month extensions available. The Council will, under its duty to obtain best value, consider a range of factors when deciding whether to extend or retender this contract. The most important factors will be contract performance, efficiency improvements and/or cost reductions in line with the potential savings the council has reason to believe would be achievable by retendering the contract.

Supported Accommodation for Young Parents

Contracts for the supported accommodation service for young parents commenced on 01 August 2022 for a period of five years to 31 July 2027 with the option for three 24-month extensions available. The Council will, under its duty to obtain best value, consider a range of factors when deciding whether to extend or retender this contract. The most important factors will be contract performance, efficiency improvements and/or cost reductions in line with the potential savings the council has reason to believe would be achievable by retendering the contract.

Supported Accommodation for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People

The Council has a block contracting arrangement (Lot 1) with Framework Housing Association (FHA) and YMCA. Framework were awarded a block contract from 01 August 2022 for 5 years to 31 July 2027. YMCA were awarded a block contract from 01 April 2023 for five years until 31 March 2028. Both contracts have the option for three 24-month extensions available.

In addition to the service described above, the Council has contracts with 4 Lot 2 providers who respond to emergency requests for supported accommodation. Placements are commissioned on an individual basis and will be required only when accommodation is not available through the main contracts with Framework and YMCA. Dependent on demand the Council will review the need to re-open this tender. In addition to this, the Council is currently reviewing the possibility of commissioning supported lodgings for UASC.

Supported Accommodation for young people D2N2 Framework

Derby City Council (the Commissioner) now has responsibility for the Supported Accommodation Framework, on behalf of D2N2, to supply high quality supported accommodation for young people aged 16-18 years. This framework runs alongside block

contracts already being commissioned or being separately commissioned by each Local Authority within D2N2 and will be used to commission placements when a block contract is unable to meet a young person's specific requirements or has reached full capacity.

Please note: Currently the framework is closed to new providers. Derby City Council will re-open the framework if new provision is needed to meet demand. This can be found by registering on www.eastmidstenders.org and the project number is TD1742. For further information you can email: procurement@derby.gov.uk

Commissioning Intentions:

- The Council is committed to working with partner organisations to secure high-quality provision for young people to exercise its legal duty to provide supported accommodation for young people where this is assessed as necessary to meet their needs.
- To secure provision that can offer improved outcomes and life chances for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
- To secure provision that offers greater choice for those with complex needs.
- To secure provision that offers Improved outcomes for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in meeting their cultural needs.
- To procure provision that offers value for money.

8. Summary

Supported accommodation aims to support young people to develop their independence and prepare for adult life whilst keeping them safe in a homely and nurturing environment. Nottinghamshire County Council offers supported accommodation for young people aged 16-21 in line with statutory requirements.

The County Council has arrangements in place for the commissioning of different elements of supported accommodation which includes homeless 16 and 17-year-olds, Looked After children, and Care Leavers aged 16-21. As part of this service, there is also specialist support offered to young parents and unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people (UASC). Co-production work was carried out with these cohorts as part of the commissioning process to ensure that supported accommodation provision was designed to meet their specific needs.

Contracts are currently in place for the main supported accommodation service, young parents, and unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, which run until at least 2027/28. There is the potential for extensions to these contracts and it will be the Council's decision whether to extend these contracts. There is an additional D2N2 Framework in place to support the current contracts where additional capacity may be needed or to meet

specific needs, and therefore may be the opportunity for providers to tender for this dependent on levels of demand.

Final Messages to the market:

- As a supported accommodation provider, you will need to consider OFSTED regulations and registration. Further information can be found in this document: [Supported Accommodation OFSTED Guidance and Registration](#)
- If you need to discuss any information contained within this document, please email: claire.good@nottsc.gov.uk