

**Lincolnshire County Council
Children Services**

Children and Young People's Accommodation Pathway



Our Vision

Putting Children First: Working with families to enhance the present and future lives of children

In Lincolnshire we fundamentally believe that, wherever possible, young people should continue to live at home until they are able to make a planned and sustainable move into independent living.

Our vision in Lincolnshire is to improve the life chances, life changes and life choices of young people who require support with accommodation or who are experiencing homelessness, and ensure that all young people have the opportunities they need to make a successful transition to adulthood and independence, by providing a range of support services most appropriate to their needs and circumstances.

This document reflects the accommodation and housing pathways for young people within Lincolnshire including Looked after Children and Care Leavers. It identifies opportunities for improving the effectiveness of service delivery, right from areas of early intervention through to independence with support to enable young people to succeed. We recognize, within Lincolnshire, that we can only effect change through collaboration and partnership, so we will work with all relevant partners, especially families, to inform local responses to youth housing. To achieve our priority solutions, we will continue to put young people at the centre of the development and delivery of policy and services that respond to their needs.

We will do this by ensuring that politicians, commissioners and providers listen to the needs of young people, especially those for whom we are corporate parents. We want all young people to be happy and make progress, by supporting their welfare and encouraging strong relationships. Ensuring the availability of safe and stable accommodation is a fundamental building block in supporting those goals.

Our strategic approach is based upon a need to:

- **Work collaboratively with families and their wider network so that where safe to do so, young people remain with their family and friends.** We believe that where it is safe to do so, it is beneficial and desirable for young people to remain with people who know them. Families should be supported to maintain family relationships with their children, even when they are finding this difficult.
- **Intervene as early as possible** to prevent housing instability and homelessness from occurring or persisting.
- **Ensure service pathways are planned and integrated** to better meet the needs of young people experiencing housing instability and homelessness.
- **Safeguard young people who are at risk** because of housing instability or homelessness.
- **Improve transitions to adulthood and independence** for young people at risk of becoming entrenched in a cycle of housing instability and homelessness.
- **Make better use of available resources** to maintain a sufficient range of accommodation-based services with support for young people experiencing housing instability and homelessness by negotiating better value for money with service providers and re-modelling existing service provision.

We want all young people to be happy and make progress, by supporting their welfare and encouraging strong relationships.

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1 Existing Arrangements

Although Lincolnshire County Council is not a housing Authority, it does have statutory responsibility for the provision of accommodation of all Looked After Children and Care Leavers until the age of 21 years. For Care Leavers aged 21-25 years, the County Council remains responsible for providing Care Leavers with advice and guidance to support them to be independent, but the County Council is not responsible for the provision of accommodation. This is the responsibility of the District Councils who are also corporate parents.

In addition, Lincolnshire County Council is responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all young people under the age of 18 years, who may be considered to be in need as defined under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989. This includes undertaking an assessment and making necessary support for that young person. This may include the provision of accommodation. It must be highlighted that Lincolnshire County Council strongly believes, that where it is safe to do so, young people benefit from remaining with family and friends who know them, rather than being isolated or living with strangers.

The following section describes current accommodation options for those at risk of being homeless or are Looked After or are Care Leavers to the County Council:

Fostering

The Fostering Service in Lincolnshire provides safe, secure and high quality care in family settings for children who need to be looked after away from home. We provide a range of foster carers able to meet the emotional, physical, cultural, and religious and ethnicity needs of children. We place children and young people in local foster placements where relationships with family, friends and community are maintained and continuity of education, health and cultural links and activities is ensured. At the present time Lincolnshire has more than 370 in-house foster carers of which more than 90 are connected persons. A comprehensive assessment of need for every child is undertaken prior to accommodation.

Where it is possible, a safe family member or friend will be the preferred placement choice for children in Lincolnshire. Foster carers provide a safe and nurturing placement with every effort made to achieve the very best outcomes for children and young people.

The service seeks where possible to ensure sibling groups be placed together when this is in their best interests and also respecting and promoting the child/ young person's heritage, culture and identity. Fostering in Lincolnshire strives to achieve permanence for all children who are unable to return safely to their families and promote Staying Put for those children who are secure within their foster placement.

Residential Care

Lincolnshire County Council operates three long-term residential care homes, based in Gainsborough, Sleaford and Spalding. Two of the homes are six-bed units, with the one in Spalding being a seven-bed unit, giving a capacity of 19 beds. In addition there is a long-term CWD home in Grantham, which has been extended over the last two years to become an eleven-bed unit and two further CWD respite units based in Lincoln and Boston with a capacity of another eleven beds.

All of the homes are registered and are inspected under the Single Inspection framework by Ofsted. The long-term units in Gainsborough and Sleaford are rated 'Outstanding', with the units in Spalding and Grantham rated 'Good'. Both of the short-term respite units (Lincoln and Boston) are rated 'Outstanding'. They provide a safe, nurturing, caring and homely environment for each child, where issues and concerns affecting both their past and their future can be positively addressed and supported.

Supported Accommodation

Supported Accommodation is commissioned, in the main, for: Looked After Children aged 16 years and over; Care Leavers; and/or 16-17 year olds at risk of homelessness. It provides a dedicated 'youth housing' service which offers over 70 units of supported accommodation comprising of complex needs, general needs and young parent provision. This accommodation is in a mixture of housing types (foyer style, dispersed housing etc.) across the county. The new Youth Homelessness Protocol aims to define the working arrangements for all agencies involved in supporting 16 & 17 year olds who are in need of advice and assistance due to being homeless or at risk of homelessness.

A key priority within the protocol is ensuring that, wherever possible, young people remain within the family home and work is undertaken with young people and the families to resolve conflict and create longer term stability. Over 200 young people are supported each year via the LSP contract, around 70 at any one time thus removing the risk of homelessness and helping all Councils within Lincolnshire to meet their statutory requirements.

Intense Needs Supported Accommodation

Existing Intense Needs Supported Accommodation is commissioned in the main, for: LAC aged 16 years and over; care leavers; and/or 16 plus year olds at risk of homelessness but will be provided in-house as well. This type of accommodation provision offers a tailored support package to meet the needs of young people. The commissioned accommodation mainly consists of a solo placement arrangement and provided in county and out of county, depending on the requirements of the young person. The in-house provision will not be solo placement but minimum of dual occupancy and each young person will have a bespoke package of support. This type of accommodation

should be seen as a short term option, to enable young people to gain those valuable independence skills before stepping forward onto another accommodation pathway.

Leaving Care Services

The leaving care service has been contracted out to Barnardo's since 1st April 2007 and currently supports around 300 care leavers; however, this can be expected to increase due to the rise in number of LAC and increasing age of the cohort, and impending changes in legislation linked to the government policy 'Keep on Caring' offering a Personal Advisor service to all care leavers, who 'opt in', up to the age of 25 years, not only those still in education. The service is focused upon promoting preparation for independence within all regulated placements.

Supported Lodgings

Our Supported Lodgings services in Lincolnshire offer temporary accommodation for young people leaving care or facing homelessness in a number of areas across the UK. With expert advice and vital emotional support, these highly vulnerable young people can eventually find safe housing of their own and begin living independently. A Supported Lodgings provider offers a safe, supportive and friendly home environment this crucial time. We know this experience can quite simply transform the lives of young people, enabling them to look forward to a brighter future.

Staying Put

Within Lincolnshire, Staying Put will allow young people to remain with their 'foster family' after they cease being 'Looked After' aged 18. These arrangements can remain in place until the young person reaches their 21st birthday, although those in further or higher education can remain until they have completed their education in that academic year. All young people on 'Staying Put' will have a pathway plan completed within three months of their 16th birthday. This will consider their future needs and aspirations. Support to the carers is provided by the Fostering Service, and the young people will have their own designated Personal Advisor from the Leaving Care Service, provided by Barnardo's.

Adult Housing Related Support and Independent Living (Post 18)

Public Health Housing Related Support Services for those aged 18 plus commenced in July 2015. The service model comprises of: emergency (up to 3 months) and non-emergency (up to 6 months) accommodation-based support for homeless adults (18yrs +); a county-wide 'floating' support service for those at risk of homelessness; and a rough sleeper outreach service. Support can be accessed through 'The Avenue', an electronic referral gateway for professionals. At 10 weeks prior to a young person's 18th birthday (or 21st birthday for care

leavers) those young people eligible for housing related support services should be referred to The Avenue.

Services will provide housing related support to individuals by assisting service users to maximise income through support when dealing with Housing Benefit and other welfare benefit issues and making referrals to specialist advice or debt agencies. The service also provides crisis intervention support, which shall include responding to problems that may pose an immediate risk e.g. eviction notices and assisting service users to access a range of specialist and general health services, counselling, education and employment opportunities, legal advice, leisure and cultural services etc. by signposting and referring

Social housing is provided by a range of providers in Lincolnshire, not just District Councils. To access social housing you are required to join the Housing Register, it is important to note that it is usual for applications to be prioritised by a confirmed location connection to each individual's District area. Lincolnshire care leavers will automatically have a local connection with all Districts within Lincolnshire and care leavers up to the age of 25 years should be considered as a priority group for housing.

2 Needs assessment

The key findings from data relating to Lincolnshire LAC, Care Leavers, and children and young people are as follows:

- Looked After Children aged 10yrs and over make-up an increasing proportion of the cohort; up from 50% in 2013 to nearly 60% in 2017, with the percentage of 16 & Overs nearly doubling in that period (Figure 1)

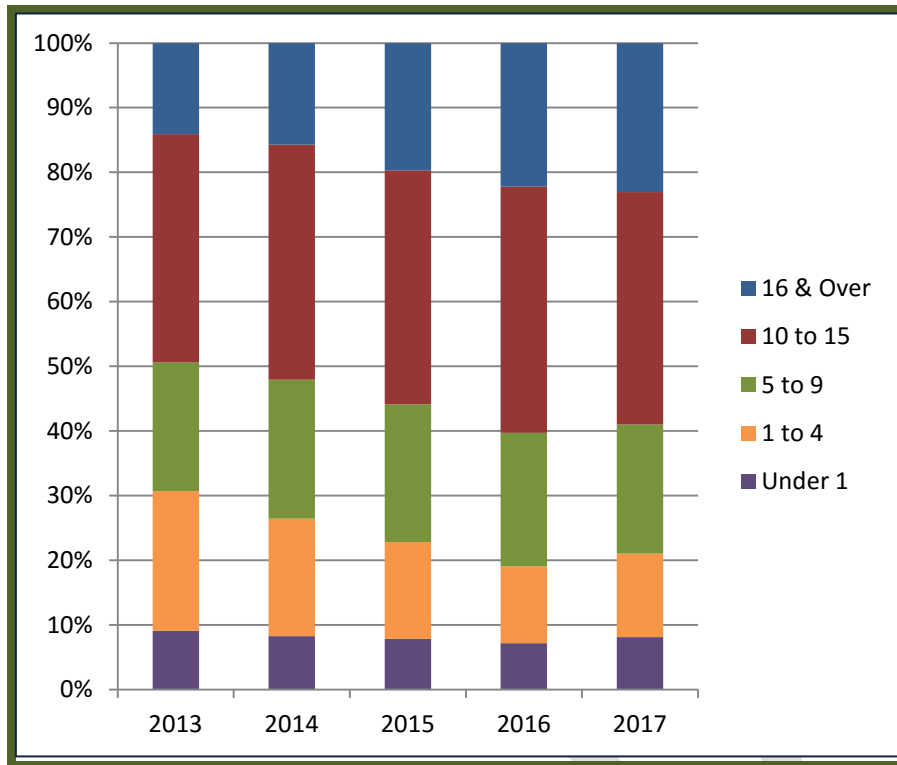


FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE LAC BY AGE

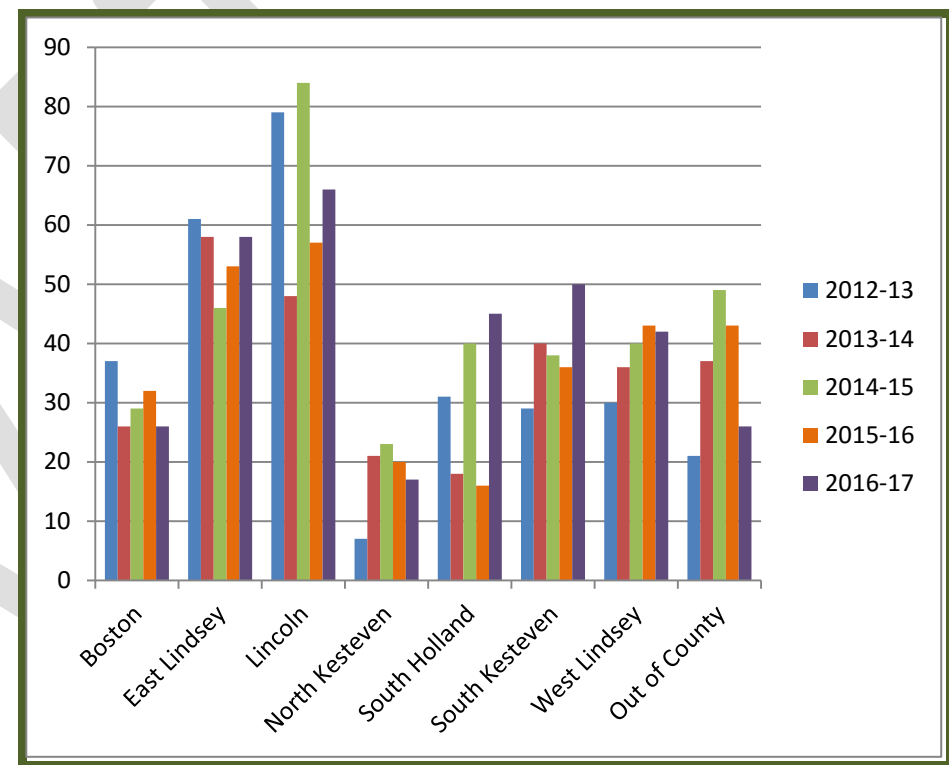


FIGURE 2: ADMISSIONS TO CARE BY DISTRICT

- The geographical areas with the highest increases in admissions over the last five years are South Kesteven, South Holland and West Lindsey, all of which have increased by at least 40%. North Kesteven has also increased considerably, by 143%, albeit from a very low base. Boston, East Lindsey and Lincoln have all experienced a decrease in Admissions over the five year period, although numbers have fluctuated year on year (Figure 2)

- Statistics show the whilst the rate of LAC per 10,000 of the under 18yrs population is low in Lincolnshire, it is rising, proportionately, far quicker in than amongst statistical neighbors or the country as a whole (Figure 3).

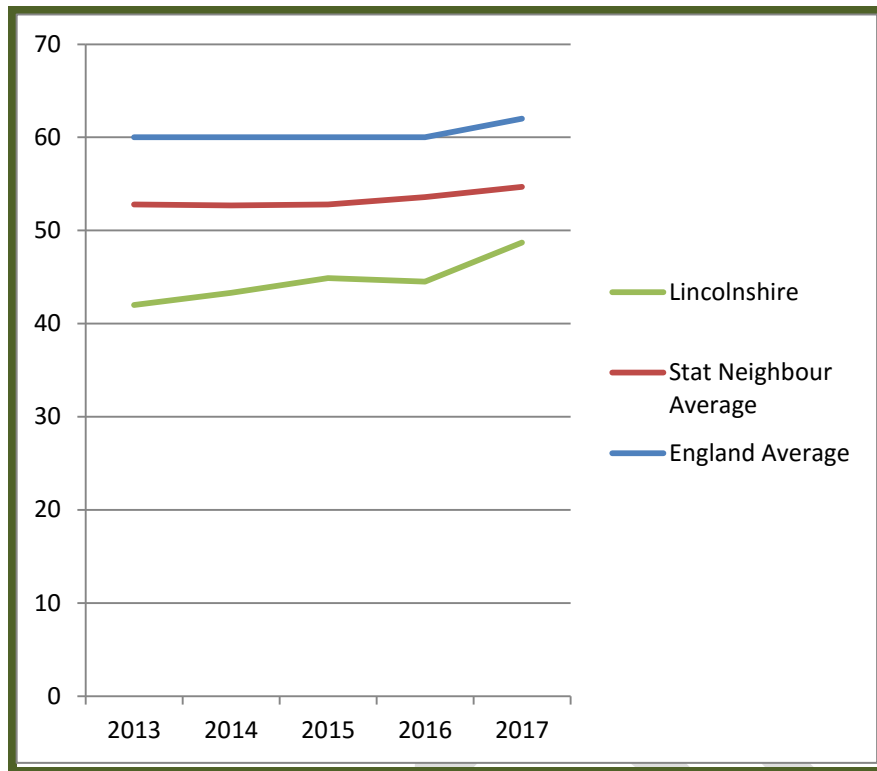


FIGURE 3: NUMBER OF LAC PER 10,000 POP.

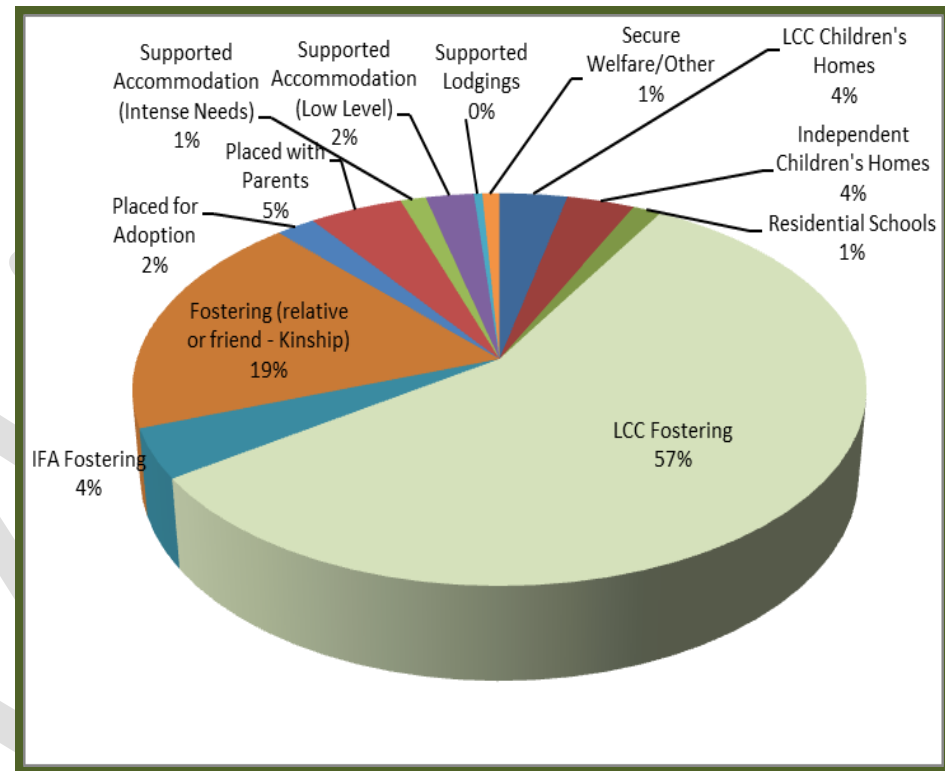


FIGURE 4: LAC PLACEMENT TYPE MARCH 2017

- Whilst numbers in Residential Children's Homes remain low, there has been a significant percentage increase in those placed in the Independent sector; Fostering with relatives or friends, aided by increases in Kinship Care, has increased; and semi-independent living in supported accommodation continues to grow, linked both to increases in the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children [UASC] and those placed in Intense Needs Supported Accommodation [INSA] (Figure 4).

- The number of children with three or more placements has fallen to 4.2% and is four-tenths of the national average (Table 1).

TABLE 1: STABILITY OF PLACEMENTS OF LAC - NUMBER OF MOVES (NI 62)

Numerator	number of children with 3 or more placements	40	54	55	7,250	29
Denominator	number of children looked after at 31 March	606	631	625	70,440	693
% Ratio	NI 62	6.6%	8.6%	8.8%	10.3%	4.2%

- The percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation has fallen to 86.8% in 2017 but remains above the national average (Table 2).

TABLE 2: CARE LEAVERS IN SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION (NI 147)

Numerator	Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 in suitable accommodation	154	158	160	21,490	138
Denominator	Number of eligible Care Leavers	195	185	170	26,050	159
% Ratio	NI 147	79.0%	85.4%	94.1%	82.5%	86.8%

- The percentage of LAC placed out of county more than 20 miles from home is at its lowest for four years (Table 3).

TABLE 3: DISTANCE CHILDREN PLACED OUT OF COUNTY ARE FROM HOME (C69B)

Numerator	number of LAC placed out of county > 20 miles from home	40	45	55	9,100	46
Denominator	number of LAC	600	630	625	70,440	693
% Ratio	C69	6.7%	7.1%	8.8%	12.9%	6.6%

- The percentage of LAC that are UASC is five times the figure recorded in 2014 (Table 4).

TABLE 4: PERCENTAGE OF LAC THAT ARE UASC

Numerator	number of LAC that are UASC as at 31 March	6	23	34	4,210	32
Denominator	number of LAC as at 31 March	606	631	627	70,440	693
% Ratio		1.0%	3.6%	5.4%	6.0%	4.6%

- 'Domestic Violence' and 'Abuse/ Neglect' together account for close to half of all referrals to social care. Factors associated with 'Alcohol' or 'Drug Misuse' or 'Mental Health' issues account for nearly a further third (31.9%) of all referrals (Figure 5).

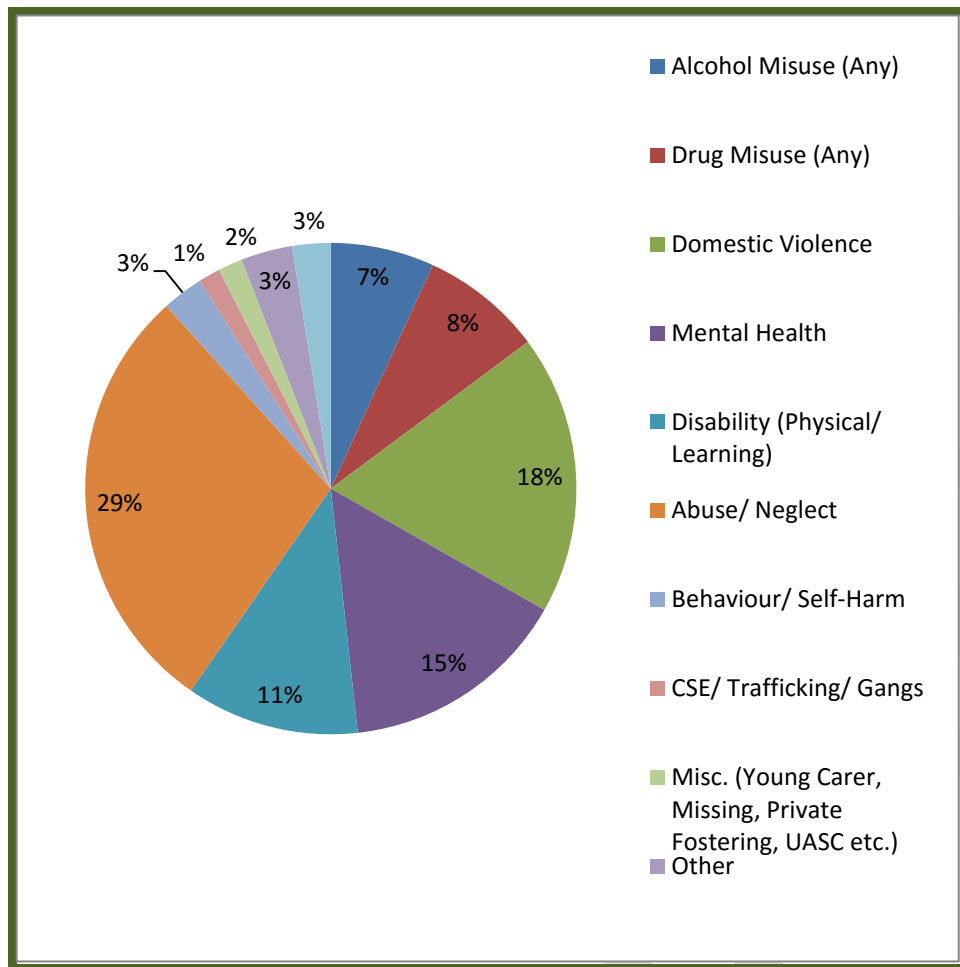


FIGURE 5: SOCIAL CARE ASSESSMENT FACTORS 2016/17

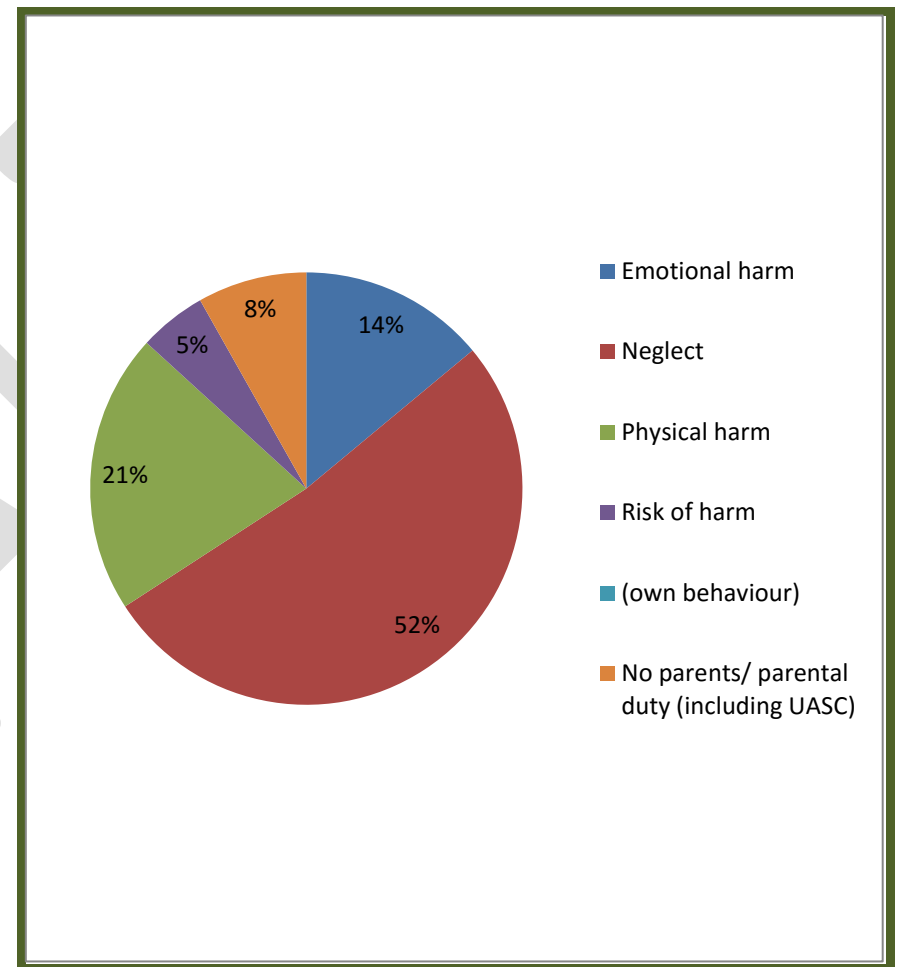


FIGURE 6: LAC 'TRIGGERS' – REASONS FOR LAC STATUS

- There are significant percentage increases in 'Neglect', 'Physical Harm' and 'Emotional Harm' triggers for children transitioning to care (Figure 6).

- The age profile of LCC in-house Foster carers shows that two-thirds are above the age of 50 years. Nearly as many are aged over 60 years as are below 50 (Figure 7).

FIGURE 7: AGE PROFILE OF LCC FOSTER CARERS (OCT 2017)

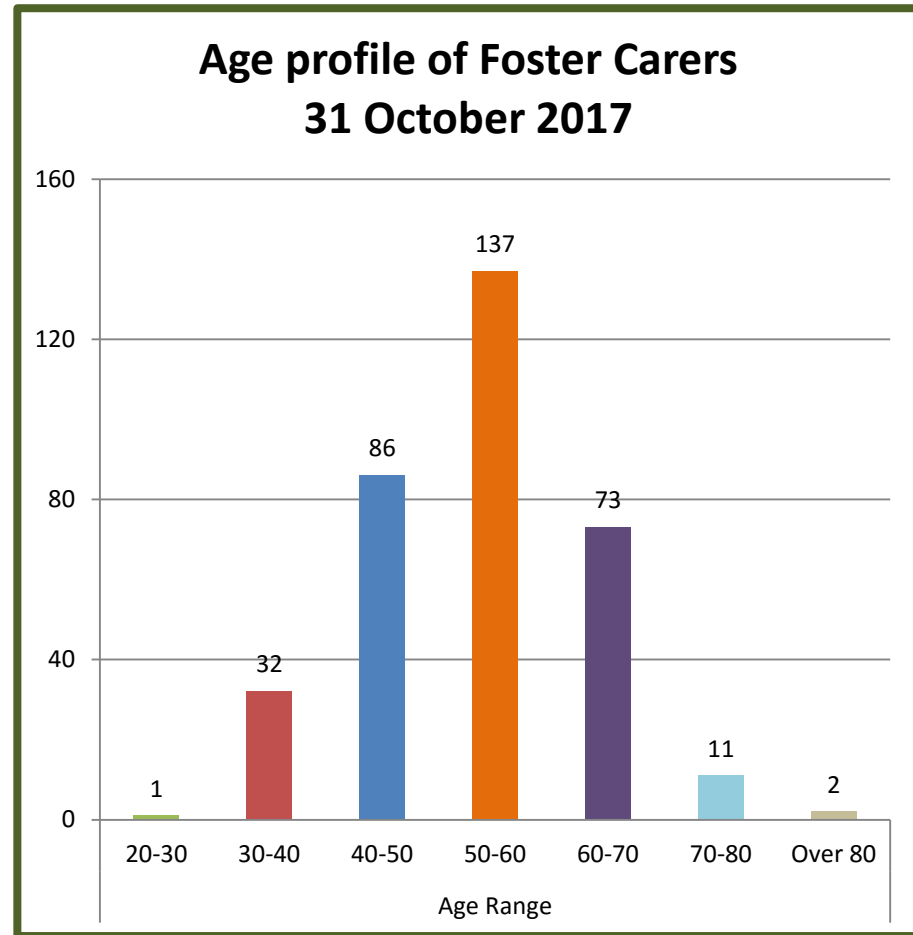
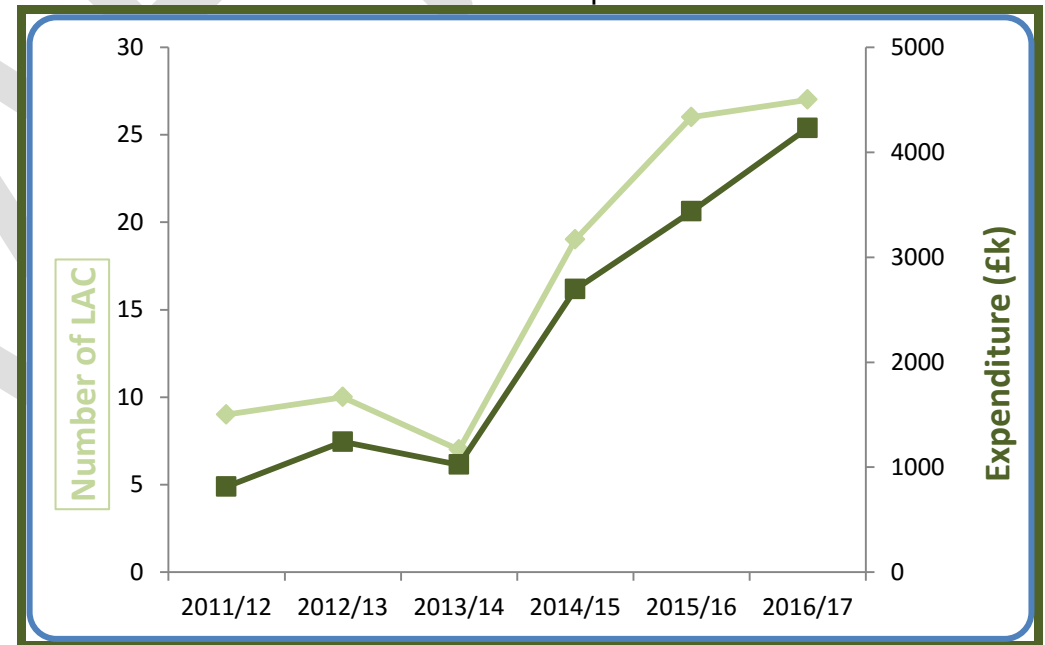


TABLE 5: IFA EXPENDITURE 2016/17

Cohort	Placements 2012/13	Expenditure 2012/13	Placements 2016/17	Expenditure 2016/17
Non-UASC LAC	17	£639,143	12	£649,066
UASC	5	£172,609	15	£633,709
Total	22	£811,752	27	£1,282,775

FIGURE 8: LAC in Independent Residential Care – Volume and Expenditure



- At the same time, the number of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements (Table 5) and the number of LAC in Residential Care (Figure 8) has increased in both overall number and cost.

- Equally, numbers in and expenditure on both UASC (Figure 9) and Intense Needs (Table 6) Supported Accommodation Placements has increased.

FIGURE 9: UASC Supported Accommodation Placements

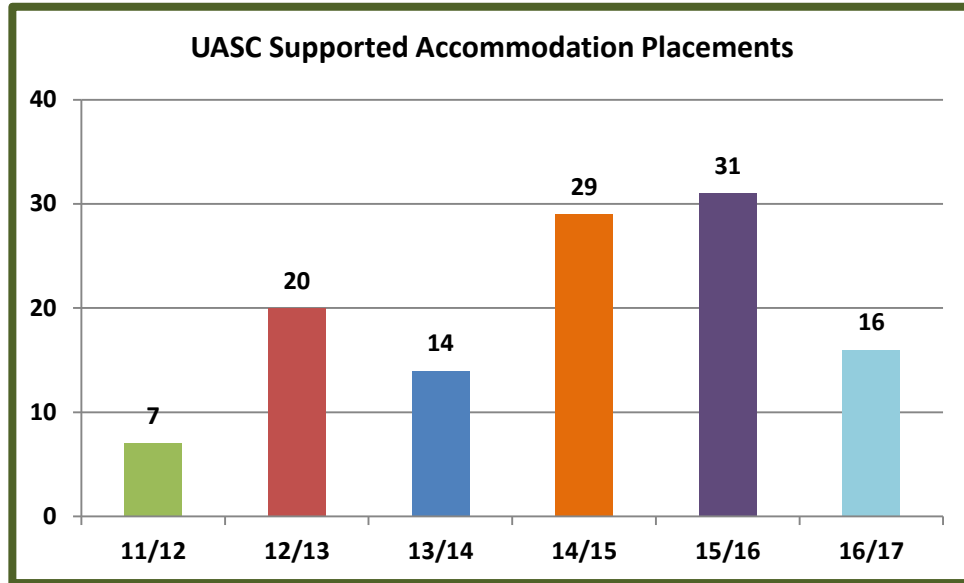


TABLE 6: INSA Expenditure 2014/15 - 2016/17

Provider	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
1		£23,006	£56,125	£79,131
2	£93,412			£93,412
3			£12,175	£12,175
4	£517,669	£1,034,512	£973,645	£2,525,826
5	£113,230	£266,655	£584,925	£964,810
6		£9,428	£136,122	£145,550
7			£69,011	£69,011
8			£113,925	£113,925
Total	£724,311	£1,333,601	£1,945,928	£4,003,840

3 What's working well and what we are worried about

The vast majority of young people stay or return to live in their family network where they are supported to make planned moves to more independent accommodation, normally with friends. This pathway for the vast majority of young people is the most successful as they are supported through their family and friend network to develop the skills needed to live independently - prepared for the world of work, and able to successfully manage their finances and maintain productive and positive relationships.

In Lincolnshire, we have low numbers of young people who require statutory services (this includes those who are Looked After) compared with other similar Local Authorities and we believe that this is due to our strong, restorative early help arrangements and our school system which seeks to engage young people in education as this is the single most important factor affecting life chances of young people. . For young people who are at risk of being homeless, our restorative services, including family group conferencing seeks to mobilise family networks so young people can be supported to live with people who know and love them.

When we need to provide accommodation for young people, we have a strong network of supported accommodation provision delivered through a range of partners across the council so no young person needs to be accommodated in Bed and Breakfast, except where this arrangement is considered to best meet their needs. Our Leaving Care service works tirelessly with Care Leavers meaning that over 97% live in suitable accommodation and nearly 70% are engaged in employment, training or employment.

However the numbers of young people over the age of 14 years who become Looked After is increasing and we are committed to developing more responsive services to enable more families to continue to support their son or daughter. We recognize that adolescence can be a challenging time: some young people can find this period of their lives confusing where they want independence, making more independent decisions, but are not always ready to cope with it or the consequences This can result in behaviours which adults may refer to as risky or "pushing boundaries". Some parents find these behaviours hard to cope with and we want to ensure that we have highly trained staff available to support parents in the challenging role as parent whilst working with young people to help them to understand the impact of their behaviours, so they can better understand with what is happening to them.

There is recognition that there is a need to develop a new restorative, relationship based practice model that better supports young people who are engaging in risk taking behaviour. It is critical that these young people have stability and security within their accommodation and receive the appropriate support in a timely way that responds to crisis and challenging situations which can often emerge in the lives of these young people.

We understand that some young people may transition between both statutory and non-statutory systems, often leading to duplication in

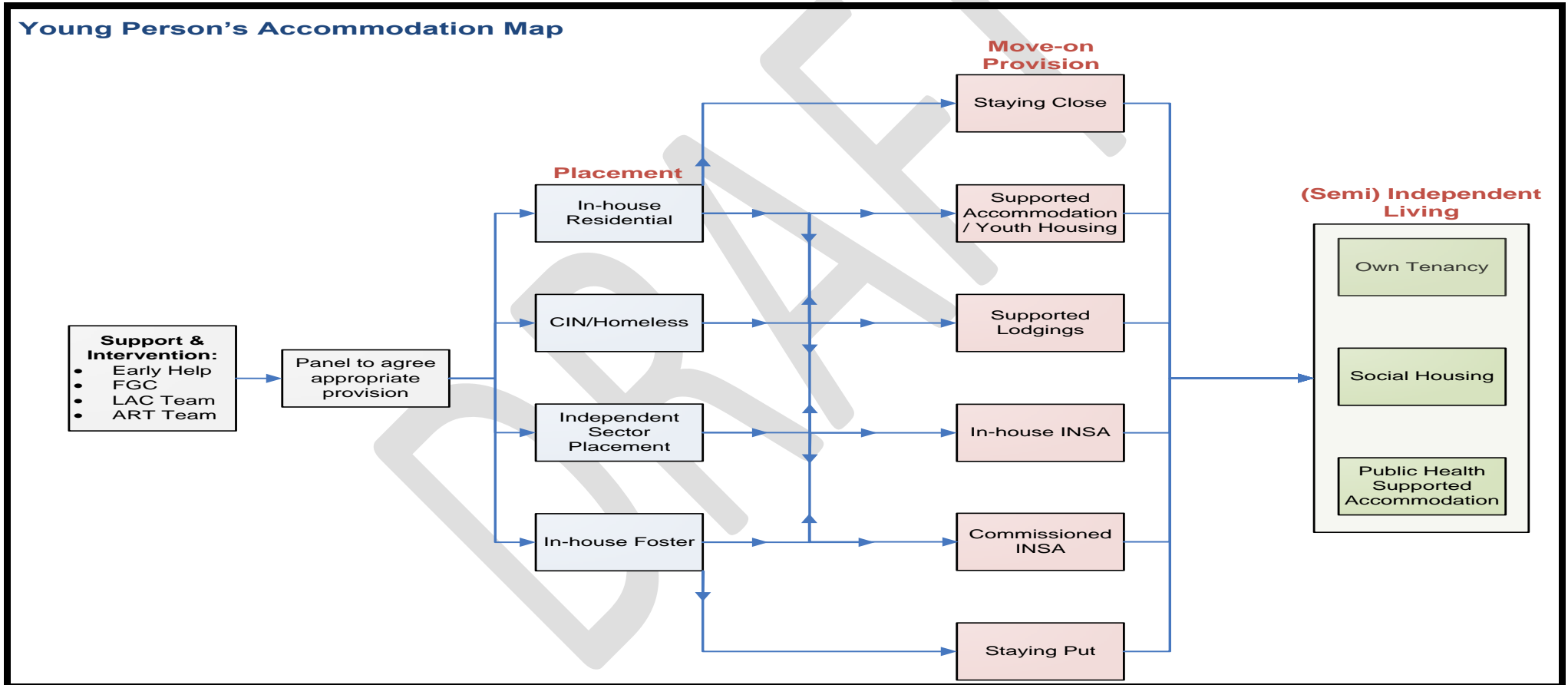
work as these children may be open to a number of services and workers. We also acknowledge that many of the young people we work with have multiple complex needs which require specialist support such as psychological, speech, language and communication or substance misuse. If not properly addressed all of these factors have the potential to jeopardise their existing accommodation which creates instability and uncertainty. Our new way of working will focus upon the holistic view of the young person and to explore the root cause of the issues and not simply the presenting behaviour, to ensure longer term success and resilience as they progress into adulthood.

This new approach will enable practitioners to pro-actively plan to ensure assessment/planning and intervention is more outcome focused and joined up and this must include those linked to the young person's accommodation. Our aim is to avoid duplication and work towards the best possible plan for the young person at that time. In Lincolnshire we want all practitioners to work in a strengths based, relationship focused way that puts young people at the heart of the assessment and future plans. It also values the voice of the young person and supporting them in coming to their own solutions with our support. Our model in Lincolnshire will be supported by a multi-agency co-located model that wraps around the young person.

We also want to provide more local accommodation pathways, especially for those young people who are displaying highly risky behaviours. There is a lack of local provision which can meet the needs of young people whose behavior can be seen by others to be highly risky and may have a detrimental impact on others. We want to develop in house provision as we believe that this will be more cost effective and of higher quality than our current arrangements. We will also ensure that our residential estate meets the changing need of our local communities.

4 Housing Options

The following diagram outlines our future aspirations for an accommodation pathway for all young people who are at risk of being homeless or where we have a housing duty. Whilst some aspects of the pathway are well established as outlined in section 2, some aspects of the pathway are not as advanced as we would like them to be. Section 5 outlines our future plans for developing options so the pathway described below can be fully implemented.



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

FOSTER CARE

Internal :

372 in-house foster carers, of which 93 are connected persons
(as at 31.3.17)

External :

From 1.9.17 spot purchased via Open Select List (OSL)
No. of potential providers searched: OSL 22, non OSL 186
No. of placements with Independent Fostering Agencies
27 - includes 15 UASC (as at 31.3.17)

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Internal :

Eastgate - 6 bed
Northolme - 6 bed
Albion - 7 bed
Residential homes for children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties aged 10—17 inclusively

Beacon House - 7 bed residential home for children with disabilities up to 18yrs old.

Haven Cottage and Strut House - both 5 bed overnight short term break homes for children with disabilities aged 5-17 inclusively.

External :

From 1.9.17 spot purchased via Open Select List (OSL)
No. of potential providers: OSL 38, non OSL 224
No. of placements with Residential Organisations: 26
(as at 31.3.17)

CARE LEAVERS

COMMISSIONED SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

Youth Housing - for 16/17 yr olds (up to 21 if Care Leaver)
The current contract of supported bed-spaces has recently been reconfigured. From 1.7.18 the arrangement will be:
Complex Needs : 16 units @ 33—40 hrs per bed space per week
General Needs : 44 units @ 8 hrs per bed -pace per week
Young Parent : 10 units @ 10 hrs per bed -pace per week

The Avenue - for 18 yrs old and over
Emergency bed-spaces : 134 units @ 15 hrs per bed-space per week
Non-emergency : 219 units @ 6 hrs per bed-space per week
Mental Health Crisis : 10 units—support based on immediate need

Supported Lodgings - for Care Leavers
19 properties with a capacity for 36 Young People (as at 31.3.17)

SEMI—INDEPENDENT LIVING (UNREGULATED)

External :

From 1.9.17 spot purchased via Open Select List (OSL)
No. of potential providers : OSL 11, non OSL 40
No. of placements with semi-independent organisations: 18 (as at 31.3.17)

STAYING PUT

Young People may continue to live with their foster carer until age of 21 under a Staying Put arrangement.
No. of YP in Staying Put : 39 (as at 31.3.17)

STAYING CLOSE (*proposed*)

Lincolnshire are considering how to develop an offer of in-house semi-independent accommodation to keep cyp close to the residential home they are ready to move on from, before becoming fully independent.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Young person secures their own tenancy.
(Floating Support for 18yrs and over – 421 units @ 4 hrs per unit per week)

5 Future Plans

Implementation of the aspirations of the workstreams below will enhance our capacity to provide suitable housing options for young people at risk of being homeless as well as our Looked After Children and Care Leavers. However, the most important element to the development of a housing pathway is to provide strong early help so young people can remain living within their family networks.

As highlighted above, there is recognition within the local authority that there is a need to develop a new restorative, relationship based practice model that better supports young people who are engaging in risk taking behaviour. It is critical that these young people have stability and security within their accommodation and receive the appropriate support in a timely way that responds to crisis and challenging situations which can often emerge in the lives of these young people.

Many of the young people we work with have multiple complex needs which require specialist support such as psychological, speech, language and communication or substance misuse. If not properly addressed all of these factors have the potential to jeopardise their existing accommodation which creates instability and uncertainty. Our new way of working will focus upon the holistic view of the young person and to explore the root cause of the issues and not simply the presenting behaviour, to ensure longer term success and resilience as they progress into adulthood. Although not a workstream in this document, as this focuses on housing related developments, it is central to transforming our early help approach as described through the Partner in Practice programme.

Residential

Our residential estate works effectively to enable the vast majority of children and young people who require a residential placement to remain in County. However recently, we have experienced a slight increase in requests for external residential placements. In response to this, we have reviewed our provision and intend to change the way our residential estate operates to maximise capacity.

We will review the current workforce, creating a more flexible and responsive system where staff can work across the estate, with skills and expertise recognised equally across all homes. We will seek to have a cohort of staff who can cover where needed, working across the estate rather than each home having their own temporary staff.

We also intend to review the current designations of our homes to maximise capacity, manage demand and make best use of resources. This may require capital-funding to make any necessary changes to accommodation to meet needs, as well as investment in staff training so the workforce can meet the changing needs of the children and young people placed in such accommodation.

Supported Accommodation

In order to ensure the supported accommodation offer to young people is fit for purpose and best reflects the needs of young people it has been reviewed. The new model seeks to ensure the most effective and efficient use of the accommodation. Our new approach reflects the areas of proven demand and will condense provision within the three main Lincolnshire urban centres: Lincoln, Grantham and Boston. The rationale for this change aligns each accommodation hub with good transportation links and better educational, employment and training opportunities to afford young people the very best foundation and prospects to progressively move towards independence and skills to sustain tenancies.

The proposal reduces the number of bed-spaces to within Lincolnshire to 70 units but places a very clear emphasis on preventative practice to maintain keeping young people within their family wherever this is possible. The reduction in bed spaces will be aligned with ensuring effective transition and move on arrangements are undertaken for those approaching 18 years of age. A significant focus on future working practice will be directed to offering timely, responsive and appropriate support strategies to families to prevent young people with low level needs from entering the provision in the first instance.

The re-configuration of the contract will enable an enhanced complex needs support offer to be increased within Lincolnshire which better reflects the cohort profile. Consideration has been given and scope remains to allow concentrated efforts to get young people who are currently on smaller support packages within intense needs placements to make the transition and transfer to our youth housing (LSP) provision. Additionally by best utilising the remaining support hours in the contract in a flexible way in the main area of support (Lincoln), a step-up, step-down option can be facilitated within the contract to provide a much needed halfway point between general and complex needs support.

Intense Needs Supported Accommodation

For a small but important number of young people in Lincolnshire there is an identified need for intensive and specialist accommodation and support to meet their needs. These are undoubtedly young people with highly complex and challenging behaviours where no other type of supported accommodation would be appropriate. It may include for example those moving from Tier 4 mental health support or those who would otherwise be remanded within youth detention accommodation.

This cohort has the ability to place a significant financial burden upon the local authority but it is critical that the support offered generates positive outcomes for those young people most in need of stability and support. The development of our own in-house supported accommodation provision to accommodate these young people will provide a much needed stepping stone for those who are not yet ready for independent living and need additional support. Properties have been identified within one area of the county to accommodate young

people and plans are being formulated to ensure a managed transition of young people within these properties. Our strategy around these young people is consistent with a shared vision of ensuring the right accommodation and support is offered to each young person on their personal journey to independent living. We will pilot this approach in one area of the county and if successful, will seek to embed this new approach across the whole of the county.

By providing this support within the county we have the ability to minimise placements outside of Lincolnshire but also be assured that the quality of intervention is consistently high and meets the unique needs of the individual. We know that a young person's resilience levels are based on four things: a sense of belonging; positive learning experience; feeling in control; and having strong, enriching relationships. Being exposed to challenging situations can provide young people with opportunities to develop their problem-solving abilities and emotional coping skills. Our operating model which has been designed to look at young people accessing a 26 week bespoke placement within this accommodation, with a tailored support package to develop those key life skills which are crucial in terms of their readiness for adult life.

Supported Lodgings

Our Supported Lodgings services in Lincolnshire are highly valued by young people who access them. They offer a safe friendly and supportive environment for young people until they can secure safe housing of their own and begin living independently. We want to build the capacity of supported lodgings across the county by encouraging more people to open up their homes to vulnerable young people.

Staying Close

Currently young people leaving residential care go from 24 hour residential support to minimal or no support which can lead them to being unprepared for adult life. For some young people this results in homelessness, unemployment and engaging in criminal activity. 'Staying Close' will enable young people leaving residential care to live near to, and retain links with, their children's homes past the age of 18. Staying Close is designed to prove that by providing support to YP's past the age of 18 their chances in life are much improved.

Some of the issues we face are:

- When turning 18 many young people are forced to move a great distance from their peer and social networks
- Many of the professional relationships which are key supports for the young person are completely severed
- Often, young people feel they have no clear plan for where they will be living from the age of 16. This uncertainty can lead to disengagement from professionals which in turn feeds in to the negative cycle.

Working with our partners, we aim to create accommodation that will support young people moving on from residential homes to stay close. This resource will be used to create a smooth transition for young people with the residential sector between the ages of sixteen

to eighteen. Each young person will receive a bespoke support package to enable them to prepare for independence and ready for a move to more independent living. We will identify properties located near to the residential homes, enabling young people to be supported through the staff at the home who know them.

The staying close model will be formulated by a working group, to ensure all key steps are captured but will include as a minimum the following elements:

- Long term care planning
- Meaningful education, training and employment
- Maintenance of key relationships
- Life skills development
- Practical living skills development

Adult Housing Related Support and Independent Living (Post 18)

We will work with Public Health and the District Councils to develop a transition protocol so collectively we are confident that we can transition young people at the age of 18 years or 21 years for Care Leavers to adult services.

We know that the lack of accommodation options exists for young people over the age of 18 years / 21 years for Care Leavers and we are committed to working with Public Health and Housing Authorities to increase accommodation options especially the availability of a room in a shared house.

6 Conclusion

Our vision in Lincolnshire is to improve the life chances, life changes and life choices of young people who require support with accommodation or are experiencing homelessness, and ensure all young people have the opportunities they need to make a successful transition to adulthood and independence, by providing a range of support services most appropriate to their needs and circumstances.

The workstreams outlined in this document reflects the accommodation and housing pathways for young people within Lincolnshire including Looked after Children and Care Leavers. They identify opportunities for improving the effectiveness of service delivery right from areas of early intervention through to independence with support to enable young people to succeed.

To achieve this vision, we are committed to working collaboratively with families and their wider network so that, where safe to do so, young people remain with their family and friends as we believe that it is beneficial for young people to remain with people who know them where possible. Where we need to intervene, we will do so as early as possible to prevent housing instability and homelessness from occurring or persisting. Our aspiration is that our housing pathways are planned and integrated to better meet the needs of young people experiencing housing instability and homelessness, with wrap around support, improving transitions to adulthood and independence for young people at risk of becoming entrenched in a cycle of housing instability and homelessness.