

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

10 October 2013

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Friday, 18 October 2013 at 10.00 am in Committee Room One, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely



Tony McArdle
Chief Executive

Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (19 Members of the Council and 6 Added Members)

Councillors J D Hough (Chairman), B Adams (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, Mrs J Brockway, J P Churchill, S R Dodds, A G Hagues, J R Hicks, R J Hunter-Clarke, B W Keimach, P J O'Connor, C R Oxby, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs N J Smith, Mrs C A Talbot, S M Tweedale, L Wootten, R Wootten and Mrs S M Wray

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman, Mr P Thompson and Mrs G Wright

Parent Representatives: Mr C V Miller, Mrs E Olivier-Townrow and Dr E van der Zee

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA
FRIDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2013**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence / Replacement Members	
2	Declaration of Members' Interest	
3	Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 6 September 2013	1 - 6
4	Narrowing the Attainment Gap (including vulnerable learners) <i>(To receive a report from Maggie Freeman, Head of Service 14-19, and Tim Culpin, Head of School Improvement)</i>	To Follow
5	Proposal for a Scrutiny Review on Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding <i>(To receive a report from Tracy Johnson, Scrutiny Officer, and Janice Spencer, Assistant Director for Children's Services)</i>	7 - 16
6	Proposal for a new primary academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation process to identify an operator) <i>(To receive a report from Michelle Andrews, Interim Head of Property and Technology Management)</i>	17 - 48
7	School Admissions and Exclusions in Lincolnshire <i>(To receive a report from Keith Batty, Assistant Director CfBT Education Services)</i>	To Follow
8	Consultation on Changes to the System of School Organisation <i>(To receive a report from Michelle Andrews, Interim Head of Property and Technology Management, which invites the Committee to consider the draft responses of the Local Authority on the consultation of the Department for Education in relation to the Changes to the System of School Organisation)</i>	49 - 68
9	School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and changes for 2014/15 <i>(To receive a report from Tony Warnock, Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services, which invites the Committee to consider a report on School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15)</i>	69 - 76

NOTE: Please note that Appendix B to this report will be "To Follow"

- 10 Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group - Update** 77 - 84
(To receive a report from Councillor Pat O'Connor, Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, which provides the Committee with an overview of the activities of the Sub-Group)
- 11 Youth Housing Strategy 2013-2018** 85 - 122
(To receive a report from Phil Taylor, Lincolnshire Youth Housing Coordinator, which invites the Committee to consider a report on the Youth Housing Strategy which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services)
- 12 Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2013/14** 123 - 130
(To receive a report by Tracy Johnson, Scrutiny Officer, which provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider its Work Programme)

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Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details set out above.

All papers for council meetings are available on:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/committeerecords



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 SEPTEMBER 2013**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J D HOUGH (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors B Adams (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, S R Dodds, R J Hunter-Clarke, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs N J Smith, Mrs C A Talbot and Mrs S M Wray

Councillor D Brailsford attended the meeting as an observer.

Replacement Members: Councillors C J T H Brewis, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M S Jones, S L W Palmer and A H Turner.

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes (Executive Director Children's Services), Keith Batty (Assistant Director of CfBT Education Services), Andrea Brown (Democratic Services Officer), Stuart Carlton (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Tim Culpin (Head of School Improvement), Maggie Freeman (Head of Service 14-19), Jill Hodges (Director of CfBT Education Services), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer) and Tony Warnock (Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services).

The Chairman took the opportunity to welcome and introduce the newly appointed Director of CfBT Education Services, Jill Hodges, to the Committee.

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J P Churchill, S M Tweedale, PJ O'Connor, J R Hicks, L Wootten and R Wootten.

Mr C V Miller and Dr E van der Zee (Added Members) also submitted apologies for absence.

The following Councillors were in attendance as replacement members:-

- Councillor M S Jones for Councillor S M Tweedale
- Councillor Mrs J Brockway for Councillor L Wootten
- Councillor A Bridges for Councillor R Wootten
- Councillor C J T H Brewis for Councillor P J O'Connor
- Councillor S L W Palmer for Councillor A G Hagues
- Councillor A H Turner for the current vacancy on the Committee

Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care & Health Services and Children's Services.

2
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 SEPTEMBER 2013

24 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 JULY 2013

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee, held on 26 July 2013, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26 SCHOOL FUNDING REFORMS 2014/15

Tony Warnock, Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services, introduced the report explaining the relevant key areas for Members' attention before referring to the "Next Steps" section of the report.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- The position in relation to funding for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) was explained further. Each school are allocated a basic sum of £6k to deal with the basic elementary needs for children with SEN. In addition, children who have a higher level of SEN would attract further funding in order to support them. There was no requirement, therefore, to change the funding formula as the initial £6k was a notional sum. Officers were requested to reword the bullet point to include this clarification.
- It was asked if church schools would qualify for the sparsity factor despite many church schools being located in urban areas but whose pupils travel from rural areas. It was explained that the sparsity factor was to protect rural schools but the LA needed to ensure that the Dedicated Schools Grant delivers value for money. This was measured on a 'per pupil' basis with the most expensive schools being up to two and a half times more than the least expensive so a balanced approach needed to be taken. It was confirmed that there was no differentiation between church schools or any other school, as set out within DfE Regulations, therefore no consideration could be given to specific schools when agreeing budgets.
- Schools are able to allocate their budgets how they feel best suits their needs, no monies can be ringfenced by the Local Authority. However, as a Corporate Parent, it was hoped that the Local Authority could influence schools in relation to the Looked After Children formula and prior attainment.
- In relation to funding for pupils aged 16 and above, it was confirmed that schools receive money directly from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for the amount of pupils they had on their roll from the previous year. Should a considerable increase in pupils be evident, the schools could apply separately for additional funding.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 SEPTEMBER 2013

- "Necessary Small School" was referred to within the report and also within government guidance. The meaning of this phrase was not defined in any DfE documentation and, therefore, open to interpretation.
- It was confirmed that the other local authorities were not always informing Lincolnshire County Council when a "Looked After Child" was placed in a Lincolnshire school from another county, despite having a duty to do so.
- During the last financial year, the primary maintained schools averaged a carry forward of just over 8% of their annual budget. Schools had been advised to build their reserves following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in 2010. The policy does state, however, that primary schools should not have more than 8% of their overall budget in reserves and anything above that amount should be earmarked for capital projects.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services for presenting a clear and concise report.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

27 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 16-19 (25) EDUCATION AND TRAINING
FOR 2014/15

Keith Batty, Assistant Director of CfBT Education Services, introduced the report, which asked the Committee to consider a report on the Strategic Priorities for 16-19(25) education and training for 2014/15, based on the strategic analysis carried out during the summer months.

During consideration of the report, the following points were noted:-

- Staff members continued to work closely with providers in order to provide careers advice and guidance and had been successful in encouraging collaboration. It was acknowledged that the degree of collaboration needed to guarantee the provision had not yet been reached.
- The careers services provided by CfBT was impartial and currently bought in by 39 schools, most of whom were working towards a Quality Assurance award to assure governing bodies that they were providing independent support.

At 11.30am, Councillor Mrs C A Talbot left the meeting and did not return.

- Any pupil who did not achieve A*-C grading in English and Maths GCSE must complete this in post 16 education as well as their chosen course. Should any pupil drop out, the school or college would not retain the funding.
- The basis of the strategy was to ensure that Further Education Colleges and other partners had the relevant specialisms to support all pupils, LCC promoted collaborative partnerships.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**6 SEPTEMBER 2013**

- Transport issues remained a concern with availability and access in a rural county continuing to be a significant challenge. It was anticipated that funding into Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) in Lincolnshire may be an opportunity to explore other modes of transport and access.
- Although the report was clear in providing an overview of the issues, Members felt that an action plan to resolve these issues was missing. An action plan from the scrutiny review had previously been considered and was scheduled, on the Work Programme, to be presented at the meeting in April 2014.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted;
2. That the following comments of the Committee be noted:-
 - a. Concerns about the impact of transport policy and costs on young people's choices was raised. It was highlighted that student finances do impact on the use of transport for travelling to post-16 learning or training, such as the high cost of car insurance preventing young people getting to apprenticeships. The Committee was advised that participation remained good but availability and access in rural areas was a challenge. The Committee was informed that the Greater Lincolnshire LEP would be receiving significant additional funding for Lincolnshire and it was planning to look at how to support other modes of transport to improve access.
 - b. Concerns over the viability of some school sixth forms and the financial pressures faced by schools were highlighted. The Committee agreed that schools should be encouraged to collaborate together wherever possible but questioned how this would be achieved.
 - c. The Committee requested that an action plan be compiled setting out how each priority would be achieved. It was highlighted to the Committee that the priorities were the Council's public statement regarding what needs to be secured for post-16 education and training, and the providers' action plans would be set out how these priorities would be achieved. However, the Council has its own actions in relation to the priorities and officers agreed to bring these back to the Committee.
 - d. The Committee also requested that future annual reports on Strategic Priorities for 16 – 19 (25) Education and Training be brought to the Committee in draft form for discussion and comment before the final version for the Executive's decision is brought to the Committee in September.

28 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 1 2013/14

Stuart Carlton, Assistant Director of Children's Services, introduced the report which provided key performance information for Quarter 1 2013/14 relevant to the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- In regard to Connected Persons, it was explained that guidance had changed so that children could be placed with friends/family, if appropriate were recorded as looked after.
- Relevant checks, including police checks and assessments, were still undertaken to ensure that friends/family members were suitable to provide a home to the child. Fostering and adoption checks were rigorous enough to ensure that these persons were suitable to look after *any* child whereas Connected Persons were checked to see if they were suitable to look after a particular child.
- Prior to the Connected Person legislation, a child could be placed with a family member if taken into care but they were not classed as a Looked After Child so targets have had to be changed as a result of the legislation.
- Private Fostering figures were not included within the report as a separate annual report on private fostering was presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- It was acknowledged that the spend for Looked After Children was low in relation to others but that the preventative family support schemes and support were high in comparison. The figures highlighted that prevention was helping in this particular area.
- The performance indicators were complicated as each indicator was measured in a different way. The report may suggest that there is underperformance against a certain indicator but the way in which the indicator was set may mean this was not actually the case.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

At 12.30pm, Councillors T M Trollope-Bellew and C J T H Brewis left the meeting and did not return.

29 CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL UPDATE

Councillor David Brailsford, Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel, introduced the report which presented the draft minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2013 for the consideration of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel was scheduled for 3rd October 2013 and would include a one hour training session at the start of the meeting which the Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend.

Concern was noted in relation to Visiting Members and the fact that not all homes had been visited within the relevant timescales. Members were encouraged to undertake a visit and were reminded that those with current DBS/CRB checks could do these unaccompanied, but those who were waiting for their checks to be completed would need to be accompanied.

6
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 SEPTEMBER 2013

RESOLVED

To note the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel as set out within the report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2013.

At 12.35pm, Councillor A Bridges left the meeting and did not return.

30 RELATIONSHIP WITH ACADEMIES

Tim Culpin, Head of School Improvement, introduced the report which outlined the proposed process in place from June 2013 with certain principles behind the policy also being included within the report. 107 schools in Lincolnshire were academies and, as a result of the policy, contact would only be made with the DfE *after* leaders of the relevant academy had been spoken to.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- In response to a question which asked what checks would be undertaken on the inspectors, the Director of CfBT Education Services, Jill Hodges, advised that she would be attending a meeting with the Regional Director of Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) to discuss the consistency of inspections across the county as this was felt to be critical. She went on to explain that the country had been split into eight different regions with open dialogue between the local authority, schools and the Ofsted inspectors.
- Complaints made directly to Ofsted could result in an inspection, whether the schools is an academy or a maintained school.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

31 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

Tracy Johnson, Scrutiny Officer, presented the Committee's work programme for 2013/14. It was highlighted that the agenda for the 18th October 2013 was currently very long and would be revisited by officers in consultation with the Chairman.

It was suggested by the Director of CfBT Education Services, Jill Hodges, that as Ofsted were inspecting the effectiveness of school improvement services and arrangements the Committee might wish to scrutinise the self-evaluation written by the Head of School Improvement at CfBT at a future meeting. This self-evaluation will describe the effectiveness of arrangements against seven criteria provided by Ofsted, including performance data.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm



Open Report on behalf of Executive Director for Performance and Governance

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	Proposal for a Scrutiny Review on Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding

Summary:

This report sets out a proposal for a scrutiny review on Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding to be carried out by a Task and Finish Group. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider this potential topic for a scrutiny review, and decide whether it wishes to submit the proposal to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for approval.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

1. agree whether the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding proposal is a suitable topic for a scrutiny review, taking into account the guidelines;
2. if agreed, to discuss and approve the Proposal for Scrutiny Review for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for approval;
3. identify any members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee who may be interested in participating in a potential scrutiny review if the topic is agreed.

1. Background

At its meeting on 25 July 2013, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub Group considered a report on the recent serious case review relating to Family T/S. The Sub Group suggested that further work should be undertaken to investigate the robustness of safeguarding practices. The draft minutes from that meeting are a separate item on today's agenda.

Furthermore, Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services, has also suggested to the Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee that, in light of the serious case review, the Committee may wish to consider conducting a review into frontline social workers and safeguarding practices. Given these two suggestions, the Chairman has agreed that a proposal for a scrutiny review into this topic should be considered by the Committee.

Attached at Appendix A is a draft Proposal for Scrutiny Review for the Committee to discuss and approve looking at Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding. The draft Proposal details the proposed remit and lines of enquiry for the review, the benefits of the review and what will be excluded, and the proposed timescale for completion.

Outlined below are the guidelines which the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will use when deciding whether a proposed topic for a scrutiny review should proceed:

It is important that in-depth reviews are:

- *deliverable within a set timetable*
- *sufficiently focused on a particular aspect of a service*
- *not duplicating other significant review activity*
- *not related to a specific individual grievance or complaint*

Reviews should also, wherever possible:-

- *contribute to the overall objectives of the organisation*
- *reflect community concerns*
- *lead to potential achievable outcomes or improvements for the people of Lincolnshire*

If the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agrees that Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding will be the topic for the next scrutiny review, the Proposal for Scrutiny Review will need to be discussed and, subject to any amendments, approved by the Committee. The purpose of this section is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with information to make a decision on whether a scrutiny review could proceed on this topic.

If the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agrees to the proposed scrutiny review at its meeting on 24 October 2013, then a Task and Finish Group will be established and nominations will be sought from the leader of each political group.

2. Conclusion

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding proposal and decide whether it wishes to recommend this topic for its next scrutiny review.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Draft Proposal for Scrutiny Review on Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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PROPOSAL FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW

(TO BE COMPLETED BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)

The purpose of this scoping document is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) with information to make a decision on whether a scrutiny review could proceed on this topic. The following guidelines have been agreed as a basis for making decisions on topics for scrutiny reviews.

It is important that in-depth reviews are:-

- *deliverable within a set timetable*
- *sufficiently focused on a particular aspect of a service*
- *not duplicating other significant review activity*
- *not related to a specific individual grievance or complaint*

Reviews should also:-

- *contribute to the overall objectives of the organisation*
- *reflect community concerns*
- *lead to potential achievable outcomes or improvements for the people of Lincolnshire*

DETAILS OF PROPOSED SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC

Title of Review	Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding
Committee	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Purpose of the Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To examine the robustness of safeguarding practices. 2. To ensure sufficient support is provided to frontline social workers.
Main Lines of Enquiry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To examine key performance indicators in relation to safeguarding. 2. To consider key documents including the Safeguarding Annual Report, Quality Audits, Self-Assessments, Peer Reviews, Evaluation of CAF/CASS+ Initiative, and Signs of Safety. 3. To hold a focus group with practitioners (e.g. social workers and family support workers). 4. To hold a focus group with frontline managers. 5. To observe the work of the Customer Service Centre (CSC). 6. To observe the duty role and read case files. 7. To observe core group meetings. 8. To attend a Child Protection Conference. 9. To attend a support panel meeting. 10. To meet with young people along with the participation officer and the Munro Champion. 11. To meet with relevant officers as appropriate.

Is there anything excluded from the review?	This review is examining the generic issues around the work of frontline social workers and the robustness of safeguarding practices. It will not investigate the work of individual social workers.	
Benefits of the Review	This review will seek to ensure the robustness of safeguarding practices and that frontline practitioners are sufficiently equipped to undertake work of this nature.	
Risks and Implications (Legal / Financial / Resource)	<p>There is a risk that the review may identify that safeguarding practices are not sufficiently robust enough and that remedial action is required.</p> <p>There is an additional risk that a requirement for increased resources may be identified.</p> <p>Due to the nature of this review:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health and safety implications and any visits would be subject to robust risk assessment. • all councillors and officers will need to be DBS checked and sign a confidentiality agreement. • from reviewing case files, there is the risk of identifying cases which cause serious concern, and there will be a need for an escalation process to report concerns which councillors and officers will need to be aware of. <p>There may be legal and/or financial issues identified during the course of the review and appropriate advice will be taken at the time.</p> <p>Personal data may be recorded during the review and this must be managed and reproduced in accordance with Data Protection legislation.</p> <p>Costs may arise from transport for councillors, officers and contributors and from holding meetings at alternative venues.</p> <p>The major resource during this review relates to the time committed by Councillors, County Council officers and contributors from external organisations.</p>	
Deadlines for submission to:	Scrutiny Committee: 13 June 2014	Executive: 1 July 2014
Executive Councillor Comment	I welcome and support a review of frontline social workers and safeguarding.	
Executive Director Comment	This scrutiny review is welcomed by Children's Services as it will enable Elected Members to examine the robustness of safeguarding practices and examine the level of support which is provided to frontline social workers. Children's Services look forward to receiving the findings of the review to further strengthen safeguarding arrangements in Lincolnshire.	

Any further information (including any relevant information relating to the guidelines)	Councillors and officers involved in this scrutiny review will be exposed to information relating to distressing cases. Due to the confidential nature of these cases, they will not be able to discuss these with anyone outside the review. To provide emotional support to councillors and officers, a mentoring and counselling support mechanism will be put in place during the review.
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SCRUTINY REVIEW CHECKLIST

(TO BE COMPLETED BY TASK AND FINISH GROUP)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Membership of Task and Finish Group (as appointed by Group Leaders)	
Lead Member (from Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee)	
Co-options	
Relevant Executive Councillor(s)	
Lead Officer(s) from Theme Area	
Scrutiny Officer	
Democratic Services Officer	
Dates of Task and Finish Group Meetings (to be established as far as possible)	

RESEARCH METHODS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Key Documents / Best Practice Guidance	
Key Contributors (e.g. key officers, councillors, expert witnesses, and stakeholders)	

Site Visits	
Consultation (Questionnaires / Focus Groups / Workshops / Website / Public Meetings)	Consultation Team to be consulted on any relevant current or recent consultation exercises which could be utilised. (consultation@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

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Report Reference:
Policy and Scrutiny

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	Proposals for a new primary academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation process to identify an operator)

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the proposals for a new primary academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation process to identify an operator) which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 31 October 2013. The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of her consideration of this item.

Actions Required:

- (1) To consider the attached report and to determine whether the Committee supports the recommendation to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services set out in the report.
- (2) To agree any additional comments to be passed to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services in relation to this item.

1. Background

The Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services is due to consider the report on the proposals for a new primary academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation process to identify an operator). The full report to the Executive Councillor is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services. The Committee's views will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Report and Appendices to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on Proposals for a new primary academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation process to identify an operator)

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Michelle Andrews, who can be contacted on 01522 553269 or Michelle.andrews@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services
Date:	31 October 2013
Subject:	Proposal for a new primary academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation of process to identify an operator)
Decision Reference:	I005542
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all Lincolnshire children. There is sufficient local demand to justify the need for a new primary school to serve the town of Gainsborough and meet the needs of local families. The proposal is for a new 1 Form Entry (1FE) primary school (210 places) with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 per year group. There is expected to be a shortfall of primary school places in Gainsborough if these additional primary school places are not made available.

The building project will be delivered through the Children's Services Capital Programme with funding provided by the Local Authority (LA) and the Department for Education (DfE) through the Targeted Basic Need (TBN) Fund. £2.11 m capital funding has been received specifically for this project following a bid to the DfE and it can only be spent on a new school in Gainsborough. The proposal is to locate a new primary academy on Lincolnshire County Council land which was previously part of the site of the former Castle Hills secondary school. This has been agreed with Corporate Property, with the rest of the site to be sold off for housing development.

Once the need for a new school has been identified, under the Education Act 2011 there is a presumption that any new school will be an academy and not LA maintained. Therefore the LA has sought proposals to establish a new academy and the process for finding a suitable operator has now ended. Formal applications were submitted by two organisations interested in becoming the operator of the new academy. These have been assessed by an evaluation panel and further details of the assessment together with the results of the scoring process are included in this report.

This report seeks to advise the Executive Councillor on approving the assessment and evaluation of the proposals and the selection of the preferred operator to be submitted to the DfE. It is the Secretary of State who will make

the final decision regarding the choice of operator for the new primary academy in Gainsborough. The Secretary of State will consider the LA assessment very carefully and the preference indicated by the LA will be a key factor in that consideration.

Recommendation(s):

The Executive Councillor is recommended to approve the submission of the following to the Secretary of State as the Council's assessment of the proposals received in respect of the proposed new primary academy in Gainsborough:-

- This report including the scoring of the proposals and comments of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC)
- Confirmation of the Council's preferred operator as Tall Oaks Academy Trust (TOAT)

Alternatives Considered:

1. That the Secretary of State is forwarded the proposals, the scores and the scrutiny comments but no selection of a preferred operator by the Council. Whilst departmental advice does not require the Council to state a preference, it does expect one to be indicated. The Secretary of State may in this case choose one of the applicants or put forward an alternative approved sponsor that has not been part of the LA's assessment process.

Reasons for Recommendation:

In accordance with the academy presumption for a new school, the recommendation recognises the advice on how to manage the selection process for an operator for a new academy. A thorough evaluation process has been carried out to determine which applicant(s) are suitable to operate the new academy and which is considered to be the preferred operator. Evaluation was carried out against a set of criteria determined by the Secretary of State and expanded on by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), followed by interviews with both applicants and comments from CYPSC. This is to ensure a full and robust process for the overall assessment of the proposals received and is in the interest of providing the Secretary of State with the fullest detail on which to base his decision.

1. Background

The LA is the commissioner of school places with a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places across the whole of Lincolnshire. National birth rates have been steadily rising in recent years having an impact on the demand for places in the primary sector. Gainsborough is an area of Lincolnshire that is

experiencing similar pressure together with some new housing developments which have also contributed to the rising pupil numbers in Gainsborough as part of the town's 'growth point' status. (See Appendix A) This has justified the requirement for an additional 210 primary school places (1FE/PAN 30 per year group) to meet the needs of local families. The new academy is proposed to primarily serve a projected shortfall of primary provision in the local area caused by continued demographic growth and future housing development on the shared site and surrounding nearby area. This proposal should have minimal effect on the numbers on roll at nearby schools as there is expected to be sufficient long term demand for places to sustain all existing schools and academies in addition to the proposed new academy. The process by which the LA responds to the need for additional school places through expansions or new school proposals is set out in Appendix B.

It has been agreed with Corporate Property that the LA will provide the site for the new primary school as this is currently owned by Lincolnshire County Council. The capital is to be provided by the LA and by the DfE TBN funding and therefore the process must adhere to strict deadlines regarding the selection of an operator as prescribed by the DfE. (DfE timeline attached as Appendix C). The LA will manage the capital building project from design through to completion, working closely with the new operator in the later stages of the project to determine final internal fixtures, fittings and décor. The design will be based on an existing template to achieve maximum cost efficiency and to minimise build time based on the minimum areas within Building Bulletin 99 or the DfE 'Baseline Design' designs. It is envisaged that this additional primary school provision will be built by September 2015 with a Reception intake only in 2015 and subsequent Reception intakes phased in year on year until operating across all year groups in 2021.

On 1 February 2012 the Education Act 2011 introduced changes to the legislation relating to the process for establishing new schools including the Academy presumption. The new section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 places the authority under a duty to seek proposals to establish an academy. This was updated with details and guidance being released by the DfE in May 2013 (Appendix D) to apply to all academy and free school proposals after 16 May 2013 and all proposals receiving TBN funding. The process to seek an operator for the new primary academy for Gainsborough began on 26 July 2013 to ensure that tight deadlines could be adhered to.

The process for seeking a suitable operator is set out in section 5 of this report (Consultation). It began with a letter sent to a wide range of interested parties. Full application packs included the specification for the new school and were made available to anyone who expressed an interest.

Two applications were received by the deadline of 6 September 2013 and assessed by an evaluation panel. The panel comprised of the Head of Service for Property and Technology Management within Children's Services, a Lincolnshire County Councillor, a representative from the Lincolnshire CYPSC and two Head teachers of Lincolnshire LA maintained primary schools. The panel was also supported by officers from Children's Services.

The DfE guidance (Appendix D) states that the authority should provide the Department with an assessment of the proposals it has received which should include certain criteria. The assessment carried out by LCC incorporates those into a wider range of criteria by which the written applications were scored. Full details of the criteria and scoring system used are shown in Appendix E.

Applicants were also asked to prepare a 10 minute presentation and advised that in addition to questions arising out of their presentation the panel would also be asking further questions. The presentation and interview questions (see Appendix F) were also scored by the panel. All applicants were asked the same five questions at interview which in some cases allowed them to expand on the areas that the evaluation panel had identified as the weaker sections in their written responses.

The scores for the written applications and the presentation/interview were combined to produce an overall score for each applicant. All of the scores are summarised in Appendix G which shows TOAT to have secured the highest score for both the written application stage and the second stage comprising the presentation and interviews. They scored a minimum of 3 in all categories so reaching at least an 'acceptable' response to each one of the criteria and the majority of their scores exceeded 3 confirming a response to a 'good' or 'excellent' standard. On this basis, and following careful consideration and discussion regarding the entire evaluation process, the panel unanimously agreed that the proposal submitted by TOAT met all of the criteria and wished to confirm them as the preferred operator to the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State will only consider applications submitted by an 'Approved Sponsor'. The DfE has informed the LA that TOAT is already a registered 'Approved Sponsor'. Concurrent to the new school operator selection process for the Gainsborough academy the second applicant has been following a separate process with the DfE and since the completion of the assessment process the DfE has also granted them 'Approved Sponsor' status.

The following summary outlines the reasons for the panel's selection against the relevant criteria.

Vision and educational experience

TOAT is a multi-Academy Trust currently incorporating one junior academy and one primary academy. Ofsted has rated the junior academy "outstanding" and also a "sponsor academy". The primary academy has been rated "good" by Ofsted having been brought from "special measures" in 13 months since joining the Trust. This has clearly demonstrated the educational experience available to be drawn on from within the Trust. The Trust has a proven track record of improving education for the children of Gainsborough and their application demonstrated how they would apply the same principles and practices to the new academy.

Capacity and capability

This was a very thorough and strong response confirming the Trust's capacity and capability to set up and lead the new academy in Gainsborough. The Trust has clearly demonstrated that it has the necessary capacity and ability of leadership, management and governance to develop and run the proposed new academy. In addition the DfE has confirmed its approval of TOAT as an approved sponsor and is keen for TOAT to take on the sponsorship of more schools.

Partnership working

The two schools which now form the Trust have had a close working relationship with LCC for many years and have also collaborated with other primary providers in the town both to benefit from shared experiences and also in outreach to support other schools. In more recent years the Trust has also benefitted from a partnership with an Outstanding Academy in Nottinghamshire and membership of a Teaching School Alliance group (EOS). The two academies within the Trust have a strong supportive relationship and the new academy will greatly benefit from this.

Qualities and ideas that will impact on standards and school improvement

TOAT has a proven track record of improving the education of children in Gainsborough. Their proposal is based on a model which ensures high standards and also that all groups of learners achieve well. This has produced excellent results at the two academies within the Trust and would be applied to the new academy. The expertise and systems to ensure school improvement have been acknowledged by Ofsted as rigorous and robust.

Championing the needs of vulnerable children

TOAT already has a wide experience of supporting vulnerable children at the two academies within the Trust. The new academy would benefit from this both through the Pastoral Care Officers and SENDCo employed by TOAT and also through well-established links to a wide range of highly qualified specialist staff eg professionals in sensory impaired and multi-lingual support, Educational Welfare and Psychology, physiotherapy and school nurse support etc. End of Key Stage data confirming consistently high achievement for all groups of learners shows the strength of TOAT in narrowing the gap and enabling all children to achieve their full potential.

Diversity, parental choice and community engagement

This was a very clear and detailed response showing an excellent knowledge of the local community and capturing the key points with regard to its needs and challenges. The schools within the Trust have a long tradition of engaging with the local community with well-established links with local groups and sports providers. TOAT see the new academy as an opportunity to further improve community engagement.

Staffing the Academy/Free School and recruiting the governing body

TOAT understands the importance of recruiting and developing both staff and governors. The methods and structure used will be based on that already in place at the two academies within the Trust which has a proven track record of raising standards and meeting the needs of children, parents and the community. TOAT has recent experience of growing staffing models to accommodate additional schools and has already built in additional leadership capacity in anticipation of taking further academies into the Trust.

Managing the opening of the new Academy

TOAT has successfully managed the sponsor approval application process at the same time as the conversion of two schools to academy status and creating a Multi-Academy Trust all within very tight deadlines. TOAT has a clear understanding of what would be required to open the new academy on time and provide good educational experiences for all its pupils from day one and throughout their time at the academy. Collaboration across the two academies within the Trust is one of the strengths of TOAT and all these resources and expertise will be available to the new academy.

Transition from one Reception class through to an intake in all 7 year groups

This was a strong well thought out response which gave evidence of how TOAT will undertake this transition and support the families of Gainsborough and meet pupils' needs. The Trust understands that the dynamic of the new academy will change as each successive intake is admitted and is committed to avoiding isolation of children in the opening and early years and ensuring high quality provision at every stage.

What will differentiate your proposal from those of other proposers?

The new academy will be based on the proven principles and practices in place at the two academies within the Trust. However TOAT is committed to the new academy developing its own unique identity over time. The ability of TOAT to deliver an outstanding education for all groups of pupils has been consistently documented through published results and Ofsted reports. The links with local providers and businesses and the experience of working successfully in the locality provide a significant benefit of this application.

Presentation and interview stage

The Trust provided a very clear and informative presentation which showed strong local knowledge and an awareness of the issues and challenges of the community and the needs of local children. TOAT are pupil focussed and committed to excellent provision with high aspirations for all the children of Gainsborough. TOAT views themselves as a "Can do" trust and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to be involved in the new academy. All of the questions answered at the interview stage were scored by the panel as being "good" confirming that the Trust has fully understood and can consistently apply and deliver all the requirements.

2. Conclusion

A decision is required from the Executive Councillor to approve the submission of all applications and assessment information to the Secretary of State as set out in this report. The evaluation process undertaken by the LA has identified TOAT as both a suitable operator and also the authority's 'preferred operator'. This takes into account the non-binding advice of the DfE. The final decision of the choice of operator rests with the Secretary of State.

3. Legal Comments:

The legal issues to be taken into account in the making of this decision, which is within the remit of the Executive Councillor, are fully set out in this report.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report, i.e. to approve submission to the Secretary of State of all applications received, the Council's assessment of the proposals and the selection of a preferred operator.

The building of a new school will have financial implications with the majority of the capital costs being met by the DfE TBN funding but also in part by the LA. The LA will support the pre and post opening grant of the school during the transition period from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

5. Consultation

The need for additional places in Gainsborough was consulted on with LA officers from Admissions, School Transport, Children's Services Directorate Management Team and the Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services. Head teachers from neighbouring primary schools were included in the interested parties list for those contacted regarding the proposal to build a new school in Gainsborough. Officers have also been invited to meet with the Gainsborough Head Teacher Partnership Group to discuss this proposal and other pupil place planning issues. It is widely acknowledged by Gainsborough Head teachers that there is growing pressure on places in this part of town.

As the funding for this project is being provided by the DfE under the TBN funding the process to identify an operator had to follow a timeline determined by DfE deadlines. The process to secure an operator for the Academy commenced on 26 July 2013 with letters being sent out to a wide range of interested parties including all mainstream operators of education in Lincolnshire. The information was also published on the LCC website. The DfE passed on this information via the Independent Academies Association and the New Schools Network to an

established list of potential operators and sponsors across the country. All individuals and organisations that expressed an interest in the proposal received an application pack. There was also an information session held on 14 August for any interested parties to find out more about the proposal and ask related questions that may aid them in completing their applications.

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

Yes. The local member has been made aware of the proposal for a new primary academy in Gainsborough.

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes. The Executive Councillor has been fully involved in the discussions regarding the proposal for a new primary academy in Gainsborough.

c) Scrutiny Comments

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee met on 18 October 2013 and considered this report concerning the Proposal for a new primary academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation of process to identify an operator). [Insert CYPSC comments here](#)

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

An Impact Analysis regarding the selection of the preferred operator has been completed. In summary the analysis is indicative of a positive impact in that the operator, as selected by the Secretary of State, must be suitable, meet all the criteria and be an approved sponsor.

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Demographic Analysis – Pressure on Places
Appendix B	LA process for responding to the need for additional school places through expansions or new school proposals
Appendix C	DfE timeline applicable to TBN funded projects
Appendix D	DfE advice for LAs and proposers regarding establishing a free school or academy under TBN funding
Appendix E	Evaluation and scoring criteria
Appendix F	Presentation title and interview questions
Appendix G	Scores awarded to applicants

7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Letter to commence the operator selection process,	All available on request from the Property and Technology Management Team, Children's

list of interested parties and new school specification	Services
Impact Analysis	Available on request from the Property and Technology Management Team, Children's Services

This report was written by Michelle Andrews, who can be contacted on 01522 553269 or Michelle.andrews@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Appendix A - Gainsborough Demographic Analysis - Pressure on Places

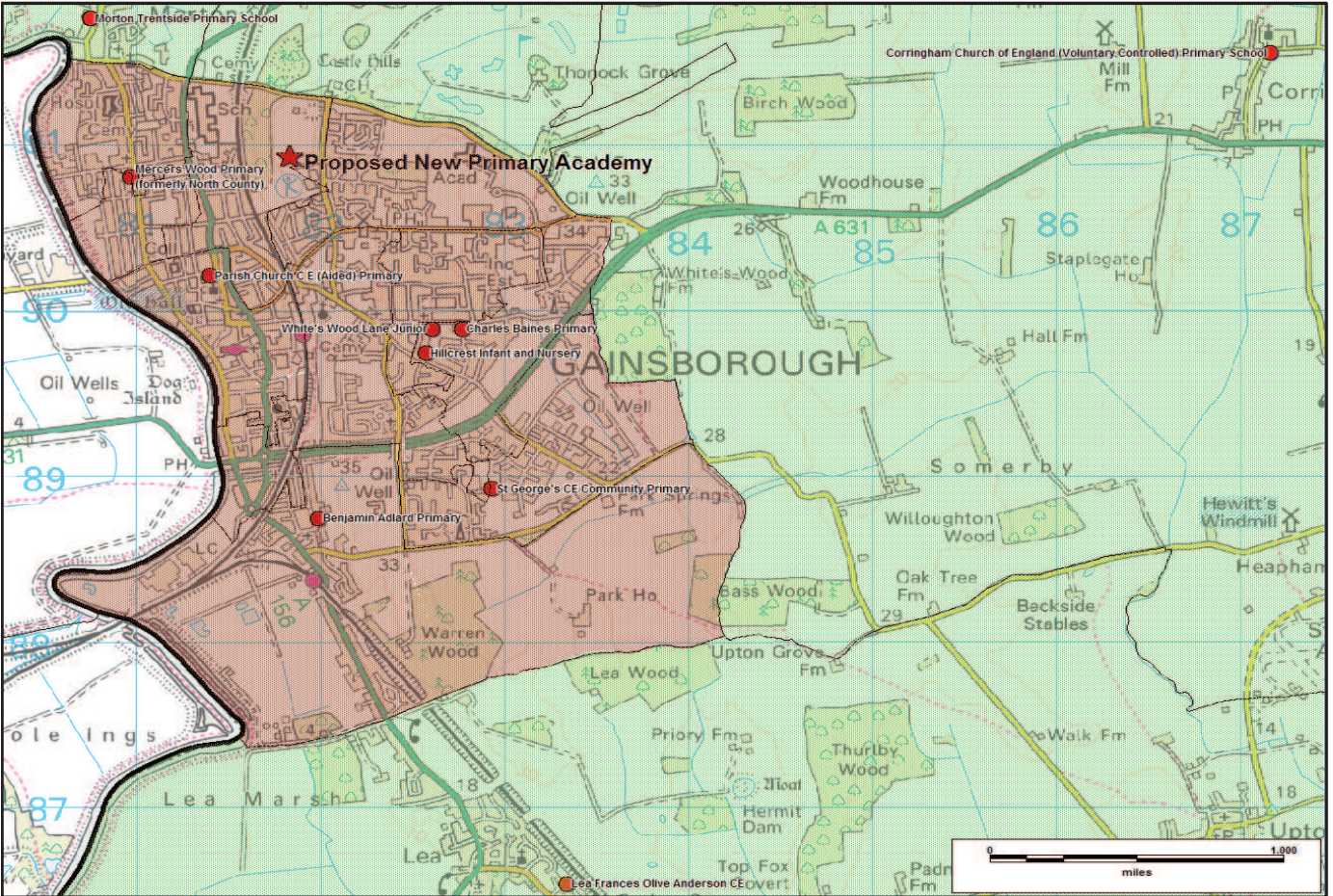
*NOR for 2014-2016 intakes based on LA August 2013 Maximum 2013 Projections including pupil yield from housing with planning permission as at January 2013

The former Castle Hills site (indicated by the star on the map below) currently has planning for 120 homes to be built on part of the site. An additional part of the same site would be used by the school and the remainder is being considered presently in line with LCC Policy for possible disposal of surplus land. Should additional housing be granted it could add 80 or more units to the total. There is also an area of adjacent land owned by Thonock that may be developed for housing in the future. None of these potential housing developments that are yet to receive planning permission have been factored into the LA projections shown below.

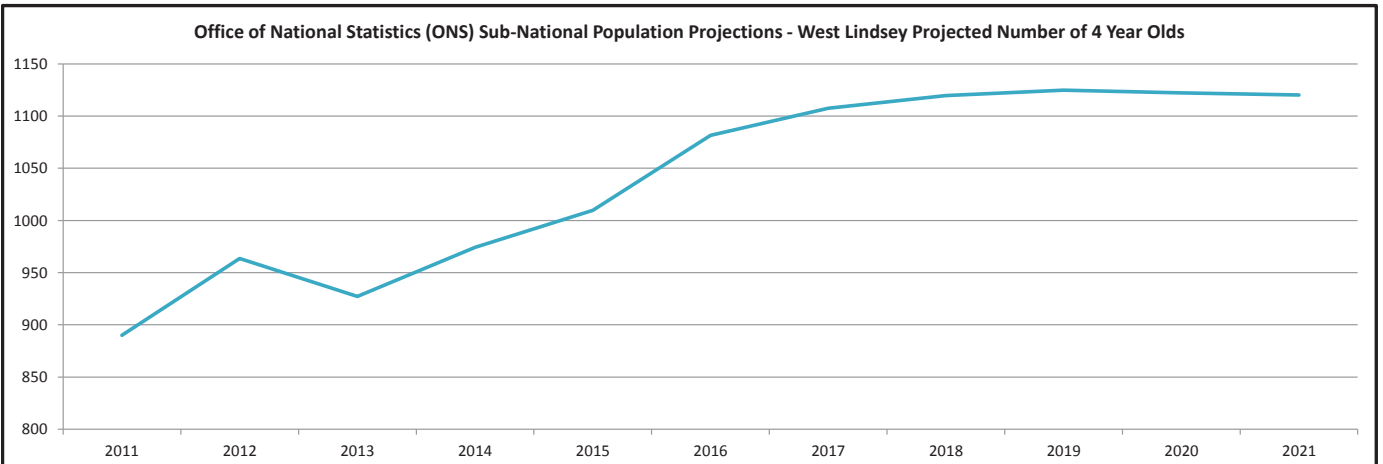
Gainsborough is a 'Growth Point' with ambitious targets for new housing and regeneration. Already over 2100 units have outline approval (yet to get planning permission) on a site adjoining the south of the town. Whilst new primary facilities will be provided eventually through S106, the first phase of that development (400 homes) does not provide a primary school or S106 contribution. This development is not included in the LA projections, but if the housing market recovers and development starts there will be more pressure than indicated by current data.

The former Middlefield and Beckett School sites have planning consent for 130 homes. There are also many other sites with planning consent, many under construction. These developments, along with all developments with planning permission up to January 2013, are included in the projections below.

Intake Year/Current Year Group	PAN (places)	2016 Rec' Intake	2015 Rec' Intake	2014 Rec' Intake	2013 Rec' Offers	Current Rec'	Current Y1	Current Y2	Current Y3	Current Y4	Current Y5	Current Y6
Gainsborough Rural NOR* May 2013	72	71	76	72	68	73	77	54	73	69	67	62
Gainsborough Town Urban Total NOR*	225	233	277	235	209	211	219	175	182	181	182	175



The following graph shows the latest data available for the West Lindsey District from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) - Sub-National Population Projections based on the 2011 Census



APPENDIX B

Children's Services - Property & Technology Management

Responding to the need for additional school places through expansions of existing schools or opening of new schools

The LA has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. This includes all provision whether primary, secondary, academy or LA maintained.

Where the school place planning process has identified an area of the county with demographic pressures the LA must plan accordingly and deliver solutions through the Children's Services Capital Programme to ensure that sufficient school places are made available with the effective use of Basic Need funding. Careful consideration must first be given to the possibility of Free School proposals addressing basic need requirements. LA officers are encouraged to work with all potential and existing sponsors to address school place sufficiency needs. In determining the best potential solution to meet the needs of the local community both expansion and new school options may be considered depending on the circumstances.

If it has been determined that the LA must provide additional school places and expansion or a new school are being considered, then the following points highlight some of the factors taken into consideration (in no particular order):

- Affordability – efficient use of limited resources (capital and revenue)
- Site sizes and deliverability (potential planning issues, avoid building on playing fields, access etc.)
- Location in relation to demographic pressures – consideration to transport and traffic implications and reasonable safe walking distances where possible
- Future housing developments and any current or potential Section 106/CIL contributions to education
- Parental preference (this can be a short term factor as this often changes over time with changing leadership, governance and Ofsted ratings)
- Potential impact on standards – Strength and quality of leadership and governance of existing schools in relation to being able to effectively implement an expansion proposal and manage the transition
- Potential impact on existing provision and the impact plans for academies and free schools in the area may have on the need for additional school places

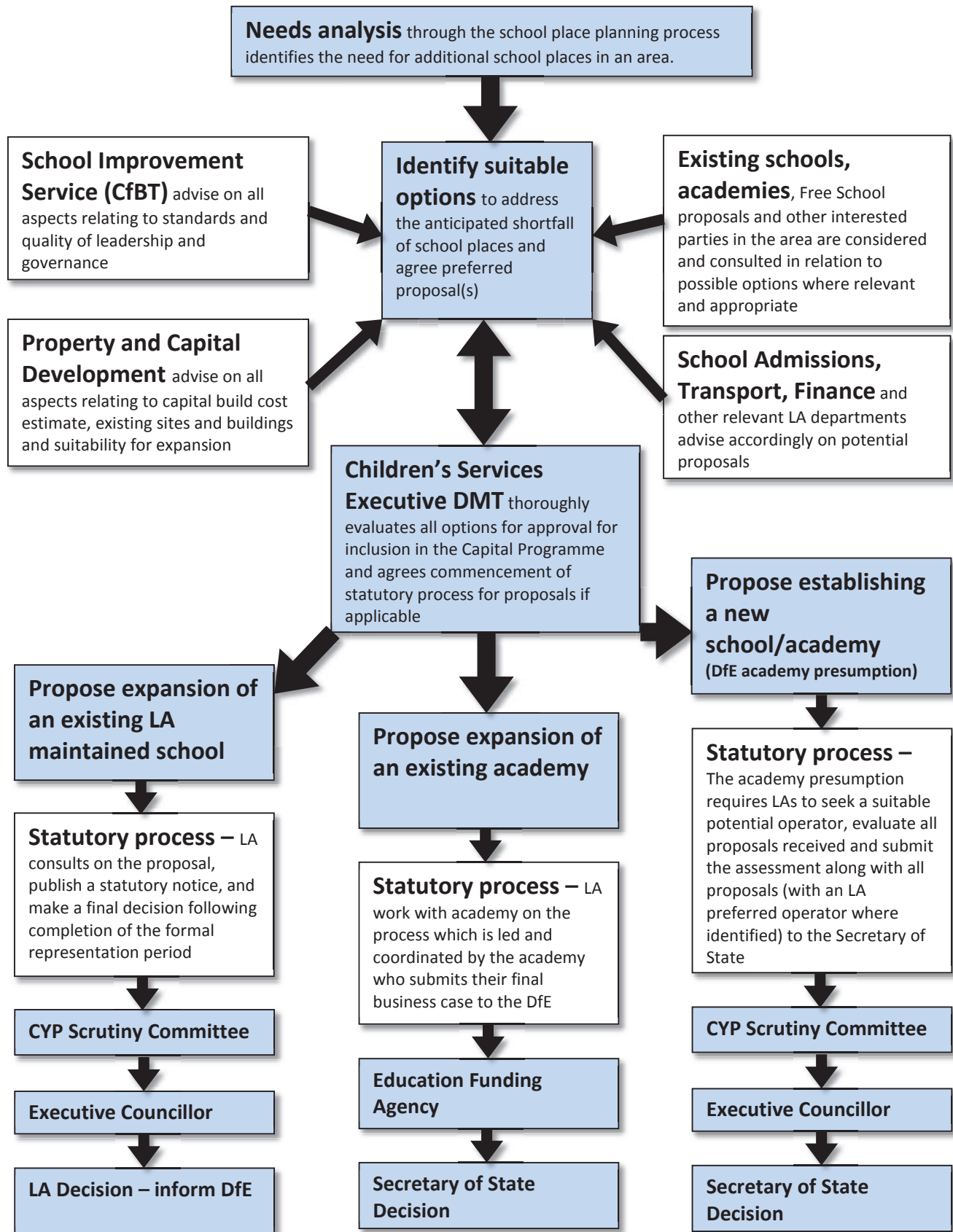
If the LA is to provide additional schools places through the Children's Services Capital Programme then there are 3 main options:

1. The expansion of an existing maintained mainstream school
2. The establishment of a new Academy
3. The expansion of an existing Academy

Options **(1)** and **(2)** are co-ordinated by the LA and involve consideration by CYPSC followed by an Executive Councillor decision.

There is no involvement of the LA's democratic decision making process under Option **(3)** which is co-ordinated by the Academy being expanded with the final decision taken by the Secretary of State.

The following flow chart gives an overview of the process incorporating these 3 options.



APPENDIX C

Timetable for proposals under the Targeted Basic Need Programme

DfE informs LAs of provisional targeted basic need funding allocations	By 18 July 2013
LA should publish specification inviting proposals to establish new academy/free school (NB the LA will need to notify the DfE of all proposals by 4 October so should set its own deadlines accordingly)	By 2 August 2013
LAs should alert the DfE to any expressions of interest they have received from potential proposers*	By 23 August 2013
New sponsor approval applications to the DfE	By 6 September 2013
DfE will provide feedback on expressions of interest	By 6 September 2013
LA should inform DfE of all proposals received	By 4 October 2013
LA should submit assessment of proposals to DfE indicating any preference(s)	By 18 October 2013
DfE confirm sponsor and funding allocations for new academy	By 12 December 2013



Department
for Education

The academy/free school presumption

**Departmental advice for local authorities
and new school proposers**

May 2013

Contents

Summary	4
About this departmental advice	4
Effective date	4
What legislation does this advice relate to?	4
Who is this advice for?	4
Key points	5
Academy/free school presumption process	6
Overview	6
Local authority consultation	6
Impact assessment	6
Seeking proposals	6
Funding arrangements	7
Notifying the department – school specification	7
Notifying the department – proposals	8
Sponsor approval	8
Completing the assessment	8
Funding agreement	9
Sponsor consultation	10
Communication	10
Other useful information	10
Further sources of information	11
Targeted Basic Need Programme	11
Associated resources (external links)	11
You may also be interested in (internal links)	11

Summary

About this departmental advice

1. This advice is non-statutory. It is part of the department's guidance to local authorities (LAs) on the establishment of new schools. It sets out for LAs and new school proposers the department's expectations of how the academy/free school presumption process should operate in practice and the characteristics and qualities that new school proposers must demonstrate. This advice applies to all new schools established under the academy/free school presumption, including those that are proposed to be funded from the Targeted Basic Need Programme.

2. The Education Act 2011 changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced section 6A (the academy/free school presumption) to the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Where a LA thinks there is a need for a new school in its area it must seek proposals to establish an academy/free school. Section 6A came into effect:

- on 1 February 2012 for new schools other than pupil referral units; and
- on 1 September 2012 for new pupil referral units.

Effective date

3. This advice applies from 16 May 2013. The requirements set out in this advice supersede those of the previous version. This advice applies to any proposed new schools where LAs seek academy/free school proposals on or after the date of its publication, and all new schools for which LAs have applied for funding from the Targeted Basic Need Programme.

What legislation does this advice relate to?

4. - The Education Act 2011 (EA 2011).
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006).
- The Academies Act 2010 (AA 2010).

Who is this advice for?

5. This advice is for:
- Local authorities; and
 - New school proposers.

Key points

6. The presumption arrangements require LAs to seek proposals to establish an academy/free school where they have identified the need for a new school in their area. The LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital and pre-/post-opening costs.
7. All new academy/free school proposals require the Secretary of State's approval. It is the Secretary of State who will enter into a funding agreement with the proposer.
8. LAs must notify the Secretary of State of their plans to seek proposals for a new school as soon as the need for a new school has been agreed.
9. Once formal proposals are received, the Secretary of State must be provided with details of all proposers. The Secretary of State will then notify the LA if he has any concerns about a proposer's capability or capacity to deliver the proposal and particularly where he is minded not to enter into a funding agreement with a particular proposer.
10. The LA should assess all proposals received (see advice in paragraphs 23-25). The outcome of the LA's assessment should be sent to the Secretary of State. In deciding the proposer with whom he would be prepared to enter into a funding agreement, the Secretary of State will consider the LA assessment very carefully. The preference indicated by the LA will be a key factor in that consideration. However, he will reserve the right to put in place a proposer of his own choice, particularly where there is further evidence available to him about the suitability of a proposer – or the availability of a better proposer. The intention is to ensure that the school is always established by the best proposer possible.

Academy/free school presumption process

Overview

11. Where a LA thinks a new school needs to be established in their area, section 6A of EIA 2006 places the LA under a duty to seek proposals to establish an academy/free school and to specify a date by which proposals must be submitted to the LA. In considering the need for a new school, LAs should factor in any free school projects that the department has approved and are due to open.

12. For the Targeted Basic Need Programme, LAs will need confirmation of their provisional funding allocations for new provision as early as possible. For that reason the department will be working to the timescales provided in the table at Annex A to ensure that it is possible to provide that confirmation by early December. LAs must adhere to these timescales for each element of the process. If you have any queries about the timetable please contact: academy.presumption@education.gsi.gov.uk

Local authority consultation

13. It will be for LAs to decide how to consult on the proposed new school and with whom (e.g. other schools, academies, the wider community, diocese and any others affected by the proposals). They should be clear from their school place planning about the type (e.g. mainstream, special educational needs, PRU), age range, gender and capacity of the academy/free school they wish to see established, and the expected cost.

Impact assessment

14. As part of the planning process for new schools, LAs must also undertake an assessment of impact of the proposal, both on other existing educational institutions locally and in terms of impact on particular groups of pupils from an equalities perspective. This is to enable the Secretary of State to meet his duties under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 and under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Most LAs will already do this, so in practice it will just be a matter of providing the Secretary of State with a copy of their assessment. However, in the unlikely event that the Secretary of State has concerns about the level of analysis, he reserves the right to ask a LA to undertake further work on their assessment.

Seeking proposals

15. The LA should take all necessary steps to ensure that the widest possible range of groups or organisations that might be interested in establishing the new school are aware of the opportunity to do so, including any local 'outstanding' schools or other potential proposers that might be interested in applying to run the school. LAs can access the

department's list of approved sponsors [here](#). The department will also play a role in generating interest from high quality proposers – by posting details of new academy/free school proposals on its own website, encouraging key stakeholders to do the same and by sign-posting proposals to existing sponsors or potential sponsors who we are aware are keen to operate in that region.

Funding arrangements

16. As under the previous new school competition arrangements, the LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school, and meeting all associated capital costs (unless they are successful in bidding for funding from the Targeted Basic Need Programme).

17. Local authorities are also required to make provision in their growth funds to support increases in pupil numbers relating to basic need. This relates to the per-pupil revenue funding in addition to all funding for pre-opening development costs and post-opening funding required to address diseconomies of scale until a school reaches full capacity. This is because the new academy or free school will be funded on a recoupment basis. School funding arrangements allow LAs to retain funding centrally to cover these costs. This is detailed in full in the 2013-14 School Finance Regulations which were published in December 2012. Further information can be obtained [here](#).

18. Local authorities are expected to work with selected proposers to agree a reasonable and mutually acceptable funding allocation for the LA to cover pre- and post-opening costs. The department will provide a one-off payment of £25,000 to the successful proposer for the legal costs associated with establishing a new academy/free school. Upon opening, the school will be funded by the EFA on the same basis as other academies and free schools in the same LA area.

Notifying the department – school specification

19. The LA must notify the department as soon as the need for a new school has been agreed, forwarding to the department:

- a copy of the new school specification, including confirmation:
 - o that the LA has identified the required capital to establish the new school, the amount and its source (e.g. the Targeted Basic Need Programme);
 - o that the LA will meet all pre- and post-opening costs associated with establishing the new school (Paragraphs 16-18);
 - o that the LA will provide the site for the new school (this is also a condition of the Targeted Basic Need Programme);

- o of the address of the site for the new school, or all sites where a school will operate from split sites;
- o of site ownership or tenure arrangements and how these will operate for the new school. For schools that are intended to be funded from the Targeted Basic Need Programme it is important that the required land will be available to deliver the additional pupil places by September 2015 at the latest;
- their impact assessment (Paragraph 14);
- a link to the LA's website page where the relevant information will be available to interested parties.

20. A condition of any funding from the Targeted Basic Need Programme will be that the new school specification published under the academy/free school presumption process will be that for which the department has agreed funding.

Notifying the department – proposals

21. Once the specified date for submitting the academy/free school proposals to the LA has passed, the LA must provide details of all proposers that have submitted formal proposals, to the Secretary of State for initial consideration.

Sponsor approval

22. The Secretary of State will only consider entering into a funding agreement with an approved sponsor. (The department's approved sponsor list can be accessed [here](#). Consequently, new proposers will need to be assessed by the department through the normal sponsor approval route. Information on the department's sponsor approval process can be found [here](#)). We recommend that LAs make it clear when publishing their proposals that proposers who are not known to the department will have to go through this process and should contact the department at the outset, and certainly before submitting a formal proposal to the LA.

Completing the assessment

23. The LA should complete an assessment of proposals and provide the Secretary of State at the earliest opportunity with this and their scoring of the proposals, alongside a written notification setting out the steps the authority has taken to seek proposals for an academy/free school.

24. The assessment should be based on the following criteria:

- the capacity and quality of the proposer. The Secretary of State assesses on the basis of the criteria [here](#). The LA should bear in mind that when considering a LA's

assessment, the department will focus on these criteria, particularly those around strategic vision, educational capacity and performance, financial planning and operational capacity and governance. For existing sponsors, the department will focus on the credibility and track record of the proposer, their capacity to take on new projects and the local infrastructure that will support the proposal;

- the capability and capacity of the proposer to deliver this project on time, to secure best value for money, and to maintain financial viability. The proposer's financial plans should be consistent with the rest of their application, for example, in terms of staffing, pupil numbers and the education plan. They should be based on realistic assumptions about income and expenditure, and demonstrate that allowance has been made for unforeseen contingencies; and
- the extent to which proposals demonstrate the proposers' capability to promote high standards, and to innovate to drive system change. For example, demonstrating a focussed and coherent education plan that sets out the key innovations of the school, including the proposed curriculum; the approach to teaching and any particular ethos; how these will combine to achieve improved performance; how the anticipated needs of pupils with differing abilities will be met; and the proposer's aspirations for pupil achievement and measures of success. The proposal should give strong, credible evidence that the new school will raise the overall standard of education available in the local area, adding very high-quality places to the system.

25. The LA may state its preferred proposer or ranking of proposers, which the Secretary of State will take into consideration when deciding whether or not to enter into a funding agreement with any of the proposers.

Funding agreement

26. Before deciding whether or not to enter into a funding agreement with any proposer, the Secretary of State will need to be satisfied about their suitability to set up and run an academy/free school. The LA should therefore undertake due diligence checks on new proposers. Any proposals put forward by organisations which advocate violence or other illegal activity will be rejected. In order to be approved, proposals should demonstrate that they would support UK democratic values including respect for the basis on which UK laws are made and applied; respect for democracy; support for individual liberties within the law; and mutual tolerance and respect. In order to enable the Secretary of State to take an informed decision, the department may ask proposers to provide additional information about themselves and to consent to checks being carried out.

27. As soon as a suitable proposer is agreed "in principle" by the Secretary of State, the department will notify the LA, the successful proposer and the local MP. Once they have been notified of the successful proposer, the LA can then inform other applicants that they have not been successful. It will then be for the successful proposer to work

towards agreeing a funding agreement and establishing the new academy/free school with support from the LA and the department, as required. Where Targeted Basic Need funding has been agreed, the school should be delivered to the original approved specification, and adhere to this model for at least two years after opening, unless there are extraordinary circumstances that would lead to a reconsideration of requirements.

Sponsor consultation

28. The successful proposer is under a duty, as required by section 10 of the AA 2010, to consult such persons as they think appropriate on whether they should enter into a funding agreement for the new school with the Secretary of State.

29. The LA will continue to have an interest because of its duties to secure sufficient suitable schools.

Communication

30. All documentation should be submitted electronically to the department for education at: academy.presumption@education.gsi.gov.uk.

31. The department will publish on its website at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolorganisation> details of those LAs that are seeking to establish new schools, including links to their websites. The department will also inform the Independent Academies Association and New Schools Network, to alert potential proposers to the need for a new school.

Other useful information

32. Local authorities must continue to plan for and secure sufficient schools and places for their area in line with their duties under section 14 of the Education Act 1996.

33. Once LAs have published their new school specification they may not withdraw from the academy/free school presumption process.

34. “Academy” is the legal term which also includes free schools of all types, university technical colleges and some studio schools, including 16-19 and alternative provision (pupil referral unit) academies. This document uses “academy/free school” as the collective term for these types of educational institutions.

35. “Proposer” and “sponsor” in this document refer to the body or group that is proposing the new school.

Further sources of information

Targeted Basic Need Programme

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/executiveagencies/efa/schoolscapital/a00222248/targeted-basic-need-programme>

Associated resources (external links)

- Education Act 2011 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/contents/enacted>
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/contents>
- Academies Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/32/contents>
- New Schools Network <http://www.newschoolsnetwork.org/>
- Independent Academies Association <http://www.iaa.uk.net>

You may also be interested in (internal links)

New School Proposals – information and links seeking proposers to establish a new academy or Free School

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolorganisation/b00210493/new-school-proposals>

Free Schools

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/freeschools>

Sponsored Academies

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>

University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/technical>

Pupil Referral Units

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00211923/alternative-provision>

ANNEX A

Timetable for proposals under the Targeted Basic Need Programme

DfE informs LAs of provisional targeted basic need funding allocations	By June 2013
LA should publish specification inviting proposals to establish new academy/free school (NB the LA will need to notify the DfE of all proposals by 16 September so should set its own deadlines accordingly)	By 15 July 2013
LAs should alert the DfE to any expressions of interest they have received from potential proposers*	By 2 August 2013
DfE will provide feedback on expressions of interest	By 16 August 2013
LA should inform DfE of all proposals received	By 16 September
LA should submit assessment of proposals to DfE indicating any preference(s)	By 11 October 2013
DfE confirm sponsor and funding allocations for new academy	By 6 December 2013

*This will enable the DfE to let LAs know where the Secretary of State is minded not enter into a Funding Agreement with a particular proposer.



Department
for Education

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at: www.education.gov.uk/contactus.

This document is available online at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolorganisation/f00209212/establishing-new-school>

Appendix E Evaluation and Scoring Criteria						
Topic	Ques tions		Percentage of Total Score	Tall Oaks	Parish	
Topic 1						
	1	Vision and educational experience	10.00			
	2	Capacity and capability	10.00			
	3	Supporting Partnership working in Lincolnshire	5.00			
	4	Qualities and ideas that will impact on standards and schools improvement	5.00			
	5	Championing the needs of vulnerable children	5.00			
	6	Diversity, parental choice and community engagement	5.00			
	7	Staffing the school and recruiting the governing body	5.00			
	8	Managing the opening of the new school/Academy	5.00			
	9	Managing transition from 1 reception to 7 years intake	5.00			
	10	What will differentiate your proposal?	5.00			
			Sub-Total			
		Presentation	15.00			
	1	Question 1	5.00			
	2	Question 2	5.00			
	3	Question 3	5.00			
	4	Question 4	5.00			
	5	Question 5	5.00			
			Sub-Total			
Overall Percentage Achieved						

Appendix F

Process to select an operator for a new Primary Academy in Gainsborough - Questions on 20th September

Presentation Title

"Take us on the journey of your pupils from their very first day in the new academy. Describe their experiences as they progress and prepare for moving on to secondary education."

Questions to ask applicants

QUESTIONS 1 - 5
1. What do you understand by the term "vulnerable children"? Everyone is responsible for safeguarding, but in practical terms how will you ensure this in the new Academy?
2. Within your trust or organisation which areas of delivery would you prioritise as requiring improvement or development? And in terms of individual Academies give details of your school improvement cycle and how will you use this to maintain and raise standards at the new Academy?
3. What will your trust or organisation look like in 10 years' time and how will you ensure the stability of your own organisation together with succession planning within the new Academy to maintain its successful progress?
4. What would you consider to be the weakest element of your application and how would you like to improve in that area?
5. What evidence can you give to assure the panel that you will be able to manage and open the school to admit pupils in September 2015?

Appendix G Scores awarded to applicants					
Topic	Ques tions		Percentage of Total Score	Tall Oaks	Parish
Topic 1					
	1	Vision and educational experience	10.00	6.8	6.4
	2	Capacity and capability	10.00	8.4	5.6
	3	Supporting Partnership working in Lincolnshire	5.00	3.0	3.5
	4	Qualities and ideas that will impact on standards and schools improvement	5.00	4.0	3.0
	5	Championing the needs of vulnerable children	5.00	3.4	3.9
	6	Diversity, parental choice and community engagement	5.00	3.8	2.9
	7	Staffing the school and recruiting the governing body	5.00	3.5	3.5
	8	Managing the opening of the new school/Academy	5.00	4.0	3.1
	9	Managing transition from 1 reception to 7 years intake	5.00	4.1	2.7
	10	What will differentiate your proposal?	5.00	3.0	3.0
			Sub-Total	44.0	37.6
		Presentation	15.00	11.1	11.4
	1	Question 1	5.00	4.1	3.3
	2	Question 2	5.00	4.0	2.4
	3	Question 3	5.00	4.0	2.1
	4	Question 4	5.00	4.1	2.9
	5	Question 5	5.00	4.0	2.7
			Sub-Total	31.3	24.8
Overall Percentage Achieved				75.3	62.4

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Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	Consultation on Changes to the System of School Organisation

Summary:

The changes proposed by the Department for Education (DfE) are summarised in Appendix A and included in full in the DfE consultation document in Appendix B. This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC) to consider and comment on the draft responses prepared by Local Authority (LA) officers to the consultation as detailed in the attached response form (Appendix C). The DfE launched the e-consultation on 12 September 2013 and responses must be received by 24 October 2013.

Actions Required:

- (1) To consider and provide comment on the appended consultation document together with the response form which incorporates the draft responses.
- (2) To agree any additional comments to be incorporated into the response form.

1. Background

The LA has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. The LA must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in the area to promote diversity and increase parental choice. Under the current legislative arrangements there are strict requirements that must be met and a process to be followed, either by the LA or the Governing Body of the school or academy, before a "prescribed change" (eg expansion or change in age range) can be implemented at a school or an academy.

The DfE are proposing deregulating the current processes to give more freedom to schools and academies enabling them to be more in charge of their own decisions about size and composition and respond to what parents want locally. For some "prescribed changes" statutory processes would be retained but made less prescriptive with a shortened time period. Further detail regarding which changes

are proposed to be made without a statutory process and those which would require the streamlined process is provided on the attached Appendix A.

2. Conclusion

LA officers have considered the impact of the DfE consultation document and summarised it in the attached document (Appendix A). Following discussions with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the CYPSC draft comments have been incorporated into the response form (Appendix C) for discussion and comment from CYPSC.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Summary of changes proposed in the DfE consultation
Appendix B	DfE Consultation document on Changes to the System of School Organisation
Appendix C	Consultation response form for submission by the LA to the DfE

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Michelle Andrews, who can be contacted on 01522 553269 or Michelle.andrews@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

DfE Consultation on "Changes to the System of School Organisation"

On 12 September 2013, the DfE launched a six-week [e-consultation](#) on its plans to amend the existing legislative and policy requirements for making significant changes to schools and academies (including: enlargement of premises, changes to age range, adding boarding provision). The aim of these changes is for schools to be more in charge of their own decisions about size and composition and to be able to respond to what parents want locally without being unduly restricted by process. The closing date for the receipt of responses is 24 October 2013.

In practice these changes would mean that for individual maintained schools some statutory processes would be either removed altogether or streamlined and for academies certain changes could be made without formally seeking agreement from ministers. (further details below):-

1. LCC Maintained Schools - Removal of statutory process

Governing Bodies of maintained schools will be able to make the following changes without following a statutory process:

- Expansion ie enlargement of premises
- Changes to age range by a year or more (although statutory proposals will still be required to add a sixth form)
- Adding boarding provision

Notes

- (i) Any changes would be subject to the school having suitable accommodation and having secured the necessary funding
- (ii) Where the above changes are proposed by the LA it will be necessary to follow the streamlined statutory process (detailed below)
- (ii) Special schools must follow the streamlined process for any changes to their size and composition
- (iii) It would be expected that some form of consultation would still take place regarding all the above changes

2. LCC Maintained Schools - Streamlined statutory process

The streamlined process would be made shorter by removing the requirement to consult before publishing proposals and reducing the Statutory Representation Period from 6 to 4 weeks. In addition proposals will require less detail, have less prescriptive publication requirements and also involve distribution to a reduced list of interested parties.

This streamlined process would apply to the following changes:

- Adding or removing a sixth form
- Removing boarding provision
- Adding, removing, or altering SEN provision
- Change of single sex to mixed provision or vice versa
- Transferring to a new site
- Closure of one site in a split-site school
- Change of category of school

3. Academies

It is proposed to allow academies to make the following changes without having to seek formal agreement from ministers although this would also be subject to the academy having secured the necessary funding and undertaking local consultation:

- Expansion ie enlargement of premises
- Changes to age range by a year or more (other than adding or removing a sixth form)
- Adding boarding provision
- Changes in admissions arrangements for the early academies (approximately 200) where this was written into their funding agreements. This does not apply to later academies

Notes

- (i) Academies must still secure EFA consent for other significant changes
- (ii) Academies must contact EFA to make changes to their funding agreements

4. Establishing and discontinuing maintained schools

Although the response form does not include a question on this, it does form part of the consultation.

With regard to closing a school it is proposed to retain the statutory consultation period but as in the above streamlined process proposals will require less detail, have less prescriptive publication requirements and also involve distribution to a reduced list of interested parties.

It is also proposed to streamline the legislative requirements regarding the establishment of a new school but this will have minimal impact as following the introduction of the Academy Presumption a new maintained school can only be set up in very limited circumstances.

5. Implications for LCC

Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expansions will still be subject to the planning application process regarding alterations to accommodation and therefore the LA will be able to submit objections on the expansion of premises.• The streamlined process will be of benefit to the LA in that it will make the processes shorter. For previous consultation proposals it has often been difficult to complete the required processes in time for the required implementation date.
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will be easier for schools and academies to expand their capacity which might cause difficulties for the LA's Pupil Place Planning duty.• It will be easier for schools and academies to offer Early Learning places to 2 year olds which might complicate the monitoring of sufficiency of Early Years provision by the Birth to Five Service on behalf of the LA.
Response to mitigate impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporate a requirement that schools and academies must consult with the LA regarding the sufficiency of places and the need for expansion.• Incorporate a requirement that the EFA will consult with the LA prior to agreeing any significant changes or altering funding agreements with academies.



Department
for Education

Launch date 12 September 2013
Respond by 24 October 2013
Ref: Department for Education

Changes to the System of School Organisation

Changes to the System of School Organisation

The Department for Education is considering amending the existing legislative and policy requirements for making significant changes to schools.

The aim is for schools to be more in charge of their own decisions about size and composition and to be able to respond to what parents want locally without being unduly restricted by process. In practice, this means that:

- individual maintained schools would have the freedom to make certain changes (e.g. enlargement of premises) without following a statutory process;
- the requirement for academies to apply to the department for permission to make similar changes would be removed;
- the statutory processes would be slimmed down for certain other changes to maintained schools (e.g. a single sex school becoming co-educational) by reducing the length of the process and the level of prescription.

This consultation seeks views on the implementation of these aims.

To Parents/Carers, Nurseries and Other Pre-School Settings, Local Authorities, Training Providers, Early Years Practitioners, Childminders, Schools, Teachers

Issued 12 September 2013

Enquiries To If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

e-mail: schoolorganisation.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370

000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](#) page.

1 Alterations to maintained schools

1.1 Alterations to maintained schools¹

Freedoms for individual schools

Provided they already have suitable accommodation, or have secured any necessary funding to expand school buildings,² **individual maintained mainstream schools will have the freedom to make the following changes without following a statutory process:**

- expansion (enlargement of premises);
- changes to a school's lower or upper age range (other than adding or removing a sixth form) by a year or more. In particular this will make it easier for schools to offer Early Learning places to two-year-olds³;
- adding boarding provision.

1.2 Although we are removing the duty to follow a statutory process, we would still expect some form of consultation to be undertaken by schools when proposing these changes.

1.3 In line with their sufficiency duties, LAs will still have the power to propose these changes for community schools, but must follow a streamlined statutory process.

1.4 Streamlined statutory processes

For alterations where a statutory process is to be retained, we intend to streamline the legislative requirements by introducing new secondary legislation – The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013⁴ – which is available [here](#).

1 - Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006

2 - Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006

3 - This does not allow schools to add an additional phase of education, which may constitute a new school for which the academy presumption would apply

4 - These replace the 2007 Regulations of the same name.

1.5 This will reduce the length of the statutory process by:

- removing the requirement to consult before publishing proposals_(usually 4 to 6 weeks at present). This does not prevent proposers from undertaking informal consultation if they want to do so.⁵
- reducing the statutory representation period from 6 to 4 weeks. This will continue to allow for the submission of comments that must be taken into account by the decision maker.

1.6 It will also reduce the level of prescription for:

- the detail that proposals must contain;
- publication requirements;
- the prescribed list of bodies to whom proposals must be sent.

1.7 The slimmed down processes would apply to the following changes: adding/ removing a sixth form; removing boarding provision; adding/ removing/ altering SEN provision; single sex school becoming co-educational (or vice versa); transferring to a new site; closure of one site in a split site school; changes of category.

1.8 Special schools will have to follow the new streamlined statutory process to make changes to their school size and composition.

1.9 Further information on who will be able to make what changes under the new Prescribed Alteration Regulations is available **here** and guidance will also be made available.

5 - Expansion of buildings will be subject to planning law and regulations that include public consultation.

2 Alterations to academies

2.1 We are proposing to give individual academies the freedom to make the following changes (provided they have secured any necessary funding, and have conducted a local consultation as part of their decision making process), **without having to follow a formal process to seek agreement from ministers:**

- expansion (enlargement of premises), the costs of which the academy would meet through its own resources or having been successful in obtaining funding. There is no automatic right for capital funding as a result of having taken the decision to expand;
- changes to an academy's lower or upper age range (other than adding or removing a sixth form) by a year or more. In particular this will make it easier for academies to offer Early Learning places to two-year-olds⁶;
- adding boarding provision;
- any changes in admissions arrangements for the first (around 200) academies where this was written into their funding agreements⁷.

2.2 Academies will still need to secure Education Funding Agency consent for all other significant changes not listed here. They will also need to contact the Education Funding Agency to make changes to their funding agreements, and the details that are held for them.

6 - This does not allow academies to add an additional phase of education without seeking consent from the EFA.

7 - Changes to admission arrangements can only be made in line with the School Admissions Code

3 Establishing and discontinuing maintained schools

3.1 The Education Act 2011 introduced the ‘academy presumption’ (where a LA has identified the need for a new school, it must first seek proposals to establish an academy or free school). However, there are still limited circumstances in which a new maintained school can be established⁸ and we intend to streamline the legislative requirements by:

- removing the statutory requirement to hold a public meeting;
- reducing the level of prescription for:
 - how maintained school proposals⁹, and revocation of proposals where circumstances have changed and the proposal is no longer needed, must be published;
 - the detail that proposals must contain;
 - the length of the representation period for non-academy bids;
 - the bodies – other than the Secretary of State – who must be informed of non-academy bids.¹⁰ This will be for the LA to determine and they need only inform others if no academy proposals are received or approved.

3.2 We have updated the conditions that a decision may be subject to ‘conditional approval’. **Decisions now only need to be published on the LA’s website** and the list of bodies that must be notified separately has been reduced, leaving this largely to the LA’s discretion.

3.3 We have also reduced the level of prescription required to close a school, whilst retaining the statutory consultation period. Specifically, we have reduced: how proposals must be published;¹¹ the detail they must contain; the length of the representation period; and the bodies who must be informed of the decision.

8 - School competitions under section 7 of the Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006

9 - Under section 10 of EIA 2006, or in special cases (under section 11 of EIA 2006

10 - To compliment this we intend to add a requirement that where a copy of the notice is requested, the LA must provide this within one week. 11 - Under section 15 of EIA 2006

- 3.4 The proposed new secondary legislation for establishing and discontinuing maintained schools – The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 – is available **here**.¹²

4 How To Respond

- 4.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations

or by downloading a response form which should be completed and emailed to schoolorganisation.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk

Or sent by post to:

Jamie Zucker
Education Choice and Access Division,
4th Floor
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

5 Additional Copies

- 5.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations

6 Plans for making results public

- 6.1 The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website by the end of 2013.

12 - These replace the 2007 Regulations of the same name.

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Department
for Education

APPENDIX C

Consultation Response Form

Consultation closing date: 24 October 2013
Your comments must reach us by that date

Changes to the System of School Organisation

If you would prefer to respond online to this consultation please use the following link: <https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for confidentiality:	

Name: Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services	
Please tick if you are responding on behalf of your organisation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name of Organisation (if applicable):Lincolnshire County Council	
Address: County Offices, Newland LINCOLN LN1 1YQ	

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](#) page.

Please mark one box that best describes you as a respondent, and/or the type of organisation in which you have an interest.

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Carer	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintained school	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative of childcare or early years intermediary organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Academy/free school	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> SEN provider
<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery or other pre-school provider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Early years professional
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

Please Specify:

Lincolnshire County Council

Changes to the School Organisation System

As set out in the consultation summary document, the aim of the proposed changes is to enable schools to be more in charge of their own decisions about size and offer, and to be able to respond to what parents want locally without being unduly restricted by process.

1 Please use the box provided to comment on the proposals to enable maintained mainstream schools to make the alterations below without following a statutory process.

- Expansion (enlargement of premises).
- Changes to a school's lower and upper age range (except adding or removing a sixth form).
- Adding boarding provision.

Comments:

The LA understands the benefits of reducing bureaucracy but this should not be at the expense of a thorough and open process.

The LA believes consultation to be a vital part of the process and it is imperative that the opportunity be provided for the local community to be involved in what is happening in their own locality. This is particularly important where changes such as expansion and changes to age ranges are likely to impact on other schools and should not be made without considering the views of those affected.

It should be highlighted that such changes would also cause difficulties for the authority to fulfil its duty of providing sufficient school places if a school can expand its capacity or change the age range without full consultation. The LA will continue to have a statutory obligation to plan school places but without the strategic overview where changes could be made by schools over which the LA would have no control or input. There would be similar difficulties in monitoring the sufficiency of Early Years Provision in the county

Whilst for expansions the LA appreciates that the planning application process exists, this is often much later after the principle of expansion has been decided. Also the planning process does not take account of various factors relating to educational provision and the impact on other providers. As a two tier authority planning applications submitted directly by schools would go through district planners not county planning and as such the LA may not always have the opportunity to respond to district applications.

To summarise therefore the LA believe that a process involving consultation should be maintained and this should incorporate a requirement for the LA to be consulted regarding the sufficiency of places and the need to expand

2 Please use the box provided to comment on the proposals below to streamline the statutory process for making other changes to maintained schools (as set out in the draft regulations and *Who can do what?* table).

Reducing the length of the statutory process by:

- removing requirement to consult before publishing proposals;
- reducing the statutory representation period from 6 to 4 weeks.

Reducing the level of prescription for:

- the detail that proposals must contain;
- publication requirements;
- the prescribed list of bodies to whom proposals must be sent.

Comments:

As already detailed in the response to Question 1 the LA believes consultation to be a vital part of the process and it is imperative that the opportunity be provided for the local community to be involved in what is happening in their own locality. The LA does not object to the streamlining of the process but is against reducing the opportunity for consultation.

The LA believes therefore that the consultation period should be retained in the streamlined process although is happy to accept a reduction in the Representation Period from 6 to 4 weeks.

In addition, in order to ensure that the local community is fully engaged in the process, the LA believes that both the publication requirements and the prescribed list of bodies to whom proposals should be sent should be retained as in the current statutory process.

3 Please use the box provided to comment on the proposals to enable academies to make the alterations below without the need to have a business case agreed by the department.

- Expansion (enlargement of premises).
- Changes to an academy's lower and upper age range (except adding or removing a sixth form).
- Adding boarding provision.
- Changes in admissions arrangements for the first academies where this was written into their funding agreements.

Comments:

The LA believes that the process which applies to maintained schools should also be applied to academies and would like to reiterate the importance of full and open consultation.

Therefore a thorough process of consultation should be retained to ensure that the local community has the opportunity to be fully involved in what is happening in their own locality.

This process should include a requirement for the academy to consult with the LA prior to agreeing any significant changes. As already referred to in the response to question 1, the LA would experience difficulty in fulfilling its statutory obligation to plan school places without the strategic overview and involvement in any consultation process as changes would be likely to be made over which the LA has no control or input.

4 Please use the box provided to comment on what further changes, if any, the government could make to enable schools to be more in charge of their own decisions about school size and composition.

Comments: Response to section 3 Establishing and discontinuing maintained schools. Following the introduction of the Academy Presumption the LA appreciates that the circumstances when a new maintained school can be established are very limited. However this makes it even more important that a thorough process should be followed and believes that the level of prescription for the current process should be retained and not streamlined. The LA believes that public consultation is vital and must be included in some form but would accept that a public meeting may not be essential if consultation is carried out by other means eg by offering individual appointments to interested parties with LA officers. The discontinuation of a school may have a significant impact on a community and therefore the LA supports the retention of the statutory consultation period as proposed. However, bearing in mind the importance of the closure of a school, and to enable the local community to be fully engaged, the LA believes that the current process should be retained and not reduced although the LA does support the principle of the reduction of any unnecessary bureaucracy.
--

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply.	X
E-mail address for acknowledgement: Linda.duffield@lincolnshire.gov.uk	

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, please confirm below if you would be willing to be contacted again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	--

All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office [Principles on Consultation](#)

The key Consultation Principles are:

- departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before
- departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and consult with those who are affected
- consultation should be 'digital by default', but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy; and
- the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

Responses should be completed on-line or emailed to the relevant consultation email box. However, if you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Carole Edge, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: carole.edge@education.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed responses should be sent to the address shown below by 24 October 2013

Send by post to:

Education Choice and Access Division,
4th Floor
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Send by e-mail to: schoolorganisation.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 and Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 and Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15 which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 30 October 2013. The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of her consideration of this item.

Actions Required:

- (1) To consider the attached report and to determine whether the Committee supports the recommendation to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services set out in the report.
- (2) To agree any additional comments to be passed to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services in relation to this item.

1. Background

The Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services is due to consider the report on School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 and Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15. The full report to the Executive Councillor is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

In June 2013, the Government announced its latest plans for changes to school funding arrangements from 2014/15. The Local Authority (LA) has a duty to ensure that its local schools funding formula is compliant. Proposals were therefore developed and all schools were consulted from 5 September 2013. A report was presented to the Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2013 to explain the position and outline the next steps in the process. Since then, the results of the consultation have been carefully considered, including by a working group of Schools Forum members on 24 September 2013. The Schools Forum will formally consider the LA's proposals at its meeting on 9 October. Officers will then reflect on its views before the Executive Councillor is asked to agree

formally Lincolnshire's proposals for the funding of schools in 2014/15. A decision by the Executive Councillor is required before 31 October 2013, to enable the LA to submit a proforma to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) setting out how it plans to fund schools from next year.

As reported to the Committee in September, the DfE's latest proposals are largely a refinement of the changes made in 2013/14 and the impact upon most schools is likely to be much more modest. To assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering this further, a copy of an extract from the report to the Schools Forum on 9 October 2013 is attached at Appendix 1. The report shows that whilst the schools' response rate was disappointingly low at 12%, a majority voted in favour of the LA's proposals. The document also shows that when the consultation questions and the feedback from schools were considered by a working group comprising members of the Schools Forum, the LA's proposals attracted overwhelming support. The proposals that are being presented to the Schools Forum on 9 October therefore remain unchanged from the original proposals. They enable the LA to respond positively to the DfE's expectations, provide a fairer system of funding for schools and offer a significant degree of stability in school funding next year.

The table below outlines the consultation that has taken place so far.

26 June 2013	Schools Forum consulted.
5 September 2013 to 19 September 2013	Individual school governing bodies consulted.
6 September 2013	Scrutiny Committee consulted.
24 September 2013	Working party of Schools Forum representatives consulted on the feedback from schools.

2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services. The Committee's views will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Extract from a report to Schools Forum on 9 October 2013 entitled 'School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and changes for 2014/15'

Appendix B	Report and Appendices to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 and Arrangements and Changes for 2014/15
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5. Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

BACKGROUND PAPERS			
PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Report to Scrutiny Committee	School funding reforms 2014/15	6 September 2013	Committee Services, LCC
Report to Schools Forum	'School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and changes for 2014/15'	9 October 2013	Committee Services, LCC

This report was written by Tony Warnock, Head of Finance, Children's and Specialist Services. tony.warnock@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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CONSULTATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Note: the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee was supportive of the LA's proposals, as set out in the consultation with schools, and looked forward to receiving feedback from the consultation at its meeting in October 2013.

Consultation question	School responses	Schools' comments	Working group response	The LA's latest proposal
Q1 Do you agree that the secondary school lump sum should be increased to £0.175m?	<p>Primary: Yes – 82% No – 18%</p> <p>Secondary: Yes – 80% No – 20%</p> <p>This question is relevant to the secondary sector.</p>	<p>There were few comments. Clearly, primary schools were generally supportive and the only concern centred on the impact upon primary school budgets (note: there will be no impact). Mixed views were express by secondary schools. One supported the protection of small schools whilst another questioned the educational opportunities for pupils in small secondary schools.</p>	<p>A detailed discussion took place. The challenges faced by some secondary schools and the LA's strategic approach to this were discussed.</p> <p>The working group unanimously supported the LA's proposal.</p>	<p>The LA proposes to increase the secondary school block allocation to £0.175m, with that being funded from the secondary sector's age weighted pupil unit value.</p> <p>This marks a partial reversal of the change made for 2013/14. One again, the minimum funding guarantee will continue to offer protection to schools.</p>
Q2 Do you agree that the sparsity factor should not be introduced in the primary sector?	<p>Primary: Yes – 75% No – 25%</p> <p>Secondary: Yes – 90% No – 10%</p>	<p>There were few comments. No common concerns were cited.</p>	<p>The working group unanimously supported the LA's proposal.</p>	<p>The LA does not propose to introduce this factor and therefore there will be no impact upon school budgets.</p>

	<p>This question is relevant to the primary sector.</p> <p>Primary: Yes – 75% No – 25%</p> <p>Secondary: Yes – 60% No – 40%</p> <p>This question is relevant to the secondary sector.</p>	<p>There were very few comments.</p>	<p>One member suggested that a more strategic approach to small secondary schools was necessary.</p> <p>The working group supported the LA's proposal. One member of the Schools Forum voted against.</p>	<p>The LA proposes to introduce a sparsity factor for secondary schools. This will be set at a rate of £0.1m per school and operate without tapering.</p> <p>This will be funded from the age weighted pupil unit value in the secondary sector.</p> <p>Like the proposed increase in the lump sum factor (see above), this will partially offset the loss in funding suffered by some small secondary schools in 2013/14. Unfortunately, not all small secondary schools will benefit due to the DfE's qualifying criteria (i.e. a school must have < 600 pupils on roll and an average sparsity distance of > 3 miles).</p>
<p>Q3 Do you agree that the sparsity factor should be introduced for secondary schools at a rate of £0.1m per school, and without tapering?</p>	<p>Primary: Yes – 75% No – 25%</p> <p>Secondary: Yes – 100% No – 0%</p> <p>This question is more relevant to the secondary sector at present.</p>	<p>There were few comments that dissented from the LA's proposal. One primary school suggested that the difficulties outlined in the consultation regarding subjectivity of funding allocations could be overcome. Two secondary schools objected to the DfE's exclusion from this funding of schools that are not assessed by OFSTED to be good or outstanding.</p>	<p>The working group recognised the significant impact falling rolls were having on some small secondary schools, but concluded that the introduction of this factor could not solve these complex situations. The LA's approach to these issues was outlined.</p> <p>The working group unanimously</p>	<p>The LA does not propose to introduce this factor and therefore there will be no impact upon school funding.</p>
<p>Q4 Do you agree that the LA should not introduce a factor to support schools with falling rolls?</p>				

<p>Q5 Do you agree that the LA should seek to maintain the same overall level of funding for low cost, high incidence SEN to ensure stability in funding, rather than re-direct more funding into this factor from other pupil-led factors?</p>	<p>Primary: Yes – 100% No – 0%</p> <p>Secondary: Yes – 80% No – 20%</p> <p>This question is relevant to the secondary sector.</p>	<p>There were very few comments. No common concerns were cited.</p>	<p>supported the LA's proposal.</p> <p>The working group acknowledged that the LA's funding of SEN is a little above the national average and that there is no justification at this time for increasing the funding distributed through this factor.</p> <p>The working group unanimously supported the LA's proposal.</p>	<p>The LA proposes to maintain the current level of low cost, high incidence SEN funding in the secondary sector. Although more pupils will qualify for funding due to the DfE's amendment to the qualifying criteria (i.e. those that do not attain the expected level at Key Stage 2 in English or Maths) the impact upon individual secondary schools should be very modest indeed.</p>
<p>Q6 Do you agree that the LA should not introduce a factor for pupil mobility?</p>	<p>Primary: Yes – 82% No – 18%</p> <p>Secondary: Yes – 100% No – 0%</p>	<p>There were a few comments from primary schools, but mixed views were expressed. Some schools felt that the impact of pupil mobility was not recognised by the LA. By contrast, one school stated that these children attract the pupil premium and another recognised that the DfE's proposed use of October census information would severely undermine the effectiveness of this factor.</p>	<p>The working group acknowledged that the sums that would be allocated to schools would not be material and so the introduction of this factor would run counter to the government's vision for a simplified funding formula.</p> <p>The working group unanimously</p>	<p>The LA does not propose to introduce this factor and therefore there will be no impact upon school budgets.</p>

<p>Q7 Do you agree that a factor for Looked After Children should be introduced in primary and secondary schools in 2014/15?</p>	<p>Primary: Yes – 79% No – 21% Secondary: Yes – 90% No – 10%</p>			<p>There were few comments. Those against the proposal suggested that the pupil premium should provide sufficient funding.</p>		<p>supported the LA's proposal.</p>	<p>The working group concluded that the impact of this funding should be monitored; good practice guidance should be issued to schools; a protocol should be agreed between schools to allow the funding to follow pupils mid year, and; the funding should be used to enable LAC to access education, as some don't attend school.</p>	<p>The working group considered the sum proposed was reasonable and acknowledged that it would be for each school to determine how best to deploy the additional resource.</p>		<p>The LA proposes to introduce this factor. Funding released from the unwinding of transitional protection arrangements this year can be used to finance this additional cost, so there should be no negative impact upon schools' existing budgets.</p>	<p>The LA proposes to set the rate at £1,200. As indicated above, the funding released from the unwinding of transitional protection arrangements this year can be used to finance this additional cost, so there should be no negative impact upon schools' existing budgets.</p>
<p>Q8 Do you agree that the funding for the Looked After Children factor should be set at £1,200 per pupil?</p>	<p>Primary: Yes – 79% No – 21% Secondary: Yes – 90% No – 10%</p>			<p>There were a few comments. These were mixed and there was no common theme.</p>							

**Open Report on behalf of David O'Connor,
Executive Director Performance and Governance**

Report to:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group – Update

Summary:

This report enables the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee to have an overview of the activities of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, in particular the Sub-Group's consideration of child safeguarding matters. The draft minutes of the last meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 25 July 2013 are attached.

Actions Required:

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, held on 25 July 2013, be noted.

1. Background

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group considers both adults' and children's safeguarding matters, in particular focusing on the activities of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board and Strategic Safeguarding Adults and Dignity Board.

The last meeting of the Sub-Group was held on 25 July 2013 and the draft minutes are attached at Appendix A to this report. As the remit of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee includes children's safeguarding, the Committee is requested to focus on those minutes of the Sub-Group, which are relevant to this remit.

2. Conclusion

The draft minutes appended to this report are for the Committee's information.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

This report does not require policy proofing.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Minutes of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 25 July 2013.

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Catherine Wilman, who can be contacted on 01522 55(3788) or catherine.wilman@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

**THURSDAY 25 JULY 2013, COMMITTEE ROOM 3, COUNTY OFFICES,
 NEWLAND, LINCOLN**

PRESENT: Councillors D Brailsford, S R Dodds, P J O'Connor, C R Oxby,
 Mrs N H J Powell, Mrs S Ransome;

Added Members: Emma Olivier-Townrow (Parent Governor Representative);

In attendance: Chris Cook (Independent Chair, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board), Elaine Baylis (Independent Chair, Lincolnshire Strategic Safeguarding Adults and Dignity Board);

Officers in attendance: Debbie Barnes (Director Children's Services), Mandy Cooke (Head of Safeguarding), Simon Evans (Scrutiny Officer), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer), Paula Whitehead (LSCB Business Manager) and Catherine Wilman (Democratic Services Officer).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

AGREED

That Councillor P J O'Connor be elected as Chairman for the coming year.

COUNCILLOR P J O'CONNOR IN THE CHAIR

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

AGREED

That Councillor Mrs N H J Powell be elected as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Burke (District Councils Representative)

4. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared at this stage in the proceedings.

2

**LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING
BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP**

5. MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY
SUB-GROUP HELD ON 14 MARCH 2013

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 14 March 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**LINCOLNSHIRE STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AND
DIGNITY BOARD BUSINESS**

6. INTRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

Mandy Cooke made a presentation to the Sub-Group on adults safeguarding which covered the following areas:

- The purpose of the Adult Safeguarding Board;
- National guidance published by the Department of Health;
- Government's principles on adult safeguarding;
- Care and Support Bill definition;
- The way forward – the vehicle of change.

During questions from members of the Sub Group, the following was confirmed:

- Mandy Cooke explained that better performance indicators were required for private situations between a carer and service user;
- Issues regarding sub-standard care were referred to the Contract Quality and Safeguarding section;
- Mandy Cooke reviewed the training plans of care contractors to ensure they were capable and competent;
- A Workforce Planning and Development Manager ensured all external contracted staff had access to good quality training;
- It was suggested that the Council pay for the training of contracted staff to ensure the Council's standards were met.

It was noted that a report on the Draft Care and Support Bill would be brought to the meeting of the Sub Group on 30 October 2013.

AGREED

That the presentation be noted.

7. MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS AND DIGNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2013

The Sub Group reviewed the minutes from the Lincolnshire Strategic Safeguarding Adults and Dignity Board meeting on 6 March 2013 and it was noted that the Francis Report would remain a standing item on the agenda until the Board's Chair, Elaine Baylis was satisfied all the relevant actions in the Francis report had been completed.

AGREED

That the minutes be noted.

8. MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AND DIGNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2013

The Sub Group considered the minutes from the Lincolnshire Strategic Safeguarding Adults and Dignity Board meeting held on 5 June 2013 and the following points were noted:

- £500k was available over two years for a multi-agency workforce development project to train safeguarding staff. This money would be managed by the Board through a project officer;
- The Board had received an update on a new structure proposal which had been agreed at the Board's June 2013 meeting. A further update would be received at a future meeting.

AGREED

That the minutes be noted.

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD BUSINESS

9. INTRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Chris Cook, the Independent Chair of the Board gave a presentation on children's safeguarding which covered the following points:

- What is the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board?
- Statutory functions;
- Who is involved;
- Why it exists; to safeguard children and young people;
- How it does this;
- Links to other partnerships;
- The Significant Incident Review Group;
- Performance, Assurance and Risk Group;
- Training and Education Group;
- Inter-Agency Case Review Group;
- Communities and Communications Sub Group;
- Policies and Procedures Sub Group;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Child Death Overview Panel;
- Current priorities.

Chris Cook answered questions from the Sub Group and the following points were noted:

4

LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

- The Sub Group discussed e-safety and it was agreed that the Board's E-Safety Officer, Dan Hawbrook, be invited to return to a future meeting of the Sub-Group;
- A review on the multi-agency Team Around the Child had been completed and this would be brought to a future meeting of the Sub Group.

AGREED

That the presentation be noted.

10. MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD OPERATIONAL DELIVERY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2013

Chris Cook suggested that scrutinising the minutes from the Board too deeply was not helpful to the work of the Sub Group.

Issues were raised regarding the lack of safeguarding statistics presented to the Sub Group and it was agreed that this would be brought to future meetings.

AGREED

That the minutes be noted.

11. MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2013

The Sub Group considered the minutes from the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Management Group meeting held on 11 April 2013.

AGREED

That the minutes be noted.

12. SERIOUS CASE REVIEW FAMILY T/S

Debbie Barnes, Director Children's Services briefed the Sub Group on the Serious Case Review surrounding Family T/S and the followings points regarding the case were noted:

- The case involved a set of twins whose mother had previously been in prison for grievous bodily harm to a child. The twins' father was a care leaver (aged 18-25);
- At the time of the abuse, the mother and father's relationship was in its infancy. At the time of the Council's assessment of the parents, the professional opinion was that the couple had matured and the risks to the twins could be managed within the community and placed on Child Protection Plans;
- However, whilst in the care of the couple, one of the twins sustained brain damage. The impact of the injury could not be fully ascertained until the child was older (at least 5 years of age);

- It was clear from the independent review that the children should not have been allowed to remain with their mother and father and this was thought to be an error of judgement by the social worker undertaking the initial assessment;
- The twins had since been adopted;
- The social worker involved was experienced and at the time of the assessment had an outstanding reputation and a reasonable case-load. Following the review, relevant staff were subject to disciplinary procedures;
- During the assessment process, various agencies could have challenged the Social Worker's decision but did not. The blame could not be placed solely on this person;
- Issues were raised regarding body maps and the need for one to have been carried out at the time the child was in hospital. The Children's Safeguarding Board had called the health authority to account over the need to undertake body maps. This issue of body mapping would be brought back to a future meeting of the Sub Group;
- It was suggested that further work be undertaken such as through a working group, to check whether frontline social worker practices were robust enough.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

JOINT BUSINESS

13. LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB GROUP
WORK PROGRAMME 2013

The Sub Group considered its work programme for the coming months and the following additions were made to the items to be considered at the meeting on 30 October 2013:

- Draft Care and Support Bill;
- E-Safety;
- Child Sexual Exploitation.

AGREED

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

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Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	Youth Housing Strategy 2013-2018

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the Youth Housing Strategy which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 22 October 2013. The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of her consideration of this item.

Actions Required:

- (1) To consider the attached report and to determine whether the Committee supports the recommendation to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services set out in the report.
- (2) To agree any additional comments to be passed to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services in relation to this item.

1. Background

The Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services is due to consider the report on the Youth Housing Strategy. The full report to the Executive Councillor is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

2. Conclusion

Following consideration of the attached report, the Committee is requested to consider whether it supports the recommendation in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services. The Committee's views will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Report and Appendices to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on Youth Housing Strategy

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Phil Taylor, who can be contacted on 07775026264 or phil.taylor@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Executive Cllr Mrs Bradwell
Date:	22 October 2013
Subject:	Youth Housing Strategy 2013 - 2018
Decision Reference:	I005453
Key decision?	No

Summary:

The Youth Housing Strategy seeks to set out the strategic vision for delivery of youth housing services in Lincolnshire for the next 5 years. The Strategy has been developed jointly between Children's Services, Public Health and the 7 District Housing Authorities as well as with input from young people and our key partners and stakeholders.

Recommendation(s):

That the Strategy be approved and adopted.

Alternatives Considered:

Reasons for Recommendation:

To ensure young people, particularly 16 & 17 year olds, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness receive services that are effective and appropriate and which met their needs. Furthermore to ensure best use of LCC resources by working in a strategic and coordinated way both within the organisation and with key partners and stakeholders.

1. Background

Over the past year Children's Services, the seven District Housing Authorities and Public Health have worked together to develop this Strategy which seeks to outline how agencies will work together to create a co-ordinated approach to meeting the needs of young people who experience difficulties with housing. The Strategy has a particular focus on young people aged 16 – 25.

This Strategy provides a framework for all relevant agencies and partners to develop services which focus on early intervention, prevention and assistance for young people to remain at home for as long as possible where it is safe to do so. This Strategy also provides that where prevention is not possible we will ensure we can provide accommodation that is appropriate and suitable to young people's individual needs and which is able to support them to have the skills and means to live independently.

The Strategy has been developed following a wide reaching consultation process which included events with partners including young people, the Lincolnshire Homeless Strategy Group, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, partner agencies that are commissioned to provide of service to young homeless people and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. The feedback and recommendations of those groups have been included in this final version.

2. Conclusion

This Strategy provides the opportunity for Children's Services to provide outstanding services to young people that are homeless or at risk of homelessness across Lincolnshire.

This overarching and inclusive Strategy ensures that Children's Services, along with other key partners and stakeholders, are working in a joined up and complimentary way.

3. Legal Comments:

No comments.

4. Resource Comments:

The recommendation to support and adopt the strategy will require the Council to work within existing budgets and explore with partner organisations the opportunities to re-direct resources to implement the improvements referred to in the Way Forward section of the document. A more strategic and co-ordinated approach should enable better outcomes to be delivered and improve the use of resources.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will consider this report at its meeting on 18 October 2013. Comments from this meeting will be presented to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 22 October 2013.

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix 1	Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy 2013 – 2018

7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Phil Taylor, who can be contacted on 07775026264 or phil.taylor@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy 2013 – 2018

Contents

Foreword	3	Appendix I : Review of Youth Homelessness in Lincolnshire	18
1. Introduction	5	6.1. The Scale and Nature of Youth Homelessness	18
1.1. Vision and Objectives	5	6.1.1. Approaches	18
1.2. Strategy Content	5	6.1.2. Total Number of Young People	18
1.3. Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment	5	6.1.3. Repeat Approaches	18
1.3.1. Recognising Equality and Diversity	5	6.1.4. Duplications	19
1.3.2. Equalities Impact Assessment	5	6.1.5. Reasons for Homelessness	19
2. Background	6	6.1.6. Outcomes	22
3. Policy Context	7	6.1.7. Age Distribution of Housing Data	23
3.1. National Policy and Context	7	6.1.8. Geographical Distribution of Approaches	23
3.1.1. Local Policy and Statutory Responsibilities	7	6.1.9. Links with Troubled Families	25
3.1.2. Current Joint Working Arrangements	9	6.2. Accommodation Options for Young People	27
3.1.3. Protocol and Practice Guidance	9	6.2.1. Types of Accommodation for Young People	27
3.2. Youth Homelessness Management Panels	9	6.2.2. Current Accommodation Provision in Lincolnshire	27
3.4. Strategic Links	9	6.3. Use of Accommodation Currently Commissioned by Local Authorities	29
4. Youth Housing and Homelessness in Lincolnshire	11	6.3.1. Methodology	29
4.1. Good Practice	11	6.3.2. Overall Numbers	29
4.2. The Youth Homelessness Review	11	6.3.3. Age Range	29
4.3. Summary and Conclusions	11	6.3.4. Length of Stay	29
5. Way Forward	13	6.3.5. Referral Routes	31
5.1. Delivering Services Along The Youth Housing Pathwa	13	6.3.6. Local Authority	31
5.2. Key Objectives	13	6.3.7. Needs Highlighted	31
5.2.1. Objective A: Underpinning Strategic Priorities	13		
5.2.2. Objective B: Prevention and Early Intervention	13		
5.2.3. Objective C: Prevention at the Point of Crisis	13		
5.2.4. Objective D: Support and Stabilisation	13		
5.2.5. Objective E: Resettlement	13		
5.3. Objectives in Practice – The Youth Housing Action Plan	14		
5.4. Commissioning Plan	17		

Foreword

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy which seeks to outline how agencies will work together to create a co-ordinated approach to meeting the needs of young people who experience difficulties with housing. I take great pleasure in presenting this strategy as it provides an oversight of the housing issues facing young people today and a vision for tackling them. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed to its creation, especially the seven District Council Housing Authorities, representatives from Public Health and a number of other key stakeholders.

Young people represent the future of our society. If we fail to enable them, through the right advice and support, to make the transition to adulthood and independence, then we will be creating dysfunctional communities. Lincolnshire agencies who serve the young people of this County acknowledge the importance of early intervention to prevent youth homelessness, wherever possible, but also recognise that suitable accommodation, support and advice must be in place when homelessness cannot be avoided.

Young people are living in an unpredictable economic climate, both globally and nationally. If we fail our young people, then society will feel the impact. Most especially it will apply to those who are ill-equipped for independent living and lack the life skills to sustain a tenancy and support themselves financially and emotionally; they are the ones who are most likely to be adversely affected and thus reduce their chances of living a happy and fulfilled life.

Youth Homelessness and the use of temporary accommodation for young people is not just a "housing problem" – youth homelessness is the end product of other factors, situations and crises experienced by young people. Most young people who become homeless or at risk of homelessness have needs which could have been addressed before escalation.

We want to improve the current situation. This Strategy is provided as a framework for all relevant agencies & partners to develop services which focus on early intervention, prevention and assistance for young people to remain at home for as long as possible (where safe to do so). In circumstances where this is not possible, we need a list of support services to assist young people to gain the skills to enable them to be independent and to have the ability to maintain a tenancy independently.

Lincolnshire has a long history of good partnership working, which has never been more important than today. Through this strategy our aim is to ensure that the young people of Lincolnshire who find themselves homeless or threatened with homelessness are given the support and assistance for them to remain at home and the opportunity to develop self-worth, obtain or sustain employment, and grow safely towards emotional maturity.



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I. Introduction

I.1. Vision and Objectives

The Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy seeks to bring key partners and stakeholders together to create coordinated and joined up services for young people across Lincolnshire who experience difficulties with housing.

All Local Authority partners across Lincolnshire are committed to ensuring that all young people experiencing difficulties with housing receive the help and support that they need.

This Strategy considers the whole youth housing pathway and identifies opportunities for effective service delivery right from areas of early intervention and education through to independence and the support to succeed.

There have been many successes and examples of best practice across Lincolnshire. It is hoped that this Strategy will pull those together, incorporating both the experiences of young people and professionals, to provide consistent and outstanding services.

Our vision is to ensure that young people achieve their potential.

Our strategic objectives through this strategy are to:

- Ensure Youth Homelessness is addressed in a joined up and strategic way.
- Provide prevention and Early Intervention to educate young people on housing and homelessness
- Provide prevention at the Point of Crisis to ensure the maximum number of young people are assisted and supported to remain within family and kinship arrangements where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- Ensure there is sufficient accommodation in place to meet the current level of demand reflecting individual young peoples needs.
- Ensure there is sufficient long term solutions for young people that have experienced homelessness and for Care Leavers to facilitate independence.

I.2. Strategy Content

The Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy has been developed in partnership between Lincolnshire County Council's Children's Services Team, Lincolnshire's seven District Housing Authorities, Lincolnshire County Council's Public Health Directorate and a number of other key stakeholders.

The strategy has been informed by consultation and through a thorough review of youth housing and homelessness. This has given us a sound understanding of the issue to help us develop and target future service delivery.

Our findings have been developed into an Action Plan that follows four clear stages of a pathway a young person may take away from homelessness. This Action Plan and the partnership group that oversees its delivery will be the driving force behind developing services for young people experiencing housing difficulties.

I.3. Equalities

I.3.1. Recognising Equality and Diversity

The local authorities in Lincolnshire all have equal opportunities policies which contain the following key commitments. The local authorities:

- Actively seek to reflect the diversity of people in Lincolnshire and intend that service provision policy reflects the needs and priorities of an increasingly diverse population.
- Actively seek solutions that advance the capacity and resources of people discriminated against in society. No service user will be discriminated against, directly or indirectly, harassed or receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, marital status, family commitments, sexual orientation, age, HIV status, religious or political beliefs, social class, or irrelevant spent conviction.
- Are committed to the fostering of good community relations and will work through their own services and the partnerships they are involved in to promote equality of opportunity to all.

- Aim to ensure that services are available and accessible to all.
- Will work to ensure that no group is disadvantaged in terms of access to services we are able to offer.

I.3.2. Equalities Impact Assessment

An Impact Assessment has been carried out on the Youth Homelessness Strategy to ensure it meets the needs of diverse people in the community. The IA includes sections explaining how different kinds of issues affecting young people are being taken into account. These include:

- Young people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- Young people who are transgender or transsexual.
- Young people from BME cultures including gypsies and travellers.
- Young people with disabilities and impairments, including mental health, learning/ behavioural/impairment, mobility, audio/ visual and limiting long term illnesses.
- Young people of different religions.
- Young people of different genders.
- Young people who are economically disadvantaged.

We have recognised the need to continually consult with young people and our partners, and to ask how our services impact on them, which will form part of this strategy. We also recognise that as the delivery of this strategy causes us to amend and adapt services and how we deliver them, that additional impact assessment may need to be taken.

2. Background

This Strategy was preceded by the Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy 2005 – 2010. Upon completion that document was reviewed and its successes measured. Recommendations included the development of a new five year strategy.

In practice the Youth Housing Strategy operated as a sub-group of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy Group, a group which meets monthly and has youth homelessness as a key strategic priority.

The Lincolnshire Homeless Strategy Group consists of representatives from across District Authorities, Lincolnshire County Council, Support Services, Accommodation Providers and other key agencies that have a role in preventing and addressing homelessness. This group has proved a positive forum for County Council and District Housing Authorities to meet and develop joint working.

Throughout the summer of 2011 the Local Authorities across Lincolnshire commissioned the delivery of training and workshops to all front line Housing Options Advisors and Social Workers on relevant pieces of legislation, case-law and current practice around youth homelessness. The final sessions were delivered to managers and also gave feedback on the previous sessions.

The feedback set these recommendations into a Youth Homelessness Pathway which covers four key stages at which we provide our services.

This feedback has been the starting point for developing an action plan for improving and delivering services to young people experiencing housing difficulties.



3. Policy Context

3.1 National Policy and Context

National policy on the specific area of youth homelessness was most recently set out in guidance jointly prepared by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department of Children, Schools and Families Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation (April 2010). Its purpose is to help the strategic managers of Children's Services and Housing Services, in both unitary and two-tier authorities, to plan and deliver change to achieve three things for young people and children living with their families:

- Prevent homelessness.
- Minimise the negative impact of homelessness on their lives and life chances.

Page 97

Make sure they receive the co-ordinated services and support they need to recover from the impact of homelessness and get their lives back on track, including maintaining or returning to - learning or work.

The challenge for Children's Services and Housing Services is to ensure that there are no gaps between services, and that young people get quick access to the services they need regardless of which service they approach first for help.

There are a number of factors affecting youth homelessness nationally. The current economic climate and youth unemployment are key factors causing tension and conflict within families and are limiting young people's ability to take their own steps into independence and adulthood.

There are likely to be impacts due to the welfare reform changes too. Specific reforms such as changes to Non-dependent Deductions and the ending of Education Maintenance Allowance are making it harder financially for families to continue to support young people within the family home.

Reductions in public spending have affected most areas of service delivery either directly or indirectly. Some services have been lost and others have been restructured and reduced.

3.2 Local Policy and Statutory Responsibilities

The needs of young people in relation to issues of housing and homelessness are currently being met by a number of partners across the County.

Although services are consistently delivered with high client focus, dedication and skill, historically we have lacked the necessary coordination and shared goals to make the best use of our collective resource and to ensure the needs of young people are being met.

Lincolnshire is a two tier Authority with services being delivered by both District Housing Authorities and by Lincolnshire County Council.

Young people can get help and advice with housing and homelessness issues from District Housing Authorities in line with their statutory responsibilities under the Housing Act 1996 Part VII. Local Authorities are very focussed on preventing homelessness and have a host of initiatives to achieve this including providing mediation, private rented sector access schemes and advice on housing rights, as well as providing advice on housing options.

For cases where homelessness cannot be prevented District Housing Authorities can consider other options such as providing emergency accommodation, supporting young people with accessing supported accommodation or permanent solutions such as social housing.

Young people can also get help and advice from Children's Services in line with their statutory responsibilities under The Children Act 1989. Children's Services also have a strong focus on providing help and support to young people and their families to prevent homelessness where possible and appropriate to do so.

The Children Act considers the wider needs of Children, not just their housing needs, ensuring young people are safe and well and are achieving developmental milestones across all areas of their lives. Where young peoples homelessness cannot be prevented Children's Services can also consider other options including providing emergency accommodation and supporting young people in finding permanent solutions.

Lincolnshire County Council also provides help and support to young people through its Public Health Directorate. Public Health commission partners to provide Supported Accommodation to young people. There are a number of providers across Lincolnshire providing differing levels of support. Young people can approach supported accommodation providers directly and some providers will carry out prevention work with young people to help them remain with their families or will signpost them to other services that offer this kind of help.



3.3 Current Joint Working Arrangements

3.3.1 Protocol and Practice Guidance

The statutory responsibilities of Authorities across Lincolnshire overlap and it is important that our joint working protocols are robustly and consistently applied and that we ensure they are fit for purpose.

A protocol for homeless 16 & 17 year olds has been agreed between Lincolnshire Authorities and is currently in place. This protocol was developed following the G v. Southwark ruling in 2009 and used joint guidance developed by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Briefly stated, this protocol sets out the statutory responsibilities of different Local Authority departments, makes agreement on when and how young people can be referred between teams and establishes a requirement for joint housing assessments.

It became apparent that the protocol lacked the necessary support and clarity for teams to effectively deliver joint working. In June 2012 Lincolnshire Authorities implemented additional Practice Guidance to underpin the protocol.

The Practice Guidance gave front line Officers clarity on delivering joint housing assessments and the tools to effectively mediate with families to prevent homelessness, as well as information and resources to help young people and their families understand their housing options and the realities of homelessness.

3.3.2 Youth Homelessness Management Panels

Further to the completion of the practice guidance it was agreed that a Management Panel be developed in order to hold an on-going review of practice implementation, and act as a forum to respond to disputes or challenges arising from practice.

It was agreed that the Management Panel would consist of representatives from District Housing Authorities, the Family Assessment and Support Teams (FAST), Children's Services Targeted Teams and Public Health and that representation should be sought from both managers and front line Officers.

The functions of the Management Panel are to:

- Oversee the implementation of the Youth Homelessness Practice Guidance and Joint Protocol for Homeless 16 & 17 Year Olds.
- Receive cases where the workers have struggled to reach agreement on responsibility in relation to the provision of accommodation.
- Receive cases where an authority (Housing or Children's Services), wishes to challenge the decision of another authority.
- Ensure that resources are appropriately allocated across Housing Authorities and Children's Services, unlocking difficulties and meeting need.
- Provide quality assurance to case plans and ensure multi agency assessment and management of risk.

3.4 Strategic Links

Under the Children Act 2004, local authorities are required to have in place local cooperation arrangements which facilitate integrated working, planning and delivery, with a focus on improving outcomes. Local authorities may choose to call these arrangements a 'children's trust' or by another name, Lincolnshire has chosen to refer to this as 'Children's Trust Arrangements' (CTA). The CTA reflects an integrated and outcome focussed way of working.

Working through Lincolnshire's Children's Trust Arrangements, The Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) are required to address the type and level of need and ensure appropriate action is included in the Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPSP). For more information on the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership or to read the Children and Young Peoples Plan please go to:

microsites.lincolnshire.gov.uk/children/partners/cypsp/

The Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) are a statutory board with a responsibility for producing the Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPSP) for Lincolnshire. The CYPSP is informed by stakeholder consultation including children, young people and their families and sets out how partners will work together to address the needs and interests of the local community.

Under the Homelessness Act 2002 Local Housing Authorities are required to have a Homelessness Strategy in place to review and strategically address homelessness in their area. The seven District Housing Authorities in Lincolnshire have worked together to develop The Lincolnshire Homeless Strategy 2012 – 2016. Youth Homelessness has been identified within this strategy as one of their five Key Themes. A copy of the Strategy can be found at:

www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/residents/housing/housing-strategy/homelessness-strategies

Under the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Lincolnshire County Council and NHS Lincolnshire have developed the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire 2013 – 2018. This Strategy aims to inform and influence decisions about health and social care services in Lincolnshire so that they are focused on the needs of the people who use them and tackle the factors that affect everyone's health and wellbeing

Much of the young people's supported accommodation and a number of other young people's support providers are funded through Lincolnshire's Public Health Directorate in accordance with the objectives of this strategy.

A copy of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy can be found at:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/public-health/behind-the-scenes/health-and-wellbeing-board/115339.article



4. Youth Housing and Homelessness In Lincolnshire

4.1. Good Practice

This strategy has sought to apply many of the principles set out in the Joint Guidance issued by Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department of Children, Schools and Families, joint working between Housing & Children's Services – Preventing homelessness and tackling its effects on children and young people'.

We have also sought to adopt examples of best practice from our colleagues around the country. We have worked closely with North Yorkshire County Council and have seen first hand the benefits of adopting a joined up working model. We have also taken examples from the strategies of colleagues nationally and their joint working arrangements.

4.2. The Youth Homelessness Review

To help us understand the scale and nature of youth housing and homelessness issues across Lincolnshire and to help develop an action plan to tackle these issues we have undertaken a review of youth homelessness across the County.

The review has involved the collection and interpretation of information and data from across a large number of partners across the county who are coming into contact with and providing services to young people that are homeless or experiencing housing difficulties.

The full review can be found at Appendix 1.

4.3. Summary and Conclusions

Much of the data collected provides a useful insight into youth homelessness in Lincolnshire and will provide a crucial starting point for us to monitor the impacts of any changes we introduce.

There is a lot of data here that is reassuring and that demonstrates the positive work that is being done by Local Authorities and their partners. This is particularly the case for repeat approaches. Although there is still room for improvement it demonstrates the effectiveness of current services that 82% of young people do not need to make multiple approaches to receive assistance.

The section on duplications shows a high number of young people approaching both Children's Services and District Housing Teams. In a positive sense this confirms high levels of joint working between teams. Where young people have approached District Housing Teams and did not then contact Children's Services, we could consider it likely that those young people only required brief, low level intervention and returned to their families.

We can also see here that considerable resource is used in providing advice and support more than once, possibly with two members of staff repeating the same information which further highlights the potential efficiencies for Local Authorities by forming a single gateway for advice and support.

Under the section on reasons for homelessness we can clearly see that the main cause of homelessness is as a result of parents no longer being willing or able to accommodate. This gives us clear evidence of the need to focus on providing effective mediation and support to help young people remain at home with their families where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

It is also important to remember that it will not always be safe and appropriate for young people to remain at home and that many young people will feel ready and determined to assert their independence. The fact that parents being no longer willing or able to accommodate is such an overwhelming cause of homelessness also tells us of the difficulties young people may be facing in being able to secure their own accommodation and that there is a role for Local Authorities to facilitate this process as best they can.

This section has also highlighted the need for standardised reporting methods. The data used here is very meaningful and

useful but certain aspects are not consistently applied. For example one Authority may record 'Debt' as the cause of homelessness but that alone cannot cause homelessness. It is likely to be rent arrears and the resulting loss of private rented accommodation that causes homelessness. Errors and anomalies like these have been summarised according to either the best fit or as 'other'.

It is reassuring to see low returns for loss of supported accommodation as a cause of homelessness. On the whole we can take heart that this reflects that effective joint working is preventing evictions but it is important that, as part of our ongoing development, we better capture the outcomes of young people leaving Supported Accommodation.

The numbers of young people experiencing homelessness that have also been identified as part of the Troubled Families Programme is startlingly low. This offers some evidential weight to dismiss the presumption that young people who experience homelessness are readily associated with worklessness and/or offending, and reminds us that homelessness can affect everyone. It is important to remember that the Troubled Families Programme is in its infancy and continued close working is essential to make the most of any opportunities for joint working.

The section on accommodation options for young people illustrates the lack of diversity we have in the accommodation we offer, particularly in regard to emergency options such as nightstop and crashpad, or family type settings such as supported lodgings. Examining provision and taking a strategic and informed approach to future service delivery needs to be a key action of this strategy.

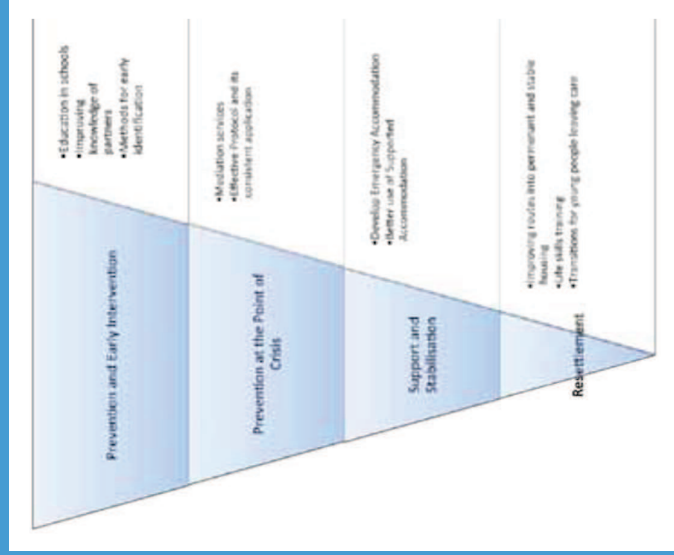
The data on use of supported accommodation again offers an invaluable starting point for us to consider the impacts of any changes we introduce. There are a great number of positives highlighted in the outcomes our partners are achieving with young people.



5. The Way Forward

5.1. Delivering Services along the Youth Housing Pathway

In addressing youth housing and homelessness issues we will set the issues that we have identified into an action plan which follows the headings of the Youth Housing Pathway. This diagram details the stages of the Pathway and some of the main actions we hope to achieve in each area.



5.2. Key Objectives

Our Key objectives follow the headings of the Youth Housing Pathway detailed above, with a preceding objective that aims to ensure youth homelessness is addressed by all partners in a joined up and strategic way.

The Actions under each objective incorporate the findings of the consultation, youth homelessness review and reflections on experiences and case studies.

5.2.1. Objective A: Underpinning Strategic Priorities

Ensure Youth Homelessness is addressed in a joined up and strategic way

- Explore options for the development of a Single Access Gateway for young people seeking to get help and support with housing and homelessness. This process will support additional actions of delivering effective mediation and prevention services and of ensuring best use of the accommodation that Local Authorities commission.
- Improve data collection and recording across all key partners to aid monitoring of improvements and further targeting of resources.
- Deliver training and workshops to our teams and key partners.
- Improve relationships in locality areas through local area managers meetings.

5.2.2. Objective B: Prevention and Early Intervention

Ensure early interventions are in place to educate young people on housing and homelessness and to highlight young people at risk of homelessness and ensure appropriate support can be given

- Support the continued delivery of education in schools through theatre and workshops.
- Develop systems for identifying young people who are at risk of becoming homeless in the future to help with targeting early intervention and prevention.
- Improve joint working with wider partners and stakeholders through providing clarity and consistency in our processes and by effective communication.

5.2.3. Objective C: Prevention at the Point of Crisis

Ensure consistent and effective prevention and mediation services are in place for young people at the point of crisis, to ensure the maximum number of young people are assisted and supported to remain within family and kinship arrangements where it is safe and appropriate for them to do so.

- Consider the options for the effective delivery of Mediation services.

- Ensure we have an effective Joint Working Protocol and Practice Guidance, that they are fit for purpose and that that they are consistently implemented across the County.

- Improve the resources and information available to young people.

5.2.4. Objective D: Support and Stabilisation

Ensure there is sufficient accommodation in place to meet the current level of demand from homeless young people and that there is sufficient diversity in accommodation to meet individual young peoples needs.

- Ensure there is sufficient emergency and direct access accommodation for young people where homelessness cannot be prevented.
- End the use of B&B.
- Ensure there is sufficient diversity of accommodation to meet young people's needs.

- Ensure the best use of the Supported Accommodation Local Authorities commission by: developing pre-emption protocols; monitoring any refusals; and developing a single access gateway into accommodation including better monitoring of who is accessing the accommodation, how long for and what their outcomes are.

5.2.5. Objective E: Resettlement

Ensure there is sufficient long term solutions for young people that have experienced homelessness and for Care Leavers and that sufficient support services are in place for young people to succeed.

- Have an effective protocol for supporting young people's transition from care.
- Ensure clear and effective routes into permanent accommodation.
- Ensure young people have the life skills to succeed into independence and to build confidence amongst accommodation providers.
- Ensure sufficient support services to help young people in independence.

5.3. Objectives in Practice – The Youth Housing Action Plan

In the pages which follow we have set out the actions we will achieve through the delivery of this strategy.

Youth Housing Strategy 2013 – 2018 Action Plan for Achieving Our Objectives

Objective A - Underpinning Strategic Priorities

Action	Who	When	Milestone
<p>A1 – Establish a Youth Housing Strategic Delivery Board to monitor the implementation of the Strategy Action Plan.</p> <p>Provide regular progress reports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYPSP • LHSG • Housing Network 	<p>Youth Housing Coordinator Children's Services Public Health Provider's Executive District Housing Representative Leaving Care Youth Offending</p>	<p>Delivery board to meet monthly and progress reports to be provided for each meeting of the CYPSP, LHSG and Housing Network.</p>	
<p>A2 – Hold Local Youth Homelessness Management Meetings to ensure effective communication and sharing of best practice.</p>	<p>District Housing Options Manager FAST Manager Targeted Team Manager</p>	<p>Monthly</p>	
<p>A3 – Develop improved and consistent methods for on-going data capture.</p>	<p>LCC Commissioning Officer Children's Services Information Team Youth Housing Coordinator District Housing Authorities</p>	<p>Reporting methods to be established by April 2014 and to be collected quarterly thereafter.</p>	<p>Reporting methods established by April 2014</p>
<p>A4 – Develop and deliver training to frontline staff on processes for delivery of advice, provision of accommodation and use of accommodation.</p>	<p>Youth Housing Coordinator Training Provider Local Authority Children's Services Housing Providers Housing Options Teams</p>	<p>Sessions to begin by April 2014 to be delivered throughout the life of the strategy.</p>	<p>Agree process for delivery of advice, provision of accommodation and use of accommodation then develop training including this and legislative framework. Revise and launch protocol.</p>
<p>A5 – Carry out reviews of the housing pathway for specific vulnerable groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with Disabilities • Teenage Pregnancy • Young Offenders • Young People with Drug and Alcohol Problems • Care Leavers • Young People with Mental Health Problems • Victims of Domestic Abuse 	<p>Youth Housing Coordinator Children with Disabilities Team Manager Teenage Pregnancy Team Manager Youth Offending Service Manager Leaving Care Service Manager CAMHS</p>	<p>September 2014</p>	
<p>A6 – On-going Consultation with Service Users on the Strategy and Action Plan.</p>	<p>Youth Housing Coordinator Public Health Accommodation Providers Leaving Care</p>	<p>First session to be held by April 2014 and 6 monthly thereafter.</p>	

Objective B: Prevention and Early Intervention

Action	Who	When	Milestone
B1 – Support early education for young people through the provision of a Theatre Production in Schools. Consider methods for monitoring impacts and effectiveness. Linked action with Lincolnshire Homeless Strategy.	Children's Services District Housing Options Teams	Production to be delivered October - December 2013 and annually thereafter	Agreement to support and deliver from all partners.
B2 – Raise the skills and working relationship of frontline officers through a programme of training, networking and shadowing.	FAST Managers Targeted Managers Housing Options Team Managers	Ongoing with sessions delivered bi-monthly	Processes to be agreed and training to be developed.
B3 – Provide training for partner agencies on youth homelessness and Local Authority processes	Youth Housing Coordinator	September 2014	Establish clear processes for partners to be able to support young people identified as at risk.
B4 – Develop methods for early identification of young people at risk of homelessness	Youth Housing Coordinator Job Centre Schools Youth Offending Service Manager Targeted Team Manager – NEEET	September 2014	Partners to work together to develop processes for early identification. Partners to implement processes Explore best practice and discuss opportunities with partner agencies

Objective C: Prevention at the Point of Crisis

Action	Who	When	Milestone
C1. Ensure the 16/17 Year Old Protocol and accompanying Practice Guidance are fully implemented and remain fit for purpose.	Youth Housing Coordinator Children's Services District Housing Options Teams Management Panel	Implementation reviewed monthly through the Youth Homelessness Management Panel Annual review to be carried out by the Delivery Board with the first review taking place by June 2014	Agreement to develop from key partners
C2. Explore options for development of a single point of access for young people who need advice, prevention and mediation services.	Children's Services District Housing Authorities Public Health Youth Housing Coordinator	August 2014	Agreement to develop from key partners
C3. Develop a mediation service and monitor its effectiveness.	Children's Services Commissioning Team Mediation Service	Ongoing	Review of current provision
C4. Improve information available to young people including leaflets and online media to help them make informed choices.	LCC Information Team District Housing Authorities	Current provision to be reviewed by April 2014 with timescales for development	Agree method for delivery through Delivery Board and Procurement Plan
C5. Ensure sufficient provision of emergency accommodation at a locality level.	Youth Housing Coordinator	Emergency placements to be available in all localities by October 2014	
C6. All Young people who require emergency placement or accommodation support are to be allocated a key worker through families working together.	Families Working Together Youth Housing Coordinator	Ongoing	

Objective D: Support and Stabilisation

Action	Who	When	Milestone
D1. Provision of Accommodation. Ensure young people's accommodation needs are being met with particular regard to capacity, variety and meeting varying support needs. Develop Accommodation Options where appropriate following the Youth Accommodation Review.	Children's Services District Housing Authorities Public Health Youth Housing Coordinator	Procurement Plan to be developed by April 2014 and delivered throughout the life of the strategy	Identify gaps and develop a Procurement Plan that ensures accommodation options for young people are commissioned in a coordinated and strategic way by Local Authority partners.
D2. Use of Accommodation. Ensure Local Authorities and providers are making best use of accommodation provided for young people. Develop systems for jointly managing the supported accommodation ensuring it meets the needs of young people, is meeting the requirements of statutory partners and that accommodation providers are supported in delivering their services.	Children's Services District Housing Authorities Public Health Youth Housing Coordinator Accommodation Providers	Systems for the monitoring and management of supported accommodation to be developed by April 2014. Quarterly updates to be provided to the Delivery Board.	Meet with providers and Authorities and development of future monitoring.
D3. Develop a single point of access for young people accessing accommodation so placement change is effectively managed.	Children's Services District Housing Authorities Public Health Youth Housing Coordinator	August 2014	Agreement to develop from key partners and method of delivery
D4. Ensure funding mechanisms and monitoring of commissioned supported accommodation incentivises independence and move-on of young people	Children's Services District Housing Authorities Public Health Youth Housing Coordinator	April 2014 and on-going throughout the life of the strategy.	

Objective E: Resettlement

Action	Who	When	Milestone
E1 – Support the availability of move-on accommodation and permanent settled housing options for young people no longer requiring of support, to increase availability of Supported/Emergency Accommodation.	Accommodation providers District Housing Authorities	Review outcomes of young people leaving supported accommodation by October 2014. Identify issues around move-on and agree an action plan to be delivered from April 2015 and throughout the life of the strategy.	Review of outcomes
E2 – Develop life skills training to increase young people's move-on options and to improve their chances of successfully maintaining a tenancy.	Youth Housing Coordinator	Training to be developed from April 2015	Delivery Board to agree how training will be delivered. Training program to be developed with partners.
E3 – Ensure Young People Leaving Care who are moving into independence are able to do so in a positive and coordinated way.	Youth Housing Coordinator Leaving Care Team District Housing Authorities Accommodation Providers	Protocol to be implemented by April 2014 and implementation reviewed bi-annually through Delivery Board.	Implementation of Housing Protocol from FAST to LAC. Implementation of Joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers.
E4 – Ensure sufficient and appropriate support services for young people living independently.	Public Health	August 2014	Review young people's access to support in independent living.

5.4 Procurement Plan

Many aspects of the delivery of this Strategy and Action Plan involve looking at the services we currently commission as Local Authorities. We will consider commissioning new services to meet any gaps in provision that we identify, and review the services that we already commission to ensure we better meet the needs of young people.

The delivery of this strategy will be met in part through the development of a Procurement Plan that will seek to take a strategic overview of the needs of young people and the services we commission. The youth homelessness review contained in this Strategy will be a key part of informing that plan.

The Procurement Plan will seek wherever possible to pull together different funding streams and services into a unified and coordinated pathway of youth housing services.

6. Appendix 1: Review of Youth Homelessness in Lincolnshire

6.1 The Scale and Nature of Youth Homelessness

Unless otherwise stated the data below relates to the period 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012.

The data below has been collected from a number of different organisations and databases, many of which were not intended for this type of data extraction so datasets may not be comparable. The information here is intended only as a useful guide to inform our future direction and to help us in targeting services. Developing robust and consistent forms of data collection remains a key action for Lincolnshire to move forward.

6.1.1 Approaches

This table demonstrates all of the approaches made by young people to District Housing Authorities or Children's Services stating that they are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It should be noted that this table counts approaches and not people, therefore somebody who has had multiple contacts with services will be counted multiple times. This therefore demonstrates more accurately the levels of demand being placed on services.

District	16 – 17	18 – 25	Total
Boston	11	24	35
East Lindsey	30	255	285
Lincoln	14	60	74
North Kesteven	34	127	161
South Holland	36	444	480
South Kesteven	62	510	572
West Lindsey	11	95	106
Children's Services	412	1	413
Public Health Supported Services	81	192	273
Total	691	1708	2399

6.1.2 Total Number of Young People

After removing duplications we have identified a total of 2131 young people aged 16 - 25 who have had difficulties with homelessness or of being at risk of homelessness and have approached statutory services for assistance.

6.1.3 Repeat Approaches

The table below shows for each district and agency the number of young people and the number of approaches they have made to services. To clarify the information shown below: in East Lindsey 11 young people made two approaches to services, from a system demand perspective this would have equated to 22 approaches. The final row of the table breaks down the number of approaches to a percentage of all approaches.

Based on the data supplied Boston, Lincoln and North Kesteven do not appear to have any young people who have approached their services more than once.

District/ Approaches	1	2	3	4	Total Approaches made
Boston	35	0	0	0	35
East Lindsey	260	11	1	0	285
Lincoln	74	0	0	0	74
North Kesteven	161	0	0	0	161
South Holland	374	25	3	2	441
South Kesteven	428	57	10	0	572
West Lindsey	96	5	0	0	106
Children's Services	270	48	13	2	413
Public Health Supported Services	239	17	0	0	273
Total approaches as % of whole	82%	14%	3%	1%	2399

6.1.4 Duplications

This table shows what number and percentage of the young people aged 16 & 17 who approached District Housing Authorities as homeless or at risk of homelessness also sought assistance from Children's Services.

Due to different recording methods across the County some of the data included here only included initials rather than full names which may affect the reliability of some data matches; however, this was only in a relatively small number of cases. Dates of birth and postcodes were also used to increase our confidence in the matches detailed below.

The second column details the total number of approaches from 16 & 17 year olds to each District Housing Authority. The third column represents how many of those individuals also approached Children's Services. The fourth column represents this as a percentage.

District Housing Authority	Total Individuals	Approached Children's Services also
BBC	11	7 64%
ELDC	30	29 97%
Lincoln	14	10 71%
NKDC	34	8 24%
SHDC	36	25 69%
SKDC	62	50 81%
WLDC	11	10 91%
All Districts	198	139 70%

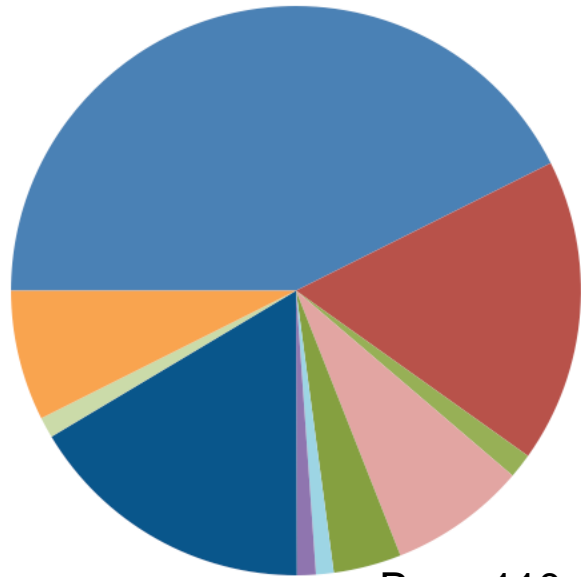
6.5 Reasons for Homelessness

Data on the reasons young people have become homeless has been taken from across LCC and the District Housing Authorities and categorised. The categories used here are taken from the PIE National Homelessness Statistical Returns which all Local Housing Authorities make to Government.

The table below shows the raw data of the reasons for homelessness for all young people aged 16-25. On the page overleaf we have represented this data in pie charts. We have represented this information in different ways to try and illustrate the differences in approaches between organisations. Some of the data has been summarised to make it clearer by collecting the least occurring reasons together under 'other' but the full breakdown can still be seen in the table below. Also reasons given as 'unknown' have been removed for the purpose of these illustrations.

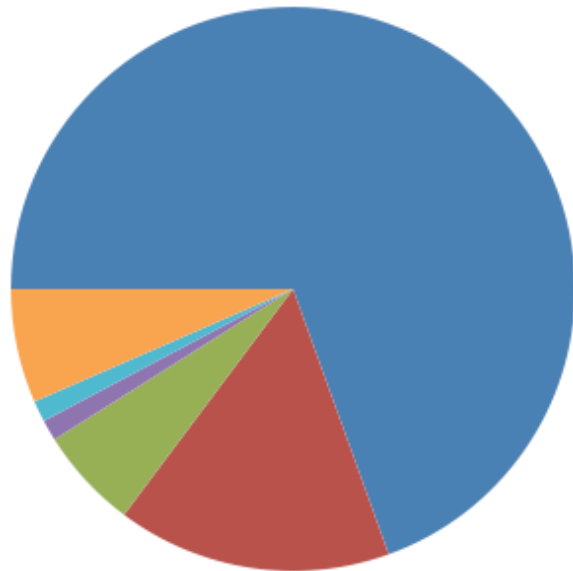
	LCC	BBC	ELDC	Lincoln	NKDC	SHDC	SKDC	WLDC	Housing Total	Total
Parental Eviction	287	12	81	28	55	97	144	58	475	762
Friends/Other Family Eviction	65	10	40	2	5	30	141	15	243	308
Loss of Supported Accommodation	24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Relationship Breakdown	-	2	15	5	15	55	42	5	139	139
Domestic Violence	-	4	15	9	10	13	15	3	69	69
Racial Violence	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other Violence	-	-	-	2	-	6	6	4	18	18
Leaving Institution/YOI	5	-	-	1	1	5	5	2	14	19
Leaving Care	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Loss of Private Rented Accom.	-	7	67	23	14	54	114	16	295	295
Emergency flood/fire	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	2
Mortgage Arrears	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	6	6
Eviction Social Housing	-	-	2	1	-	9	9	-	21	21
Other	27	-	28	-	21	30	10	2	91	118
Unknown	-	-	35	-	42	182	9	-	268	268
Total	413	36	285	74	163	483	496	106	1643	2056

Reasons for Homelessness - All Young People



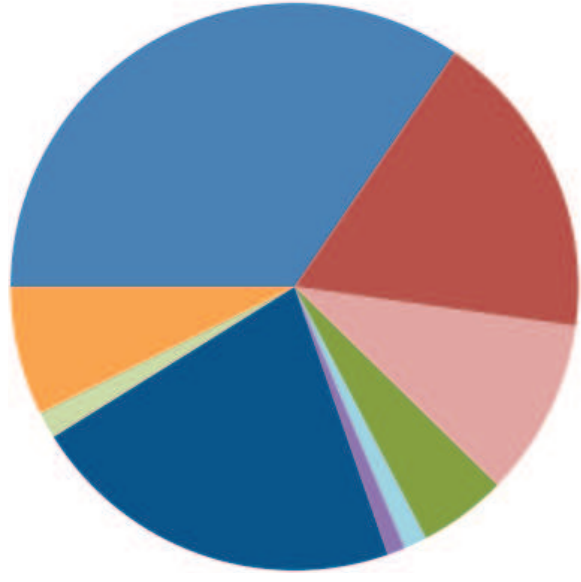
- Parental Eviction
- Friends / Other Family Eviction
- Loss of Supported Accommodation
- Relationship Breakdown
- Domestic Violence
- Other Violence
- Leaving Institution / YOI
- Loss of Private Rented Accommodation
- Eviction Social Housing
- Other

Reasons for Homelessness - Children's Services



- Parental Eviction
- Friends / Other Family Eviction
- Loss of Supported Accommodation
- Leaving Institution / YOI
- Leaving Care
- Other

Reasons for Homelessness - District Housing Authorities



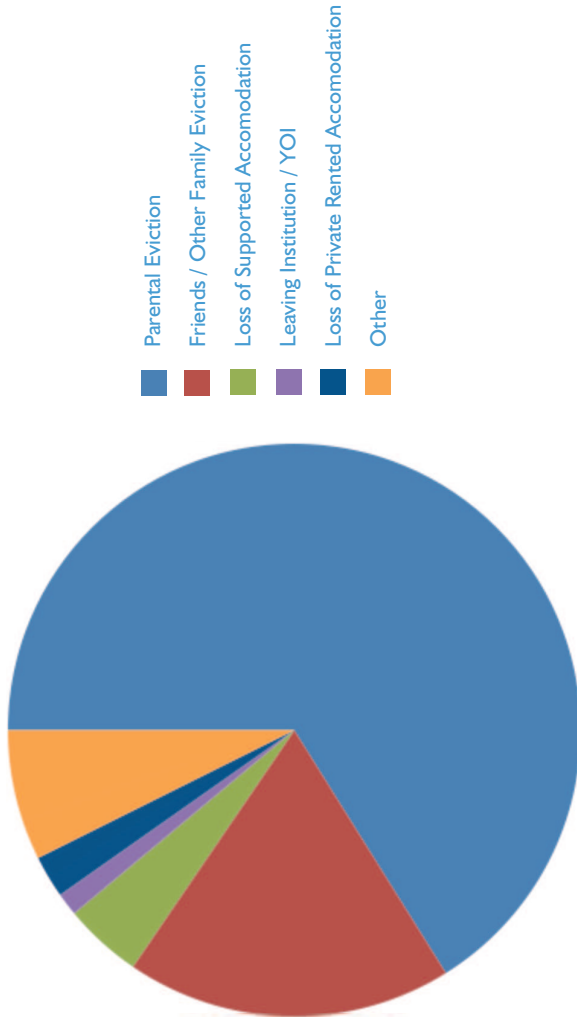
- Parental Eviction
- Friends / Other Family Eviction
- Relationship Breakdown
- Domestic Violence
- Other Violence
- Leaving Institution / YOI
- Loss of Private Rented Accommodation
- Eviction Social Housing
- Other

The needs of young people vary greatly. This is particularly noticeable across the age range where young people aged 16 or 17 are more likely to be homeless as a result of family breakdown and those aged 18 to 25, who are more likely to have secured their own accommodation and could be expected to approach with a wider range of reasons for becoming homeless.

To consider this we have also demonstrated below the causes of homelessness for just 16 & 17 year olds. This will better help us to ensure we target services to meet the needs of all young people.

In the pie chart we have collected together the least occurring reasons into 'other' to make it clearer and also disregarded reasons given as 'unknown'. The full breakdown can still be seen in the table.

Reasons for Homelessness - 16 & 17 Year Olds Only



	LCC	BBC	ELDC	Lincoln	NKDC	SHDC	SKDC	WLDC	Total
Parental Eviction	287	7	9	7	2	15	29	3	359
Friends/Other Family Eviction	65	3	4	-	1	4	16	7	100
Loss of Supported Accommodation	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Relationship Breakdown	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Domestic Violence	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Racial Violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Violence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Leaving Institution/YOI	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7
Leaving Care	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Loss of Private Rented Accom.	-	-	3	4	-	2	4	-	13
Emergency flood/fire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mortgage Arrears	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eviction Social Housing	27	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	28
Other	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	-	10
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	413	10	16	14	3	33	53	11	553

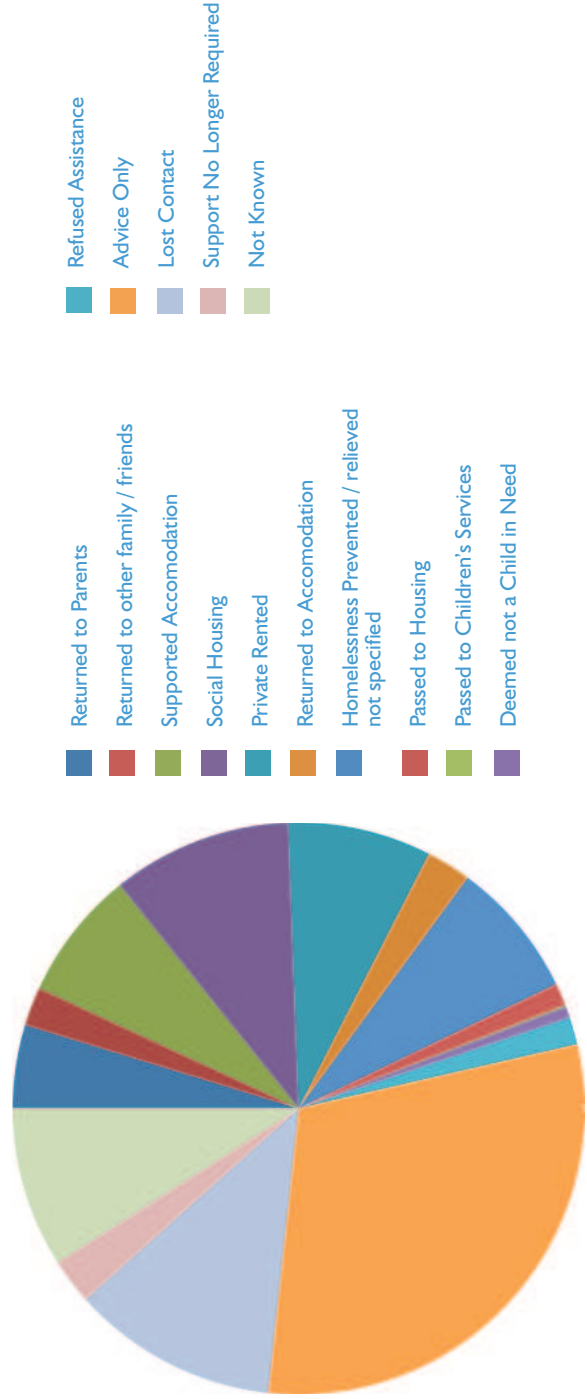


6.1.6 Outcomes

The following pie chart demonstrates the recorded outcomes for all young people approaching services aged 16 to 25.

	LCC	BBC	ELDC	Lincoln	NKDC	SHDC	SKDC	WLDC	Total
Returned to Parents	56	2	1	-	25	-	7	6	97
Returned to other family/friends	26	10	-	-	7	-	1	1	45
Supported Accommodation	107	7	7	2	13	-	8	7	151
Social Housing	-	7	9	62	14	14	62	41	209
Private Rented	12	4	99	2	16	-	31	3	167
Returned to Accommodation	-	1	13	1	14	-	18	5	52
Homelessness Prevented/relieved not specified	-	-	13	-	-	134	10	3	160
Passed to Housing	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Passed to Children's Services	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Deemed Not A Child in Need	27	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	32
Refused Assistance	-	-	30	1	-	-	352	28	623
Advice Only	44	-	64	4	22	212	-	11	240
Lost Contact	52	-	-	-	-	95	-	-	147
Support No Longer Required	50	-	49	-	52	28	7	-	186
Not Known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	413	36	285	74	163	483	496	106	2056

Outcomes – All Young People 16 - 25

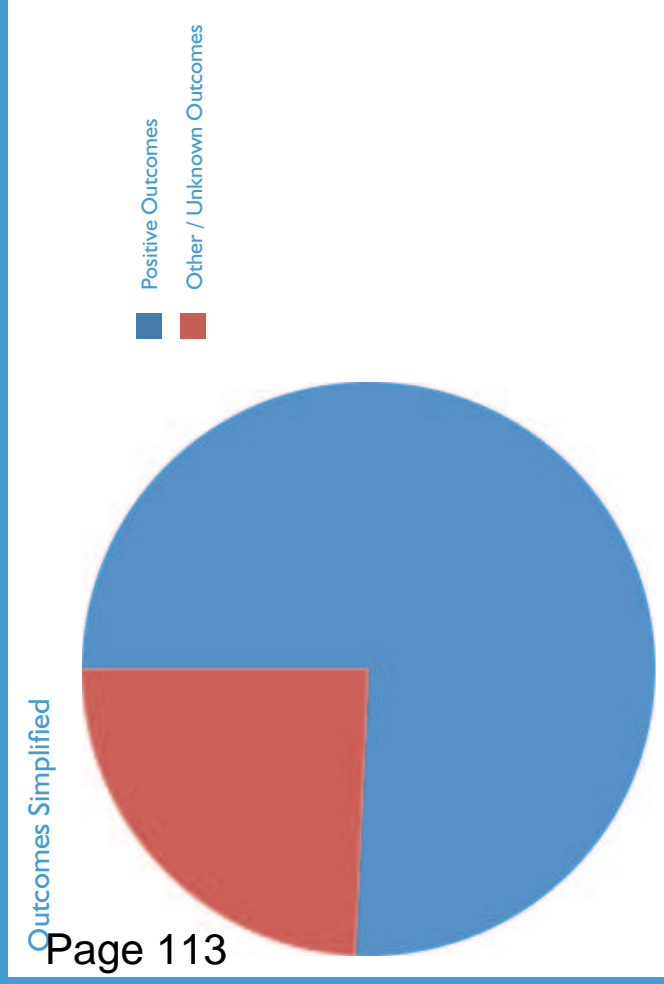


Due to the wide variety of recorded outcomes, which is the result of teams having their own methodology, it is difficult to interpret the above pie chart simply.

To better represent these outcomes we have considered two broader outcomes:

Positive Outcomes including returned to parents, returned to other family/friends, supported accommodation, social housing, private rented, returned to accommodation, homelessness prevented/relieved (but not specified), advice only and support no longer required. This amounts to 1557 cases.

Other/Unknown Outcomes including passed to Housing, passed to Children's Services, deemed not a child in need, refused assistance, lost contact and not known. This amounts to 499 cases.



6.1.7 Age Distribution of Housing Data

This bar chart shows the age distribution for all approaches made to all districts and agencies during 2011/12. This data looks at the age at the beginning of contact with services and again takes into account all approaches, therefore the same people may be included more than once if they have had multiple contacts with services.



6.1.8 Geographical Distribution of Approaches

The following table shows the areas where young people approached from. The data is based on postcodes which young people gave as their last settled address when approaching teams.

Reliable postcode data for this purpose was collected from 1917 of the young people included in this review.

The vertical columns represent which Authority the young person approached and the horizontal rows show where those young people had become homeless or at risk of homelessness from.

District	Children's Services	Boston	East Lindsey	Lincoln	North Kesteven	South Holland	South Kesteven	West Lindsey	Grand Total	District %
Boston	50	30	2	-	-	9	-	-	91	4.75%
East Lindsey	65	2	278	-	-	1	-	-	346	18.05%
Lincoln	84	-	-	45	-	3	-	4	136	7.09%
North Kesteven	38	1	1	3	163	2	5	2	215	11.22%
South Holland	48	-	-	-	-	438	1	-	487	25.49%
South Kesteven	76	-	-	-	-	3	377	-	456	23.79%
West Lindsey	39	1	-	3	-	21	1	64	108	5.63%
Out of county	28	1	3	1	-	-	21	3	78	4.07%
Grand Total	428	35	284	52	163	477	405	73	1754	

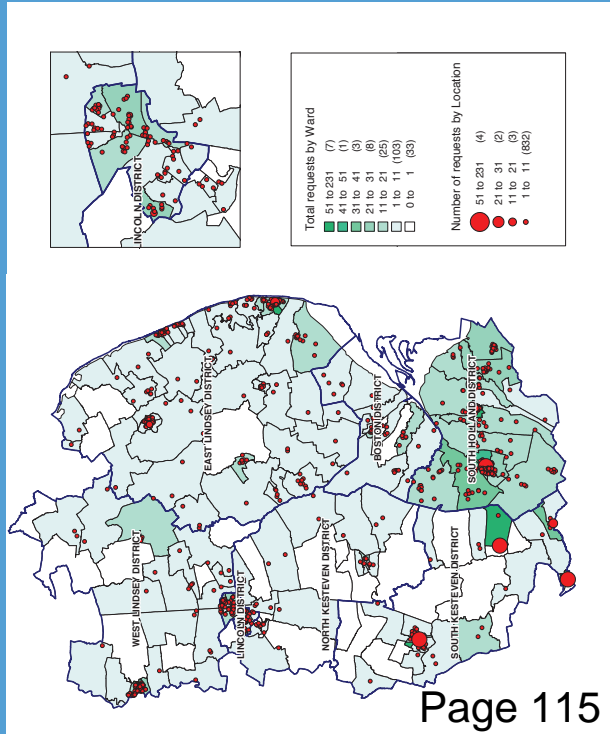
The number of approaches across the returns received from District Authorities differs in some areas from what might be expected and potentially presents a misleading picture of the levels of demand. City of Lincoln and their Supported Accommodation providers in the District consistently report that many young people approach providers directly without making contact with statutory agencies. This is also a possible explanation for the disparity in Boston.

In some cases Districts did not have complete postcode data for all young people. Although this was a minority of cases, generally speaking the data is precise; however, in such cases the main town within that District has been used.

Indeed, North Kesteven did not have postcode data for this group readily available. Following discussions with the North Kesteven Housing Options Team we have represented their approaches as being in the Sleaford area. Some of these young people may live in the outlying villages and migrate towards Sleaford. A significant proportion of North Kesteven residents live in the North Hykeham area but it is believed that these young people would tend to migrate towards Lincoln, either approaching LCC's FAST, City of Lincoln's Homeless Team or, as stated previously, approaching accommodation providers directly.



The following map illustrates where young people are approaching from.



6.1.9 Links with Troubled Families

Lincolnshire County Council has recently undertaken some extensive research as part of the Governments Troubled Families Programme.

What is the Programme About?

The Prime Minister has confirmed his intention to ensure that 120,000 troubled families are 'turned around' by the end of this Parliament. These families are characterised by there being no adult in the family working, children not being in school and family members being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

These families almost always have other often long-standing problems which can lead to their children repeating the cycle of disadvantage. One estimate shows that in over a third of troubled families, there are child protection problems. Another estimate suggests that over half of all children who are permanently excluded from school in England come from these families, as do one-in-five young offenders.

Other problems such as domestic violence, relationship breakdown, mental and physical health problems and isolation make it incredibly hard for families to start unravelling their problems.

The Troubled Families Programme (CLG, 2012)

This table shows what percentage of young people that have approached each of Lincolnshire's District Housing Authorities, Lincolnshire County Council Children's Services (excluding education) and Public Health Supported Services during the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, where homelessness or at risk of homelessness was recorded as a factor of the approach, and whose families were also identified by the Troubled Families Project – Families Working Together.

Organisation	Aged 16 – 17	Aged 18 – 25
Boston District Housing Authority	9.1%	4.0%
East Lindsey District Housing Authority	0.0%	0.0%
Lincoln District Housing Authority	0.0%	0.0%
North Kesteven District Housing Authority	0.0%	0.0%
South Holland District Housing Authority	3.1%	0.0%
South Kesteven District Housing Authority	2.1%	0.0%
West Lindsey District Housing Authority	0.0%	0.0%
Lincolnshire CC's Children's Services (excluding education)	7.2%	0.0%
Public Health Supported Services	2.6%	0.0%



6.2 Accommodation Options for Young People

6.2.1. Types of Accommodation for Young People

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but does cover the main types of accommodation young people are likely to be able to access.

Supported Accommodation – This is independent accommodation for young people with professional support also provided. Supported Accommodation is usually in a hostel setting with a number of young people living together and sharing facilities such as their kitchen and lounge. Some Supported Accommodation is dispersed in the community and offers young people greater independence. In Lincolnshire Supported Accommodation is typically funded by the Public Health Directorate but there are other providers as well.

In Lincolnshire Supported Accommodation providers manage their own waiting lists and application processes, and work closely with their partners in District Housing Authorities and Children's Services.

Supported Lodgings – Providers rent rooms in their own homes to young people and give them the support, encouragement and guidance they need to develop the skills and confidence to live independently. The young person renting the room becomes part of the household and shares the facilities.

Supported lodgings providers often work in partnership with the young person, a social worker, the Leaving Care Team or a Housing Support Worker to provide a programme of support that meets the young person's individual needs. Some will need help with practical tasks such as cooking, budgeting or shopping economically, while others will need more emotional support. Many will need both. The idea is that young people gradually take on more responsibility for looking after themselves until they reach the point where they feel confident enough to cope on their own.

Nightstop – Nightstop and similar emergency housing schemes for homeless young people aged 16 to 25 can provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment in the home of a volunteer. Stays can be anything from just one night to a few weeks.

A stay in one of these schemes can help with sudden homelessness. Many young people using the schemes have been asked to leave their family home, or have left home suddenly when they have fallen out with a family member, or have left a hostel, and would otherwise risk sleeping rough or sofa-surfing.

Nightstop schemes are typically run by charities and coordinated by the national charity Depaul UK, which sets standards for the schemes. Although similar to Supported Lodgings, Nightstop is typically designed as short-term, direct access accommodation.

Crash Pad – This is accommodation designed to be available in an emergency and only for a short period to resolve an immediate crisis or until more appropriate long term accommodation can be found. It is typically independent accommodation with some support and usually provided within an existing Supported Accommodation provision.

Social Housing – This is accommodation let from a Local Authority or Registered Social Landlord. The accommodation is independent and young people will be responsible for ensuring they manage their tenancy. There are a number of Housing Support Providers that are available across Lincolnshire to help people maintain their tenancies if they are having difficulties. Social Housing offers long term settled and secure accommodation but is typically in high demand and not readily available.

Private Rented Accommodation – This is independent accommodation rented from a private landlord. As with social housing young people will be expected to manage the tenancy themselves but Housing Support can be provided also.

6.2.2. Current Accommodation Provision in Lincolnshire

Supported Accommodation – This is the accommodation which is Public Health Funded Young Persons Accommodation (16-25):

District	Name	Units	Support Hours per client (avg.)	24hr Support?
BBC	Framework Boston	18	8	-
ELDC	Young Person's Accommodation Cedars	4	9.25	Y
Lincoln	LEAP Dispersed	24	16.6	-
Lincoln	Framework Lincoln	60	4.6	-
Lincoln	Becam House	4	8	-
NKDC	Sleaford Foyer	14	11	Y
SHDC	Lighthouse	8	14.12	-
SHDC	Lighthouse (Teenage Parents)	4	9.4	-
SKDC	Grantham Foyer	11	9.25	-
SKDC	Stamford Housing Project	8	18.1	-
WLDC	Market Rasen Foyer	20	7	-
			9	-

Nightstop – East Lindsey have a scheme but have only been able to recruit 2 families. The scheme is rarely used due to isolation of one of the families and the second, based in Louth, is only used a few times a year. There are also difficulties in making the scheme accessible in an emergency.

South Holland also have a scheme where young people are accommodated with families for approximately 4 nights. The scheme operates independently of the Authority and they currently have 3-4 host families. They don't take young people with offending histories and have only used the scheme once in the last 6 months.

Homer House – This is Supported Accommodation which is not funded by Public Health. It comprises 18 units with support provided by Leap, a national charity specialising in housing and support for young people.

Crash Pad – West Lindsey offer a Crash Pad in partnership with Market Rasen Foyer. The room is booked on a night by night basis and young people are generally moved into the main hostel when a vacancy becomes available.

Remand Accommodation – The Youth Offending Service currently fund a room at Sleaford Foyer for young people they are supporting.

Supported Lodgings – Banardos Leaving Care Service are currently commissioned to provide a Countywide Supported Lodgings scheme for Care Leavers. There are currently 18 host families.



6.3. Use of Accommodation Currently Commissioned by Local Authorities

This section refers to the Supported Accommodation commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council's Public Health Directorate.

6.3.1. Methodology

Information relating to housing related support services commissioned by Public Health is captured in two ways:

1. Client record forms (CRF) data which shows the entrants into services over a given time frame, along with basic demographic information
2. Outcomes data which at the point of exit for individuals shows the client's length of stay in services as well as the needs they highlighted and how they've been met at the end of their intervention with services

For the purposes of this report CRF data was extracted from the Centre for Housing Research web-site pertaining to 2010/11 and 2011/12. This data was edited to show only the accommodation related services provided by the providers listed below:

- Advance
- Axiom
- Boston Mayflower Framework
- East Lindsey District Council
- Salvation Army
- Leicester Housing Association (Sleaford Foyer)
- Lincolnshire YMCA
- Making Space
- NACRO
- Nottingham Community Housing Association
- Prime Life

This data was edited further to show only those clients aged 25 years and under at the point of data submission.

These data sets were then used to extract the following information.

6.3.2. Overall Numbers

Client numbers involved in Young Person Housing Related Support Services increased by 7% from 2010/11 to 2011/12. In real terms this means that client numbers have grown from 334 to 357. Table 1 in the following section shows the year on year trends per age group along with what proportion of the whole this makes up and the percentage change year on year.

6.3.3. Age Range

Age Group	2010/11 (n)	2010/11 (%)	2011/12 (n)	2011/12 (%)	Year on Year Difference
16	41	12%	41	11%	0%
17	55	16%	46	13%	-20%
18	47	14%	50	14%	6%
19	45	13%	56	16%	20%
20	37	11%	51	14%	27%
21	27	8%	27	8%	0%
22	25	7%	26	7%	4%
23	23	7%	15	4%	-53%
24	22	7%	23	6%	4%
25	12	4%	20	6%	40%
TOTAL	334		357		

Table 1

Age ranges have broadly remained the same year on year with just over 50% of people accessing services aged 19 and under.

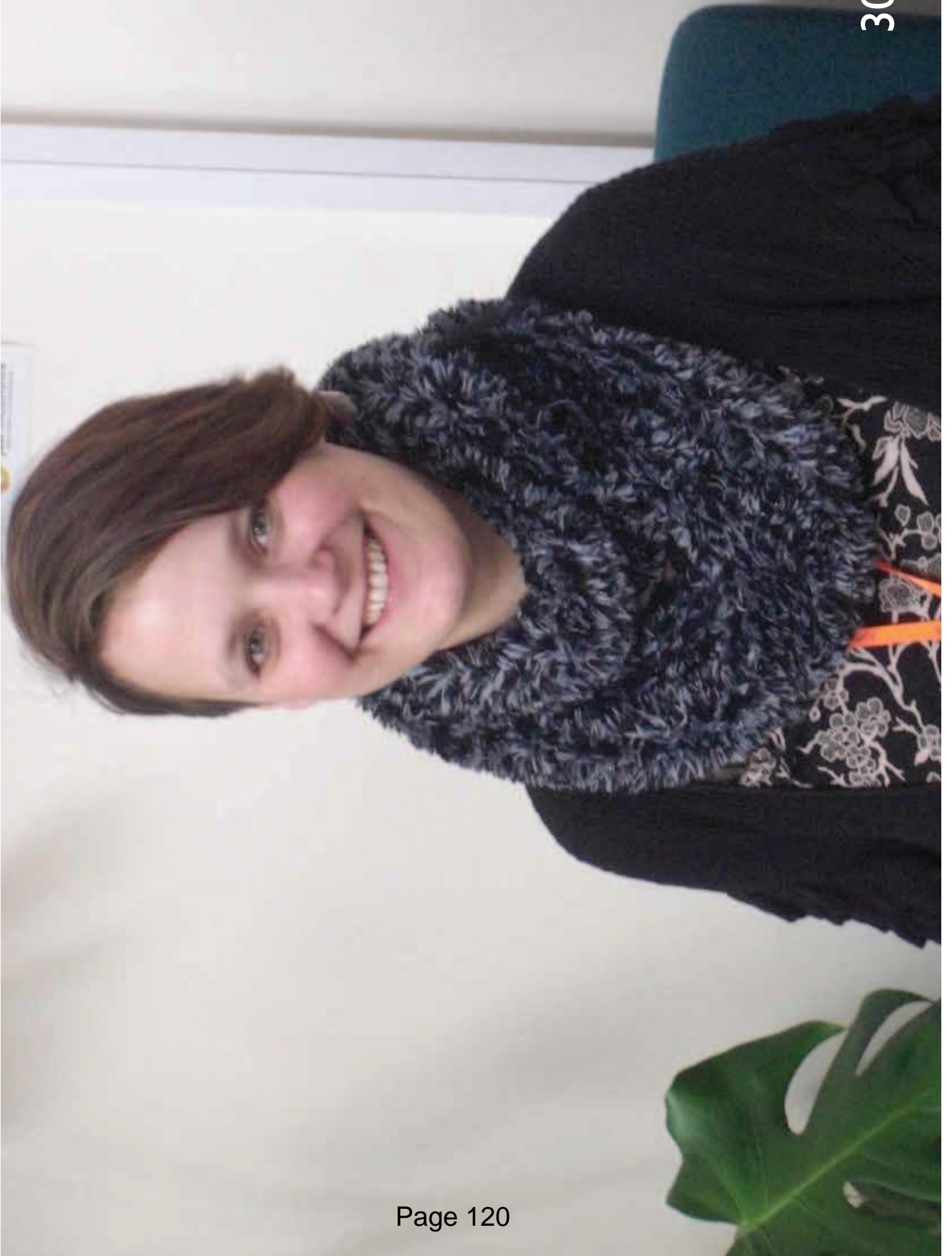
6.3.4. Length of Stay

In order to extract information linked to the length of stay for the client group Outcomes data from the Centre for Housing Research web-site hosted by St Andrew's University has been used. Whilst this provides us with a very useful data source it does not show any duplication of individuals within the system. Also, given that these forms are submitted as clients leave services, the overall submissions rates are higher than for the Client Record Form data mentioned in the rest of this document.

The general trends in terms of length of stay between 2010/11 and 2011/12 have remained fairly stable. With 44% of the client group leaving services within 3 months or less and 56% staying in for over 3 months as table 2 shows:

Row Labels	Outcome forms submitted (n)	Outcome forms submitted (%)
3 months or less	344	44%
3-6 months	226	29%
6-12 months	134	17%
12-24 months	70	9%
2 years +	6	1%
Grand Total	780	

Table 2



6.3.5. Referral Routes

Table 3 shows the year on year referral routes into services for all clients:

Table 3

Referral Source	2010/11 (n)	2010/11 (%)	2011/12 (n)	2011/12 (%)
Community Mental Health Team	20	6%	23	6%
Health service/GP	3	1%	3	1%
Internal transfer	0	0%	8	2%
LA housing department (referral)	11	3%	59	17%
Moving from another RSL	5	1%	4	1%
Nominated by local housing auth	18	5%	33	9%
Other	60	18%	24	7%
Probation service/prison	11	3%	7	2%
Relocated through a recognised National, Regional or Sub-Regional Housing Mobility Scheme	1	0%	9	3%
Self referral/Direct application	169	51%	155	43%
Social Services	28	8%	23	6%
Voluntary Agency	5	1%	8	2%
Youth Offending Team	3	1%	1	0%
TOTAL	334		357	

There has been a significant increase in LA Housing department referrals; otherwise, year on year referral trends seem to be remaining fairly stable. The two main referral routes are 'self-referral / direct application' and 'LA Housing department referrals'. In 2011/12 80% of referrals from social services were for 16-17 year olds, meaning that for these clients specifically the two main referrers were 'self-referrals' (31%) and 'social services' (22%).

6.3.6. Local Authority

There were three Local Authority Districts (LADs) listed as the previous place of residence for 75% of the 2011/12 client group (roughly 25% each). They are:

- Lincoln
- East Lindsey
- South Kesteven

When 16 and 17 year olds are looked at specifically the proportion approaching from East Lindsey and Lincoln reduces slightly and the proportion from South Kesteven rises to almost a third. This trend was also found to be present in 2010/11 data.

6.3.7. Needs Highlighted

When young people take up services provided through Public Health their needs are assessed to identify what support they require. This information is used to demonstrate the positive impact services can have on young people's lives.

Out of the 14 possible needs that can be highlighted by clients entering services the main requirements for young people leaving care, young people at risk and teenage parents are:

- Maximising income
- Entering paid work
- Starting training and education
- External contacts (groups)
- Maintaining accommodation
- Accessing settled accommodation
- Choice & control / involvement

These needs were all highlighted by over 50% of clients (for whom data was submitted - a total of 178 people during 2011/12 - therefore only a quarter of the clients recorded via CRF).

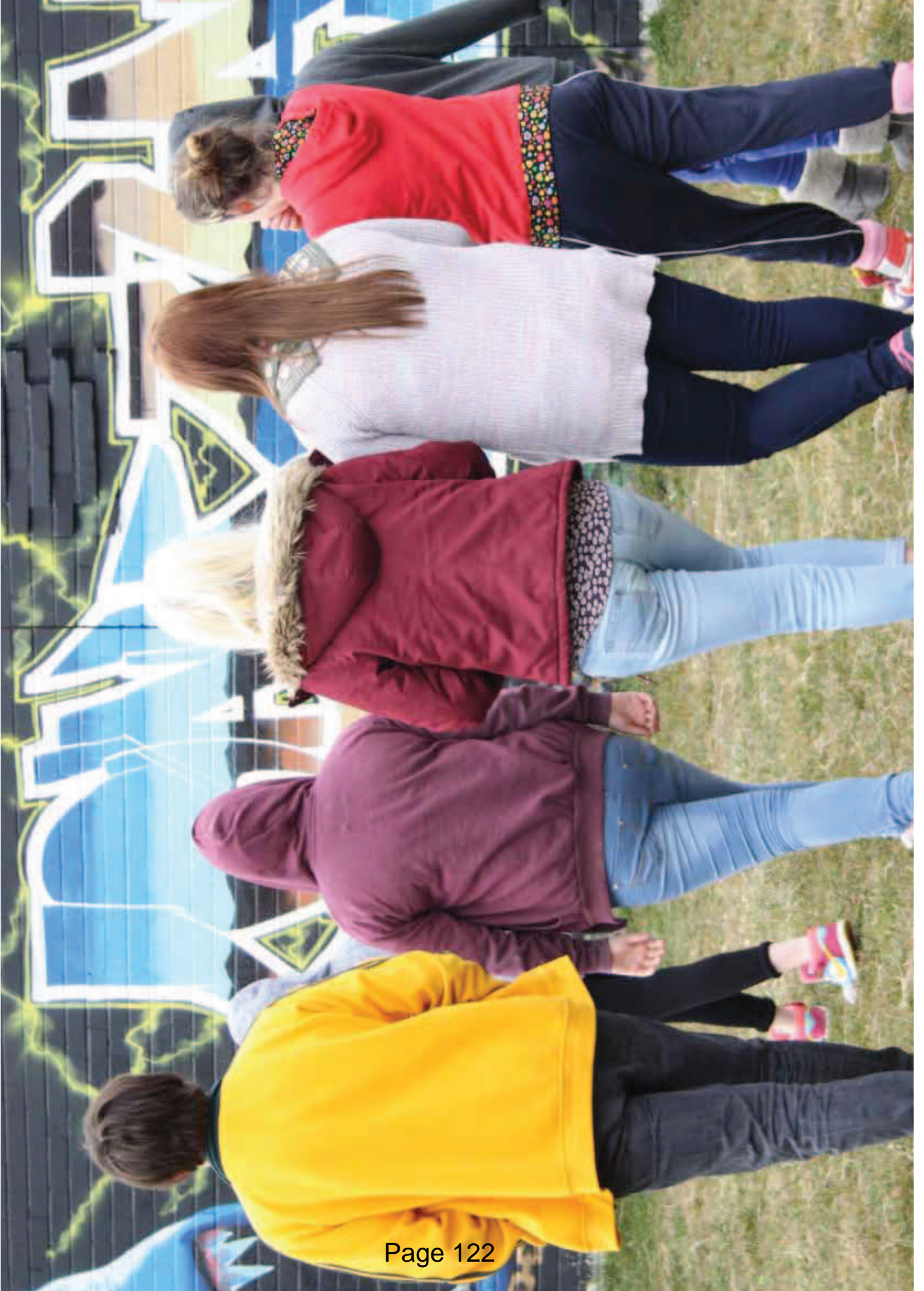
The most 'successfully' met (90% or more of those highlighting these needs having them met by the end of their time in services) outcomes for this group during 2011/12 were:

- Maximising income
- External contacts (groups)
- Choice & control / involvement

The next group of most successfully met outcomes (50% or more of those highlighting these needs having them met by the end of their time in services) were:

- Training and education
- Maintaining accommodation
- Settled accommodation

Finally the least successfully met outcome was 'Paid Work' with fewer than 50% of those highlighting this need having it met by the end of their contact with services.



Open Report on behalf of David O'Connor, Executive Director Performance and Governance

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 October 2013
Subject:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2013/14

Summary:

This item enables the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider its own work programme for the coming year.

Actions Required:

- (1) To comment and agree on the content of the work programme, as set out in Appendix A to this report.
- (2) To note the content of the Children's Services Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix B to this report.

1. Background

Current Work Programme

At every meeting of the Committee, Members are invited to consider their future Work Programme and to agree on items to be included in the Work Programme. The current work programme for the Committee is attached at Appendix A to this report.

Forward Plan

Also attached at Appendix B for the Committee's consideration is a list of the intended decisions of the Executive or Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services, which fall within the remit of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny Activity Definitions

Set out below are the definitions used to describe the types of scrutiny, relating to the items:

Budget Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising the previous year's budget, the current year's budget or proposals for the future year's budget.

Pre-Decision Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising a proposal, prior to a decision on the proposal by the Executive, the Executive Councillor or a senior officer.

Performance Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising periodic performance, issue specific performance or external inspection reports.

Policy Development - The Committee is involved in the development of policy, usually at an early stage, where a range of options are being considered.

Consultation - The Committee is responding to (or making arrangements to respond to) a consultation, either formally or informally. This includes pre-consultation engagement.

Status Report - The Committee is considering a topic for the first time where a specific issue has been raised or members wish to gain a greater understanding.

Update Report - The Committee is scrutinising an item following earlier consideration.

Scrutiny Review Activity - This includes discussion on possible scrutiny review items; finalising the scoping for the review; monitoring or interim reports; approval of the final report; and the response to the report.

2. Conclusion

That consideration is given to the content of this report.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Appendix B	Children's Services Forward Plan

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or Tracy.Johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk .

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Theme: **“That every child, in every part of the county should achieve their potential”**

Chairman: Councillor John Hough

Vice Chairman: Councillor Bob Adams

18 October 2013		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Narrowing the Attainment Gap (including vulnerable learners)	Maggie Freeman Head of Service 11-19 Tim Culpin Head of School Improvement	Status Report
Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding – Proposal for a Review	Tracy Johnson Scrutiny Officer Janice Spencer Assistant Director	Scrutiny Review Activity
Proposal for a new primary academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation process to identify an operator)	Michelle Andrews Interim Head of Property and Technology Management	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor Decision on 31 October 2013)
School Admissions and Exclusions in Lincolnshire Action Plan – First Monitoring Update, including synopsis of “Always Someone Else’s Problem” - Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Report on Illegal Exclusions	Keith Batty Assistant Director CfBT Education Services	Scrutiny Review Activity
Changes to the System of School Organisation	Matt Clayton School Organisation Planning Manager	Consultation
School Funding Reform: Findings from the Review of 2013/14 & Arrangements and changes for 2014/15	Tony Warnock Head of Finance – Children’s and Specialist Services	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor Decision on 30 October 2013)
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update	Cllr Pat O'Connor Chairman of Scrutiny Sub-Group	Update Report

18 October 2013		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Youth Housing Strategy	Phil Taylor Lincolnshire Youth Housing Coordinator	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor on 22 October 2013)

29 November 2013		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Youth Offer	Stuart Carlton Assistant Director	Update Report
Feedback from Members' Visits to Children's Centres	Stuart Carlton	Status Report
Theme Performance: Quarter 2	Debbie Barnes Director of Children's Services	Performance Scrutiny
Current Transport Policy (including Post 16)	David Robinson School Services Manager	Status Report
Support and Aspiration for Children with Special Educational Needs	Gary Nixon Head of Service Additional Needs Sheridan Dodsworth Head of Service Children with Disabilities	Status Report
Inspire Plus Legacy Challenge and School Sports	Philip Garner Specialist Programme Manager Public Health	Status Report
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub- Group Update	Cllr Pat O'Connor	Update Report
Corporate Parenting Panel Update	Cllr David Brailsford Chairman of Panel	Update Report

10 January 2014		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Children's Services Budget 2013/2014 and 2014/15	Debbie Barnes	Budget Scrutiny
Sufficiency of School Places	Matt Clayton	Status Report
Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan Update	TBC	Update Report
Early Help Strategy	Stuart Carlton	Status Report
Collaborative Partnerships for sustaining small and medium sized primary schools in Lincolnshire - Update	Tim Culpin	Update Report

7 March 2014		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Theme Performance: Quarter 3	Debbie Barnes	Performance Scrutiny
Review of CfBT Contract – Annual Report	Debbie Barnes	Status Report
Families Working Together	Stuart Carlton Jo Kavanagh Lincolnshire's Troubled Families Co-ordinator/ Head of Service Youth Offending	Update Report
Lincolnshire Public Health Annual Report 2012 – Progress against recommendations on Childhood Obesity	Dr Tony Hill Director of Public Health	Status Report
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – Tier 2 Update	Stuart Carlton Charlotte Gray Commissioning Officer	Update Report
Take up of Early Education for disadvantaged 2 year olds in Lincolnshire	Steph Douglas Head of Service Birth to Five	Status Report

25 April 2014		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Community Access to School Facilities – Interim report	Keith Batty	Update Report
Opportunities for Young People Post 16	Maggie Freeman	Status Report

13 June 2014		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Theme Performance: Quarter 4	Debbie Barnes	Performance Scrutiny
Policy on Support and Aspiration for Children with Special Educational Needs	Gary Nixon Sheridan Dodsworth	Consultation

25 July 2014		
Item	Contributor	Purpose
Policy on Support and Aspiration for Children with Special Educational Needs	Gary Nixon Sheridan Dodsworth	Pre-Decision Scrutiny
Strategies for Recruiting Qualified and Experienced Social Workers	Janice Spencer Assistant Director	Status Report

Items to be Scheduled

- Strengthening partnerships between Diocesan church school providers and LA providers for education (2014)
- Stamford Endowed Schools Scholarship Tapering- Interim (4th Year) Review – May 2015
- Looked After Children Covenant – Annual Report
- Ofsted Inspection of CfBT Education Services

Theme Outcomes

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is aligned to the five principles set out in the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015:

- 1. Early Intervention and Prevention**
 - Strong universal services, providing early action and intensive support to vulnerable children and young people.
- 2. Safeguarding and Best Start in Life**
 - Ensuring children are safe in every environment.
 - Encouraging community responsibility for safeguarding.
- 3. Aspiration and Well Being**
 - Ensuring all those working with children champion the importance of aspiration.
 - Develop self-esteem, self-belief and resilience in all children, young people and their families.
- 4. Learning and Achievement**
 - All children being the best that they can be.
 - Closing the gap between vulnerable groups and children living in disadvantaged communities.
- 5. Best Use of Resources**
 - Integrating delivery with a focus on outcomes, life chances and opportunities.
 - Effective use of resources to provide better services locally.
 - Empower communities, creating opportunities for them to engage.

For more information about the work of this Committee please contact Tracy Johnson, Scrutiny Officer, on 01522 552164 or by e-mail at tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN OF DECISIONS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM 3 OCTOBER 2013

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	HOW TO COMMENT ON THE DECISION BEFORE IT IS MADE AND THE DATE BY WHICH COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CHIEF OFFICER	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
1005453	Adoption of Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy	22 October 2013	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Young people, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board, Lincolnshire Homeless Strategy Group, Young People's Supported Accommodation, providers and the Children's Services teams	Report	Youth Housing Coordinator E-mail: phil.taylor@lincolnshire.gov.uk Tel: 07775 026264	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	No	All Divisions
1005426	Changes to the funding formula for county schools	30 October 2013	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	All schools, Lincolnshire Schools' Forum and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Report	Head of Finance (Children's and Specialist Services) E-mail: tony.warnock@lincolnshire.gov.uk Tel: 01522 553250	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	All Divisions
1005542	Proposal for a new primary Academy in Gainsborough (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation of process to identify an operator)	31 October 2013	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	All Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Lincolnshire schools and Academies; RC and CofE Dioceses; County, District and Town Councils; Neighbouring authorities; EFA; applicants to previous new school proposals. Details were also made available to potential interested parties via the DfE, Independent Academies Association and the New Schools Network websites as well as the LCC website	Report	Interim Head of Property and Technology Management E-mail: michelle.andrews@lincolnshire.gov.uk Tel: 01522 553269	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	Gainsborough Hill; Gainsborough

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