



County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1YL

12 July 2018

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

A meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Friday, 20 July 2018 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith Ireland'.

Keith Ireland  
Chief Executive

**Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**  
**(11 Members of the Council and 4 Added Members)**

Councillors R L Foulkes (Chairman), R J Kendrick (Vice-Chairman), M D Boles, Mrs W Bowkett, S R Parkin, M T Fido, C Matthews, A P Maughan, L Wootten, M A Whittington and R Wootten

**Added Members**

Church Representatives: Reverend P A Johnson and Mr S C Rudman

Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs P J Barnett and 1 Parent Governor Vacancy



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA  
FRIDAY, 20 JULY 2018**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence / Replacement Members</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Members' Interests</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 8 June 2018</b>	5 - 18
<b>4</b>	<b>Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services and the Executive Director of Children's Services</b>	Verbal Report
<b>5</b>	<b>Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People</b> <i>(To receive a report from Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director Children's – Lead Early Help, and Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager, which invites the Committee to consider a report on the Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People, which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 30 July 2018)</i>	19 - 54
<b>6</b>	<b>Edge of Care Support Service</b> <i>(To receive a report from Joanne Fox, Commissioning Officer, which invites the Committee to consider and comment on the Edge of Care Support Service, which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 30 July 2018)</i>	55 - 94
<b>7</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Sub Group Update</b> <i>(To receive a report which presents to the Committee the draft minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub Group meeting held on 14 June 2018)</i>	95 - 104
<b>8</b>	<b>Restorative Practice - Lincolnshire Joint Diversionary Panels (JDP)</b> <i>(To receive a report from Andy Cook, Youth Offending Manager, which provides the Committee with an update and overview of the impact of the Lincolnshire Joint Diversionary Panel since it was introduced in June 2017)</i>	105 - 110
<b>9</b>	<b>Partners in Practice Programme Update</b> <i>(To receive a report from Tara Jones, Children's Service Manager – Partners in Practice, which provides the Committee with an update on Lincolnshire's Partners in Practice Programme)</i>	111 - 120

**10 Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

121 - 128

*(To receive a report from Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment on its work programme for the coming months)*

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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
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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
8 JUNE 2018**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R L FOULKES (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors R J Kendrick (Vice-Chairman), Mrs W Bowkett, S R Parkin, M T Fido, C Matthews, A P Maughan, L Wooten, M A Whittington and R Wooten.

**Added Members**

Church Representatives: Reverend P A Johnson and Mr S C Rudman.

Officers in attendance:-

Michelle Andrews (Service Manager Early Years and Childcare Support), Dave Clarke (Secure Unit Principal), Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Mark Rainey (Commissioning Manager – Commercial), Heather Sandy (Chief Officer for Education), Sally Savage (Chief Commissioning Officer - Children's Services), Martin Smith (Children's Services Manager, School Standards), Janice Spencer (Assistant Director Safeguarding) and Sharon Gaskell (Commissioning Officer - Commercial Services).

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M D Boles and Mrs P Barnett, Parent Governor Representative.

Apologies were also received from Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services, Councillor D Brailsford, Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services and Debbie Barnes, Executive Director for Children's Services.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of members' interests made at this point in the meeting.

**3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 APRIL 2018**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 April 2018 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR ADULT CARE, HEALTH AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Chairman advised that he, the Executive Director of Children's Services, two members of staff and four of the Council's young people had attended the East Midlands Regional Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Conference, held on 1 June 2018. The Committee was advised further that the Lincolnshire delegation had received recognition for its Barnardo's Leaving Care Service. It was noted that other local authorities were following the Lincolnshire model, particularly in relation to the Big Conversation events.

The Assistant Director, Safeguarding advised that a press release was due to be released shortly concerning the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Focussed Visit.

The Committee was also advised that the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services were not in attendance as they were conducting interviews at Rotherham.

5 CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

The Committee gave consideration to a report from Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager, which invited the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider the content of the Strategy, and to endorse the process of embedding Corporate Parenting into the Council's culture.

Janice Spencer, Assistant Director, Safeguarding presented the report and highlighted to the Committee that the Council had a legal Corporate Parenting responsibility to all of its Looked After Children and Care Leavers. A copy of the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018 – 2021 was attached to the report at Appendix A for the Committee's consideration. It was highlighted that the strategy was a document designed to help embed Corporate Parenting across the Council to ensure the responsibility of parenting the Council's children and care leavers was at the forefront of Council thinking when making decisions and designing services.

The Committee was advised that the Corporate Parenting Strategy would be presented to the Council meeting on 14 September 2018 for consideration and to ensure wider member commitment to the responsibilities of being a Corporate Parent.

It was highlighted that Looked after Children and Young People and Care Leavers should have the same care, nurturing, health and wellbeing; and life chances as any other child or young person. Pages 19/20 identified what responsible parenting involved.

The strategy provided information as to the role of a 'Corporate Parent'; the commitment in Lincolnshire for all Looked After Children; and the responsibility for all, which included the seven Corporate Parenting Principles; the universal

responsibilities within the Council in conjunction with governing bodies of partner agencies; the targeted responsibilities for elected members who visited Children's Homes; and specialist responsibilities of the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, the Executive Director of Children's Service's and the Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following points:-

- The need to ensure that all Councillors were aware of the strategy and the responsibilities of being a Corporate Parent. It was reported that elected members were making more contact with Looked After Children, with visits to the Big Conversation Event and V4C meetings; and other social occasions; as well visiting children's homes. One member stressed that as Looked After Children were very vulnerable, that everything should be done that possibly could be done to help the young person; and that it was essential that the strategy was taken on board by all; and embedded within the day to day work of the Council. A suggestion was made that the strategy needed to be brought to life when presented to the Council on 14 September 2018;
- The championing of provision of Council based work placements and Apprenticeships for looked after young people. The Committee was advised that the Care Leavers Apprenticeship Scheme was provided through Barnardo's; and that there were between 10 and 12 placements per year. It was reported that more work was being done within the Council with managers to see if more apprenticeships could be made available to care leavers. It was highlighted that in relation to full-time jobs following an apprenticeship with the Council, care leavers had priority status. One member enquired whether more information could be received relating to apprenticeships. The Committee was advised that the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group would be looking at Apprenticeships in more detail; and
- Some members felt that Corporate Parenting refresher training was needed to be undertaken, which should make reference to the changes relating to providing support to care leavers up to the age of 25.

Note: Councillor M A Whittington wished it to be noted that he had an interest in the Lincolnshire County Council Children's Services as a parent of an adopted child.

The Chairman extended his thanks to the Corporate Parenting Manager and his team for all their hard work in driving forward the responsibilities of a Corporate Parent.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the Corporate Parenting Strategy be received and that endorsement be given to the process of embedding Corporate Parenting into the Council's culture. That Officers look into how the Strategy was to be presented to the Council meeting on 14 September 2018.

2. That Corporate Parenting refresher training be arranged, to include the changes in legislation that had come into force on 1 April 2018, relating to providing support to Care Leavers up to the age of 25.

## 6 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report from Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager, which invited the Committee to comment on the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2021, prior to being considered by the Executive on 3 July 2018.

The Assistant Director, Safeguarding presented the report and highlighted that Lincolnshire County Council had a responsibility to the children it looked after and its care leavers. And that following a change in legislation, which had come into effect from the 1 April 2018, the Council's duty had widened, as it now had a duty to provide support to all care leavers up to the age of 25, if they wanted support.

Appended to the report was a copy of the Lincolnshire Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 – 2021 for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee was advised that in order to achieve the desired outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, the strategy had been developed to contain a number of guiding principles, which had been developed locally and these were shown on page 45 of the report.

The strategy also set out Lincolnshire County Council's seven key priorities to continually improve on, over the next three years. These were shown on pages 45/46 of the report presented.

The Committee was advised that the strategy was a key document for the Council and its partner organisations. The Committee was advised further that the strategy had been developed in consultation with many key groups, elected members and young people.

During consideration of the strategy, the Committee raised the following comments:-

- It was queried whether all seven district councils had signed up to the strategy. It was confirmed that all the district councils had now signed up to it, in principle;
- Concerns were raised about children in need and how this group of children could be supported further. It was reported that schools, through Team Around the Child, were increasingly confident about supporting families. In relation to mental health issues, there was Healthy Minds, CAMHS and the Emotional and Wellbeing Service that children in need could be referred to. It was highlighted that services had been designed to provide wraparound support to schools to support families. However, it was highlighted that children in need were not tracked as a group separately, for outcomes or exclusions. This was due to the fact that they were a constantly changing cohort;

- In relation to "Staying Put" for foster children, it was queried whether anything similar could be done to support children more in residential homes. It was reported that there was "Staying Close", which was a scheme to support young people transitioning from a residential home into provision in the community post 18. In these cases the residential home would continue to provide support to the young people after they had moved out into new accommodation. It was highlighted that any pressure that could be put on district councils in relation to housing placements for care leavers would be useful. Councillor Mrs W Bowkett highlighted that she was on a housing delivery group with district councils and would raise the matter at the next meeting;
- It was queried what support could be given to foster carers when a placement broke down. It was reported that a project from the United States called "Mockingbird" was being looked into and the Fostering Network had signed up to it. The project was about foster carers providing peer support to other foster carers;
- It was questioned how a relationship between a young person and a social worker was addressed if it was not working. It was noted that the relationship with social workers was critical and the social worker would be changed if needed. However, care was taken if parents requested a change in the social worker with regards to the rationale for requesting the change; and
- In relation to the extension of support to care leavers to the age of 25, it was queried what had been done to communicate this to care leavers and encourage them to take up the offer. Officers reported that they were in the process of contacting as many as possible of the retrospective 21-25 year olds, but some were proving difficult to track down.

#### RESOLVED

That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee unanimously supported the recommendation as detailed in the Executive report and requested that the Executive consider the comments as detailed above before making a decision on 3 July 2018.

#### 7 OFSTED INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ILACS) FOCUSED VISIT

The Committee gave consideration to a report from the Assistant Director, Safeguarding, which advised of the outcomes from the focussed visit from Ofsted in April 2018. It was noted that the focus of the visit had been permanency planning; and achieving permanence for children in care.

The Committee was advised that Ofsted had implemented a new inspection regime for Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) in January 2018, which had replaced the Single Inspection Framework (SIF). The Committee was advised further under the ILACS framework, an authority would continue to be inspected every three years, but would also receive up to two focussed visits between inspections. It was noted that a judgement was not awarded for a focussed visit.

It was reported that Lincolnshire's Children's Services had last been inspected under SIF in November 2014; and had achieved a judgement of 'good'.

Detailed at Appendix A to the report was a copy of the letter received from Ofsted relating to the Focused Visit to Lincolnshire Children's Services. The letter had identified that overall leaders had ambitions for children in care; full details of their comments were shown in Appendix A. The Committee was advised that a small number of areas, one being Mosaic had been highlighted as needing strengthening to ensure permanence for all children was achieved, and in a timely manner.

The Committee was advised that an action plan would be put into place and issues would be turned round within the next 12 months.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following issues:-

- Some concern was expressed to the IT problems social work teams were having, which was preventing them from doing their job. The Committee was advised that Windows 10 was going to be rolled out to social work teams during August, which would help alleviate some of the problems. It was also reported that project support would also be put in to place;
- Delays in placement when the child was subject to a care order. Reassurance was given that the numbers were few (36 in total); and that these had already been reviewed and were being prepared for discharge; and
- Reference was made to the last paragraph of the letter which acknowledged a working environment to support social work had enable social work to flourish. The staff had manageable workloads, received regular supervision and appropriate training and development opportunities which had contributed to a supportive environment for social workers committed to working in Lincolnshire. The Assistant Director, Safeguarding advised that a lot of work had gone in to ensure that social workers had manageable caseloads. This had been helped as a result of lots of work around early intervention and prevention; Team Around the Child; and also Signs of Safety. The Committee was advised that it had taken four years to achieve the current position.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman extended thanks to the Assistant Director, Safeguarding and her team for all their hard work.

#### RESOLVED

That the outcomes of Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services Focussed Visit be received and the comments raised be noted.

#### 8 LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2016/17

The Committee gave consideration to report from Martin Smith, Children's Service Manager, School Standards and Michelle Andrews, Children's Service Manager, Early Years & Childcare Support, which summarised the 2016/17 performance data for Lincolnshire schools.

Heather Sandy, Chief Officer for Education introduced the report and advised that following the comments received from the Committee that the format of the report had been changed; and that officers welcomed any further comments concerning content and format going forward.

The Children's Service Manager, School Standards advised that the report brought the outcomes of assessments within the Early Years, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, and Key Stage 4. It was noted that where available, data sets had been compared to Local Authority averages, statistical neighbours and national figures.

The following Appendices were attached to the report presented:-

- Appendix A – Key Number report 2017; and
- Appendix B – FSM 2017 Performance Overview.

The Committee's attention was brought to the summary of results for Key Stage 1 Teacher Assessments for KS1 Reading, KS1 Writing, KS1 Maths; and Phonics; summary of results for Key Stage 2; and Key Stage 4.

Pages 72, 73 and 74 provided the Committee with details of the Lincolnshire priorities for 2017/18. It was highlighted that to date Lincolnshire had done well to secure Strategic School Improvement Funding, which would support improvements over 2018/19; and that these programmes would be monitored for impact by the Department for Education in 2019/20. Details of the approved bids in Round 1, and Round 2 were shown at the top of page 74 of the report presented. Also, on page 74 was information relating to bids that the Council was still awaiting confirmation on. These bids were focussed on the priority areas that had been identified by the Local Authority.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following comments:-

- The ages applicable to the key stages, it was felt that inclusion of this information would be useful to members of the Committee;
- The methodology applied when maintained schools were not performing. The Committee was advised that advisors monitored the performance of maintained schools and highlighted any concerns to the leadership of the school. If necessary, a pre-warning notice was served requiring the school to outline their response to addressing concerns. This would then be monitored, and if the school did not address the concerns, they would then be issued with a formal warning, which would be automatically shared with the Department for Education and Ofsted. It was noted that the Regional School Commissioner could also intervene and send a formal warning notice even when the LA was reassured. It was highlighted that the Committee was advised that the Regional School Commissioner for the East Midlands worked closely with officers at the Local Authority and that this process was co-ordinated;
- Some concern was expressed that progress had not been as good as it might have been; and that the Committee would benefit from knowing earlier in the academic year in order to analyse the LAs response. Officers advised that

they had the data by the start of the following academic year, but until the data had been validated it could not be put in the public domain;

- A question was asked as to whether the data was just for maintained schools. Officers advised that the educational outcomes in the report reflected the achievement of all Lincolnshire's children in state funded education; and that there was no difference in the Council's approach to data breakdown. One member felt that there had been improvement, however the improvement was running static;
- One member highlighted that performance was down to inspiring teachers and the relationships built up between teacher and pupil. It was highlighted that the most important thing was for the school to be a happy learning environment. Officers advised that feedback from a recent conference had identified that Lincolnshire School Leaders were feeling increasingly connected and that the Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) projects would ensure that this was happening with teachers and teaching assistants as well;
- One member requested that it would be useful to have data separated between maintained schools and academies going forward, so that members of the Committee could see the progress being made in these areas; and
- It was highlighted that not every child was academic; and queried whether employability was being developed; and whether this outcome was measured. It was noted that post 16 pathways would show what was being done; and that Lincolnshire's Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) figures compared well with national figures. It was queried how children were encouraged to complete the EBacc certificate. It was highlighted to the Committee that some high performing schools refused, or were un-interested in forcing pupils to undertake the EBacc certificate as they did not feel that this was in the interests of individual pupils. It was noted that curriculum design and decision making was the responsibility of Head Teachers and Trusts.

## RESOLVED

That the Lincolnshire Local Authority School performance data for 2016/17 be received; and that officers note the comments raised by the Committee.

## 9 LINCOLNSHIRE SECURE UNIT - MINISTRY OF JUSTICE CONTRACT BID

Consideration was given to a report from Mark Rainey, Children's Commissioning Manager, Commercial and Dave Clarke, Principal Lincolnshire Secure Unit, which invited the Committee to consider a report on the Lincolnshire Secure Unit – Ministry of Justice contract bid, which was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 18 June 2018.

Shannon Gaskell, Commissioning Officer, Commercial Services introduced the report, making reference to the background behind the twelve-bedded Secure Children's Home (SCH), situated in Sleaford, which had opened in 1997. It was reported that eleven of the beds were contracted to the Ministry of Justice for young people sentenced or remanded into custody; and that one bed was used for Local

Authorities, including Lincolnshire, to spot purchase for young people requiring secure accommodation under Welfare criteria.

It was reported that maintaining the Lincolnshire Secure Unit (LSU) within Lincolnshire ensured that positive outcomes could be achieved locally by Lincolnshire young people when resident at the LSU as well as providing a valuable resource more widely.

Details of the existing contract provision was provided on page 90 of the report presented. It was highlighted that the current contract was for eleven beds, valued at £594.49 per night per bed, which equated to £2,386,877.35 per annum. The LSU also had one welfare bed available to both Lincolnshire young people and young people placed by other Local Authorities. It was highlighted that the welfare bed price for 2018/19 had increased to £850.00 per night. The income that had been received for 2017/18 for the one welfare bed had been £0.287m.

The Committee was advised that the Ministry of Justice had recently confirmed that they were re-procuring on a Direct Award Contract approach. The direct negotiations would focus on three main areas:

- The number of beds a SCH can offer to the Ministry of Justice;
- The price at which those beds will be offered; and
- The length of contract to be awarded.

The report identified that individual negotiations would be completed by 30 June 2018; with a new contract in place by 1 October 2018.

It was highlighted that failure to negotiate with the Ministry of Justice to continue provision of a Secure Children's Home from the LSU site was likely to lead to the unit ceasing to operate as there would be no guaranteed income through the Ministry of Justice contract. The report therefore recommended that negotiations were undertaken with the Ministry of Justice to reach a successful conclusion to retain the ability to deliver the service from the LSU and safeguard the benefits accruing to the Council through securing a guaranteed income stream from the Ministry of Justice contract to ensure financial sustainability of the facility.

Appendix A to the report provided a map showing secure children's homes in England.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following comments:-

- It was queried why there was only one welfare bed and whether this could be increased. It was highlighted that there was no guarantee of income from welfare beds whereas for secure beds there was guaranteed income from the Ministry of Justice. It was noted that officers were currently working with the Department for Education to look at a new location for the secure unit in order to increase the number of welfare beds to twelve. It was reported that the current building did not allow for an increase in the number of welfare beds;

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
8 JUNE 2018**

- Cllr M A Whittington highlighted that he was a member of the Commissioning and Commercial Board which had considered this proposal. He highlighted that there was no financial risk to Lincolnshire County Council with the current model for eleven secure beds and one welfare bed. However, if the number of secure beds dropped to ten and there were two welfare beds instead, this would increase the financial risk to the Council as there would be less guaranteed income from the Ministry of Justice; and
- It was suggested that the Secure Unit should be renamed to something more in line with other secure units nationally. It was noted that moving to a new building would provide an ideal opportunity to rename the facility.

**RESOLVED**

That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee unanimously supported the recommendations contained in the Executive Councillor report; and requested that the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services take into account the comments raised above before making a decision on 18 June 2018.

**10 LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP -  
UPDATE**

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided an overview of the activities of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, in particular the Sub-Group's consideration of children's safeguarding matters. Attached to the report at Appendix A was a copy of the draft minutes from the last meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group held on 16 April 2018.

The Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, Councillor S R Dodds advised that at the last meeting the Sub-Group had received an update on the work of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board.

It was reported that the Sub-Group had been advised that following the Wood Review of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB) and the Children and Social Work Act 2017, a Shadow Assurance Executive had been established to sit above the Strategic Management Group to scrutinise and challenge the work of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board. It was noted that the membership of the Shadow Executive had included the three key statutory partners listed in the Wood Review 2016:- Local Authority, Police and Health. It was noted that at the moment these would remain proposals and shadow arrangements until statutory guidance had changed.

The Committee was advised that the Sub-Group would endeavour to make sure that someone attended meetings of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board, and the Safeguarding Adults Board, to scrutinise the work of the Boards in action.

It was also highlighted that the Sub-Group had received a presentation about the work of the LSCB E-Safety Officer, which highlighted the training being provided to young people to increase awareness of the risks of online activity. It was highlighted

further that the Sub-Group had suggested that a joint letter from the Chairman of the LSCB Chris Cook, the Police and Crime Commissioner Marc Jones and Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell should be sent to schools who were less engaged in promoting E-Safety lessons.

The Committee was advised that the next Sub-Group meeting would be held on 9 July 2018.

#### RESOLVED

That the draft minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, held on 16 April 2018, be endorsed.

#### 11 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 4 2017/18

Consideration was given to a report from Sally Savage, Chief Commissioning Officer, Children's Services, which provided the Committee with key performance information relating to Quarter 4 2017/18 relevant to the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Attached to the report were the following Appendices for the Committee's consideration:-

- Appendix A – Council Business Plan Measures;
- Appendix B – Complaint and Compliments Report;
- Appendix C – Ofsted School Status Report; and
- Appendix D – Performance and Monitoring of Contracts – (Exempt Report)

The Committee was reminded that Appendix D to the report contained exempt information and if the Committee wished to discuss details pertaining to Appendix D, a vote would need to be taken to move into exempt session.

In guiding the Committee through the report the Chief Commissioning Officer, Children's Services responded to questions raised, which included the following issues:-

- Page 113 - Juvenile First Time Offenders – Concern was expressed that the figures had increased. Members were reminded that this issue would be covered in more detail in the Restorative Panels Pilot item included on the agenda for the 20 July 2018 meeting;
- Page 120 – Looked After Children – The number of children looked after. The Committee was advised that the number of Looked After Children was currently 647; and confirmation was given that there had been a reduction in that number over the last year. It was noted that the number of children looked after did fluctuate, as children came into care. It was noted further that the focus on early intervention and supporting families had resulted in a reduction in the number of children becoming looked after; as well some children coming out of the system through adoption, special guardianship orders, child arrangement orders and returning home;

- Page 124 - Average time taken to move a child from care to adoptive family – Clarification was given that the target of 430 days covered the whole of the journey;
- Page 132 - Care Leavers in suitable accommodation – It was noted that the number of care leavers in suitable accommodation had remained on target for the past 4 years. A question was asked as to whether this figure needed to be 100%, so that there was awareness as to where all care leavers were. The Committee was advised that some care leavers were in prison, some were back with families, and it would therefore not be possible to have 100%. However, reassurance was given that all care leavers had accommodation; and that the figure represented a small minority of 11 children in total;
- Page 138 – Permanent exclusions - Some concern was expressed to the fact that the data supplied was so out of date. Reassurance was given that going forward data for this indicator would be presented in a more meaningful way. The Committee was advised that the number of exclusions had significantly reduced;
- Page 140 – Achievement of the threshold in English and Maths - One member felt that the threshold for this indicator had been set too low. Confirmation was given that the Lincolnshire target set at 42.4% compared favourably to the regional East Midlands figure of 41.7% and to the Council's Statistical Neighbour Average (41.4%). It was highlighted that due to changes in grading between 2015/16 and 2016/17 it was not possible to accurately compare year on year. The Committee noted that the target set was in line with the National Average of 43%; and
- Page 122 – Children who are subject to a child protection plan – A question was asked as to how many children had been the subject of a child protection plan. The Committee was advised that a child protection plan was a very robust plan, which was drawn up by the local authority. The plan set out how a child could be kept safe, how things could be made better for the family; and what support would be needed for the family. The Committee as advised that there were 118 children that were in the court process and were not therefore on a plan; and 131 with a relative or being fostered who would be subject to a plan. A question was also asked as to whether these children were subject to multi-agency conferences; and whether the outcome of the conference would negate the need for a future plan. Officers agreed to look into this matter.

At this point in the meeting, it was moved, seconded and

#### RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Appendix D to the report on the grounds that if they were present there could be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

The Chairman invited members of the Committee to ask questions in relation to Appendix D of the report and officers responded to questions raised.

RESOLVED

That the performance for Quarter 4 2017/18 be received by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; and that officers note the comments raised by the Committee.

12 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report from Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which enabled the Committee to comment on the content of its work programme to ensure that its scrutiny activity was focussed where it could be of greatest benefit.

Attached to the report at Appendix A was a copy of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee work programme up to 30 November 2018. Appendix B to the report provided the Committee with a copy of the Executive Forward Plan from 1 June 2018.

The Committee was advised that the next meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee was due to be held on 20 July 2018.

During a short discussion, the Committee was advised that Prevent and the implications for Children and Young People had been scheduled in for the 30 November 2018 meeting.

One member enquired as to when the Home to School Transport Policy for Grammar Schools would be considered by the Committee. The Committee was advised that a desk top review was due to start in September 2018 and that the Committee would receive an update report later in the year.

One member expressed appreciation to the work and dedication of the Children's Services Team.

RESOLVED

That the Committee's work programme as set out in Appendix A to the report presented be agreed.

The meeting closed at 1.16 pm

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## Policy and Scrutiny

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

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 July 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People</b>

#### Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 30 July 2018. The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of her consideration of this item.

#### Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

- (1) consider the attached report and to determine whether the Committee supports the recommendation(s) to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services as set out in the report.
- (2) 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 a report on the Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People. 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(s) in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive Councillor. The Committee's views will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

### 3. Consultation

#### a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

See report to the Executive Councillor attached at Appendix 1.

#### b) Risks and Impact Analysis

See report to the Executive Councillor attached at Appendix 1.

### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report.	
Appendix 1	Report to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People

### 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 Andrew Morris, who can be contacted on 01522 553916 or [andrew.morris@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.morris@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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

Report to:	<b>Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services</b>
Date:	<b>30 July 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I015859</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

Safe and stable accommodation with timely and appropriate levels of support is a fundamental building block for young people in Lincolnshire to improve their life chances, especially when faced with instability of accommodation or experiencing homelessness.

The Accommodation Pathway presented (Appendix A) reflects the existing and proposed accommodation and housing pathways for young people within Lincolnshire including Looked After Children and Care Leavers. It provides an overview of the opportunities for innovation, cost savings and effective service delivery. It critically recognises the preventative focus of keeping children within their family, wherever this is possible. It also reflects areas of early intervention and education through to independence and the support needed to enable children to succeed.

There are several work streams which underpin this pathway which seek to ensure all young people have the opportunities they need to eventually make a successful transition to adulthood and independence, by providing a range of support services most appropriate to their needs and circumstances.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Executive Councillor approves the "Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People" at Appendix A to this Report.

**Alternatives Considered:**

Not to document the Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People or to adopt a different pathway.

The "Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People" is a document which allows the Directorate to set out its vision and aspirations for children and young people requiring support with accommodation and demonstrate the strategy that will shape how the Council works in conjunction with partner agencies to fulfil its obligations, both as a corporate parent and the wider remit to promote the health and wellbeing of all children and young people in the county.

The pathway has been established following engagement with relevant stakeholders and is considered to be the approach which best delivers the Council's objectives and fulfils the Council's obligations.

### **Reasons for Recommendation:**

The "Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People" offers a detailed overview of current and future arrangements to improve the life chances and life choices of children and young people who require support with accommodation, ensuring they have the right opportunities to make a successful transition to adulthood and independence.

It identifies opportunities for improving the effectiveness of service delivery, from early intervention through to independence. It acknowledges the importance of collaboration and partnership working to develop local responses to accommodation requirements.

It will ensure the availability of safe, appropriate and stable accommodation options to enhance the present and future lives of children and young people.

## **1. Background**

Locally, there has been significant activity around redesigning accommodation services in order to develop and grow capacity to help to prepare the Council to meet the challenges around extending Care Leavers offer up to the age of 25. It is important that services/resources are sustainable, effective and affordable.

The key drivers related to this work are founded upon ensuring positive long term outcomes for young people; the potential of generating significant cost savings; and ensuring a consistent quality of approach in our interventions. It also supports and promotes the aspiration that, wherever possible, young people in Lincolnshire are accommodated within their home area.

The strategic approach is based around:

- Working collaboratively with families and their wider network so that where safe to do so, children and young people remain with their family and friends.
- Intervening as early as possible to prevent housing instability and homelessness from occurring or persisting.

- Ensuring service pathways are planned and integrated to better meet the needs of children and young people experiencing housing instability and homelessness.
- Safeguarding children and young people who are at risk because of housing instability or homelessness.
- Improving transitions to adulthood and independence for children and young people.
- Making better use of available resources to maintain a sufficient range of accommodation-based services with support for children and young people.

The attached **Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People** paper (Appendix A) outlines the options currently available, those that are under development, and the ambitions for future provision. It summarises the aspiration for children and young people to pass through the accommodation provisions available, and to ultimately move-on successfully to independent accommodation of their own.

The key developments around young people's accommodation are:

1) Staying Close

The Head of Regulated Services is developing options for young people leaving residential care to move into local accommodation in order to 'Stay Close' to their previous residential homes. A number of options are being explored, in the first instance, with West Lindsey District Council and North Kesteven District Council. These options will focus on medium to longer-term options for young people who are ready to transition to greater levels of independence and will include the ability for them to take on tenancies, preventing the need for further move-on accommodation.

2) INSA Local Offer (Fire Houses)

Development of a local intensive supported accommodation option is being led by the Head of Regulated Services. The first property is on course to go live imminently offering up to 4 semi-independent bed spaces in accommodation in the south of the county. The costing, staffing and the operating model have been agreed; recruitment has been undertaken; and work is currently being completed to train staff and transition the young people for move-in. This new offer will lead to significant savings for the Council, along with providing vastly improved, more flexible options and better quality of service to some of our more complex and difficult young people.

3) Development of Youth Housing Protocol

A multi-agency Youth Housing Protocol has now been agreed by all signatories - Lincolnshire County Council, incorporating Children's Services

and Adult Care/ Public Health Directorates, and the seven Lincolnshire District Councils. The Youth Homelessness Joint Protocol aims to define the working arrangements for all agencies involved in supporting 16 & 17 year olds, including Looked After Children (LAC), and Care Leavers aged 18-21 years who are in need of advice and assistance due to being homeless or at risk of homelessness.

This Protocol aims to better manage young people's experience of transitioning to adult supported accommodation and (semi) independent living options, and ensures that resources are aligned to help support the extension of the Care Leavers offer to the age of 25. The aim of the Protocol is to nurture a more collaborative partnership approach to what is on offer to Lincolnshire young people and ensure partner agencies play their part supporting young people.

### **Future work**

#### **1) Recommissioning of Youth housing**

The process is due to start in September 2018 – the review of the Youth housing contract is timely and will present the opportunity for the Council to recommission a service in alignment with current developments. The existing arrangements have been revised as of 1 July 2018; this includes a reduction in the overall number of places available but an increase in the number of units and support hours relating to those young people with more complex behaviours.

Any recommissioning will also take into account the new Adolescent Risk Taking Behaviour Service which will provide a revised offer to the children and young people who are placed in all of Children's Services supported accommodation options. All of this work enables the Council to plan future commissioning with a richer, more developed needs analysis and a full consideration of how each component of the pathway fits together to enable young people to move onto their own independent accommodation.

#### **2) Review of existing resources**

Children's Services will undertake a comprehensive review of existing in-house accommodation services to ensure best use of resources including enhancing the capacity and usage of in-house foster care services, and an appraisal of the Residential Homes estate to maximise occupancy and meet the needs of the cohort of children and young people requiring support with accommodation, including short breaks services.

## **2. Legal Issues:**

### **Equality Act 2010**

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- \* Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- \* Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- \* Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.  
The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation  
Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
  - \* Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic
  - \* Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
  - \* Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process

There is no single overarching Equality Impact Analysis covering all of the myriad developments identified in Appendix A. Rather each development will require its own analysis focused on any positive or adverse impact for any of the protected characteristic groups of the proposed changes. These will be shared with the Directorate Management Team and updated regularly as each development progresses.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision

The Accommodation Pathway contributes to the following themes of the JSNA

**Be Healthy**

Children and young people likely to be supported with accommodation may include some with issues such as substance and alcohol misuse, offending behaviours and mental health problems.

The support offered will be tailored to the needs of the young people and empower them to address such issues whilst accessing education and training opportunities to enhance long-term employment prospects.

**Stay Safe**

The primary focus of supported accommodation is to provide children and young people with a safe and stable environment in which to learn and achieve whilst preventing both themselves and others, including local communities, from harm.

**Enjoy and Achieve**

A key feature of the service delivery within supported accommodation options is to enable children and young people to maintain education and training opportunities. Individual support plans will be tailored to meet the needs of children and young people with regard to education and training.

**Positive Contribution**

Individual children and young people will be active in developing support plans and identifying the outcomes they wish to achieve whilst accessing supported accommodation. Service provision will empower children and young people to make use of universal services, where appropriate, that are available locally.

**Achieve Economic Wellbeing**

Children and young people accessing accommodation options will have the opportunity to maintain the same education and training opportunities as their peers, enhancing their longer-term employment prospects.

The Lincolnshire Health & Well Being Strategy includes five main themes, with an additional theme of “mental health” running throughout the document. The Accommodation Pathway supports the following themes.

**Promoting healthier lifestyles**

Commissioned services will support some children and young people with substance and alcohol misuse issues as well as helping children and young people's sense of mental wellbeing through access to support services. Furthermore, the primary focus is to provide children and young people with a safe and stable environment in which they, and others, will remain safe and free from harm.

**Improve health and social outcomes for C&YP and reduce inequalities**

Services commissioned under the Accommodation Pathway will focus on supporting children and young people to maintain education and training opportunities thereby enhancing long-term employment prospects, life chances and reducing inequalities. It will also empower children and young people to build up resilience through their relationships with relevant staff and support networks both within the provision itself and in the wider community through access, where applicable, to universal and targeted services.

**Tackling the social determinants of health**

As indicated above, accessing and maintaining education and training opportunities will form an integral part of any accommodation options being offered to enhance longer-term employment prospects, one of the key social determinants of health.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area

Services commissioned through the Accommodation Pathway will offer a secure and stable environment for children and young people, often removing them from households or communities where they may have been likely to have suffered harm and/or be involved in and/or experienced crime and disorder, keeping those young people and the wider community safe from harm. It will also support some children and young people with substance misuse issues to address those issues as part of the support offered within the accommodation options.

**3. Conclusion**

Accommodation is fundamental to the safety and stability of all Lincolnshire young people. There is a need to revisit and grow the housing and accommodation options in the county to offer a more localised response.

The need to build resilience into the available housing options is important to ensure it is appropriate and proportionate to best meet the needs of children and young people. In addition, the Council is seeking to build engagement and collaboration with key partners and forge a commitment to work in partnership when housing children and young people, including Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

Locally, the innovative approach to a number of financial and resource pressures is starting to help meet future demands and shape a strategic vision. The Accommodation Pathway reflects the need to develop and maximise best use of

in-house options to provide increased assurance in respect of quality, longer-term outcomes and value for money.

The local INSA offer, in conjunction with increased support from partners and the impending refresh of the Youth Housing contract, presents many opportunities to re-evaluate the Directorate's accommodation offer. It will also widen Children's Services options in respect of complex young people and, together with the new service offer to Adolescents, will support stability in the provision offered together with plans to support children and young people to return to family (wherever safe and appropriate to do so) or progressing at the right time to their own independent housing.

#### **4. Legal Comments:**

The Council has power to adopt the Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People attached at Appendix A.

The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive Councillor.

#### **5. Resource Comments:**

The recommendation to approve the strategy on Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People will have no immediate financial implications. The financial implications for each development activity within the strategy will be considered in detail to ensure value for money is achieved when the proposals are formalised. The INSA Local Offer which is due to go live shortly will materially reduce the costs currently being incurred on this cohort of young people including having better outcomes for them.

The Full Council has recognised the increasing cost pressures relating to the Local Authority's legal duty to provide supported accommodation for homeless young people over 16 years and care leavers by increasing the budget by £0.6m in 2017/18 and a further £1.641m in 2018/19. These budget requirements were to align the budget to anticipated demand and commissioning arrangements developed through this strategy.

The strategy considers more suitable and cost effective provision to best meet the needs of the young people, and it also provides an opportunity to review the Local Authority's accommodation offer, and engagement with partners.

#### **6. Consultation**

##### **a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

N/A

**b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

Yes

**c) Scrutiny Comments**

The report will be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 July 2018 and the comments of the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor prior to her reaching her decision.

**d) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

Yes – individual Impact Analysis will be undertaken relevant to each development and shared with the Directorate Management Team to gauge any positive or adverse impact on groups with protected characteristics.

**e) Risks and Impact Analysis**

See the body of the report.

**7. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children and Young People Accommodation Pathway

**8. Background Papers**

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

This report was written by Andrew Morris, who can be contacted on 01522 553916 or [andrew.morris@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.morris@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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**Lincolnshire County Council  
Children Services**

**Children and Young People's Accommodation Pathway**



**Our Vision**

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

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

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

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

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

Our strategic approach is based upon a need to:

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

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

## **Contents**

- 1- Existing Arrangements**
- 2- Needs Analysis**
- 3- What's working well and what are we worried about**
- 4- Housing Options**
- 5- Future Plans**
- 6- Conclusion**

DRAFT

## 1 Existing Arrangements

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

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

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

### Fostering

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

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

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

## Residential Care

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

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

## Supported Accommodation

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

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

## Intense Needs Supported Accommodation

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

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

### **Leaving Care Services**

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

### **Supported Lodgings**

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

### **Staying Put**

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

### **Adult Housing Related Support and Independent Living (Post 18)**

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

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

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

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

## 2 Needs assessment

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

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

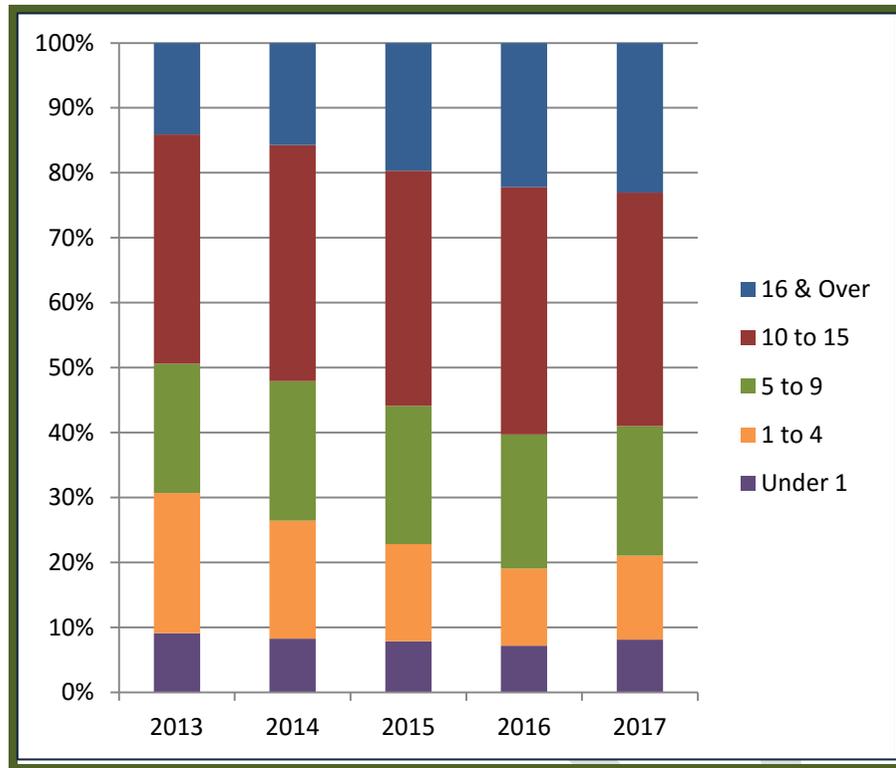


FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE LAC BY AGE

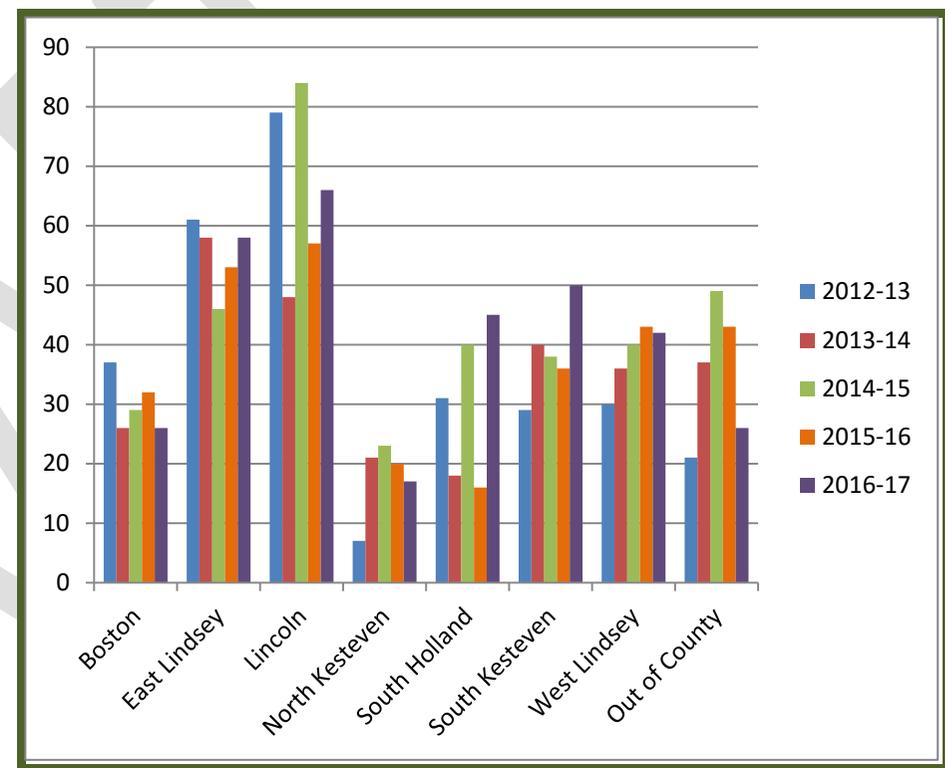


FIGURE 2: ADMISSIONS TO CARE BY DISTRICT

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

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

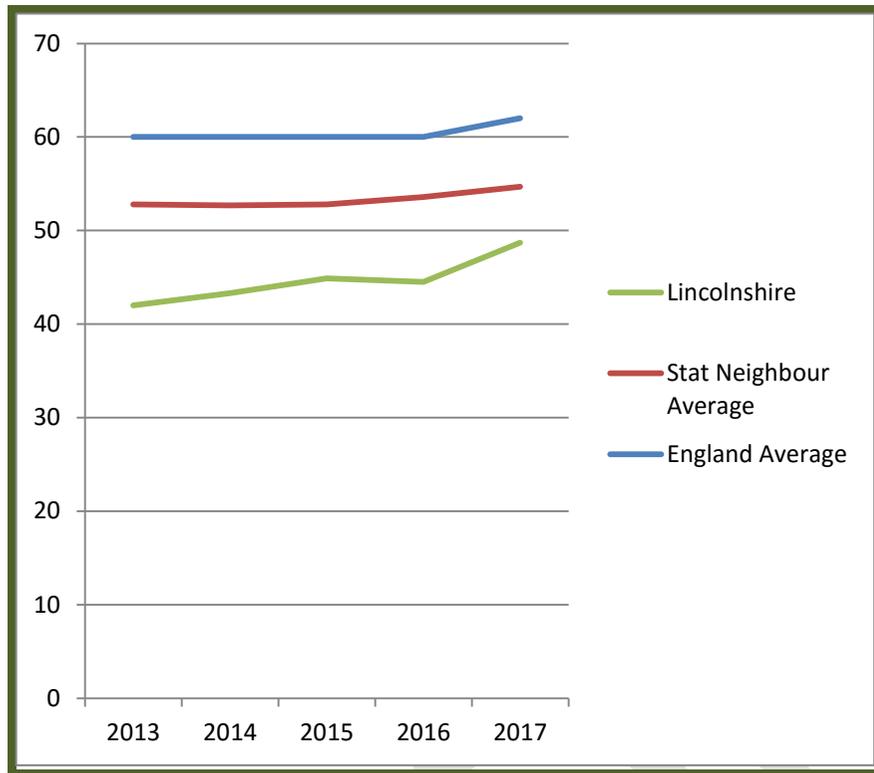


FIGURE 3: NUMBER OF LAC PER 10,000 POP.

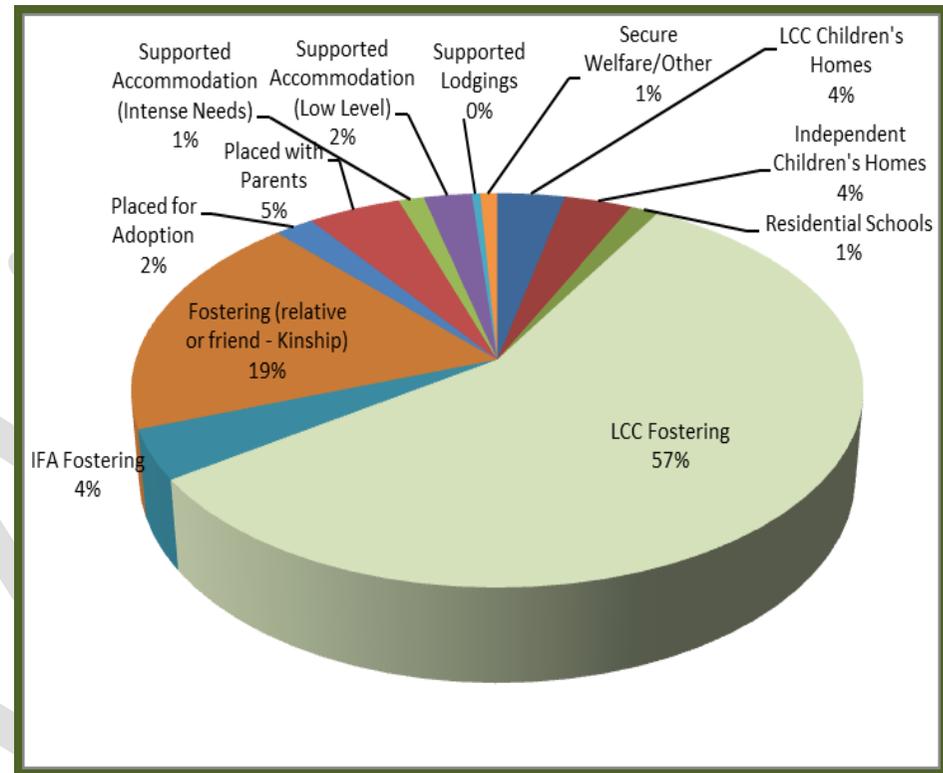


FIGURE 4: LAC PLACEMENT TYPE MARCH 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE 4: PERCENTAGE OF LAC THAT ARE UASC

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

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

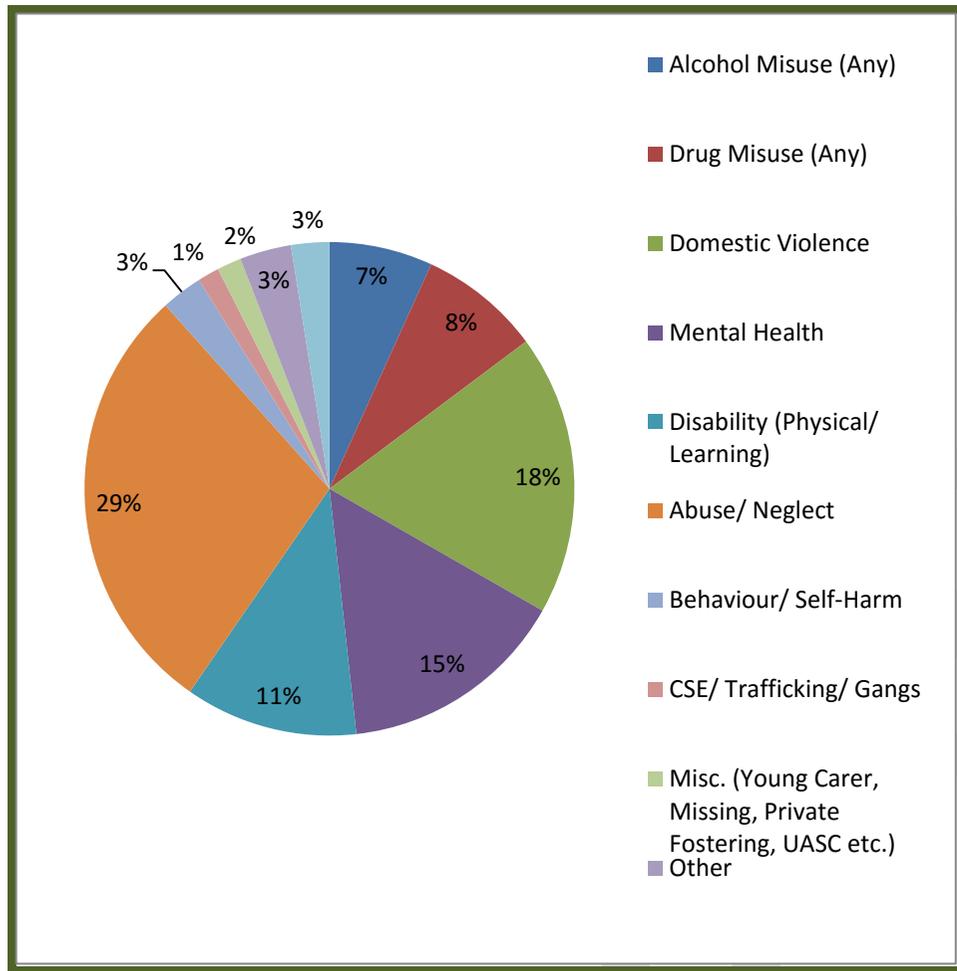


FIGURE 5: SOCIAL CARE ASSESSMENT FACTORS 2016/17

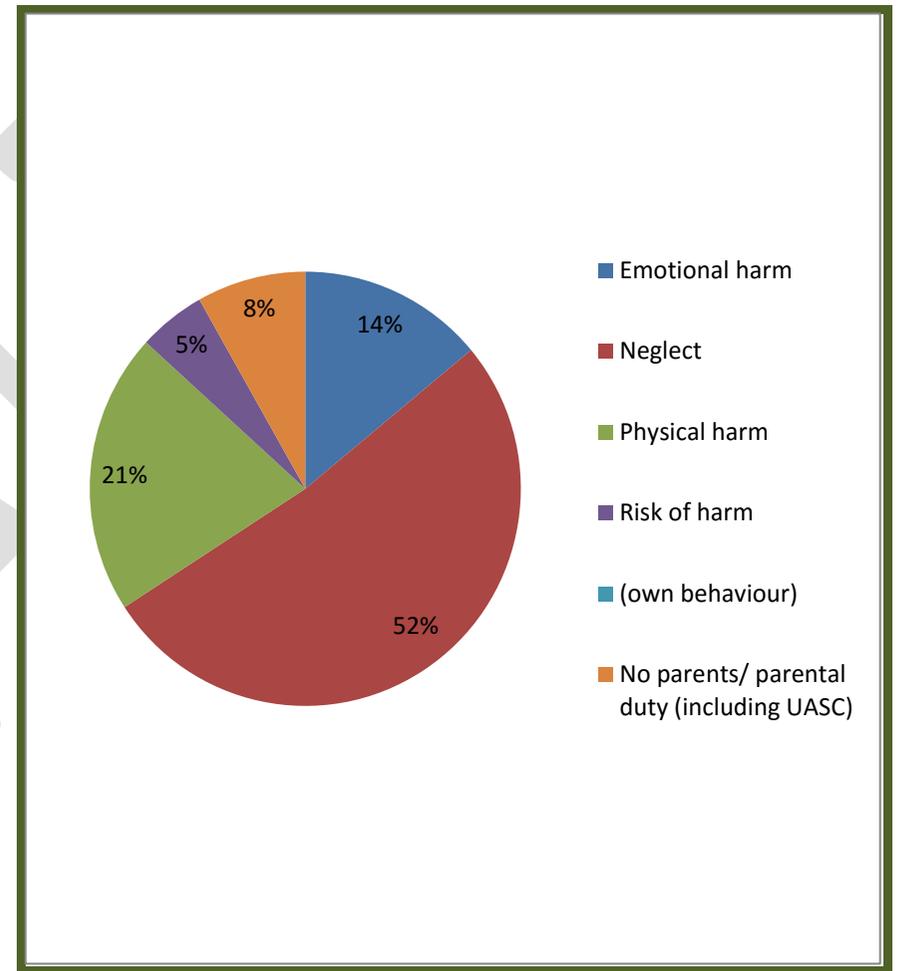


FIGURE 6: LAC 'TRIGGERS' – REASONS FOR LAC STATUS

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

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

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

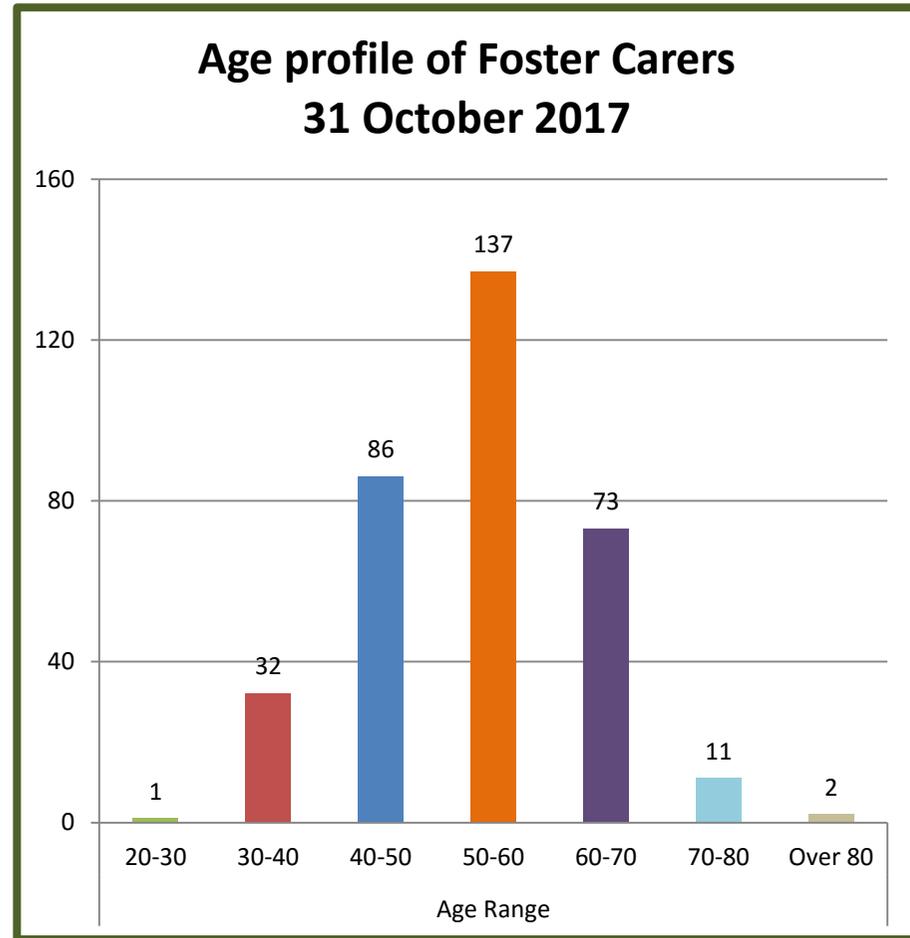
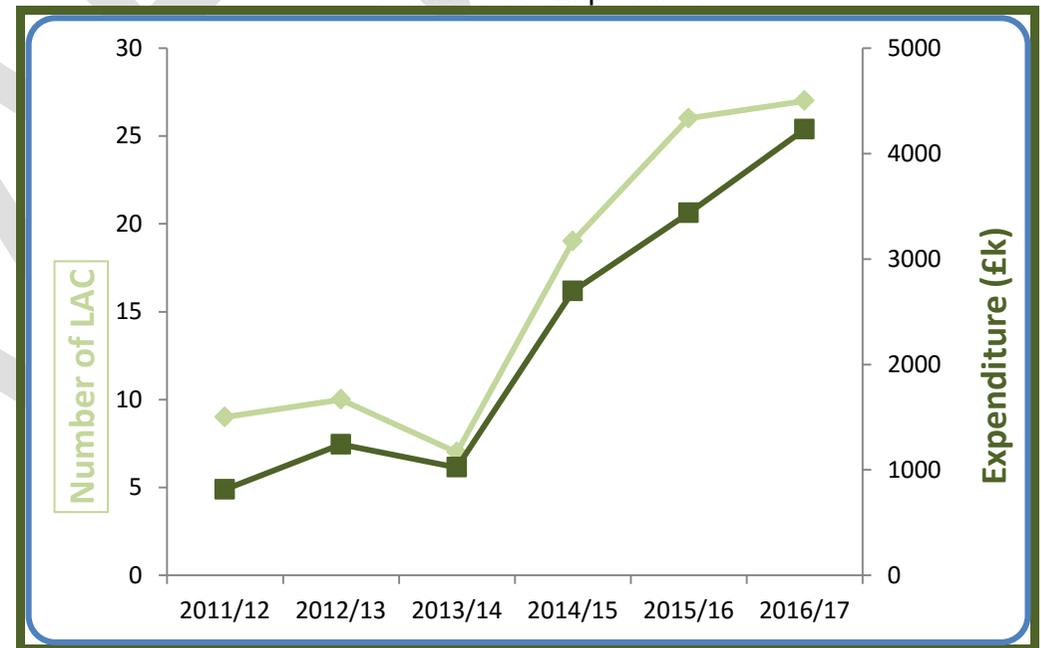


TABLE 5: IFA EXPENDITURE 2016/17

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

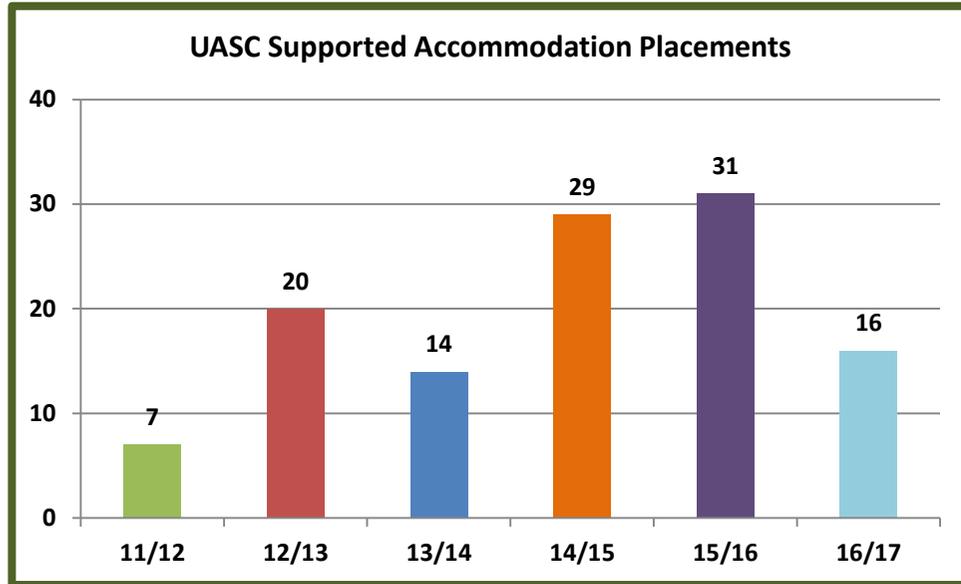
FIGURE 8: LAC in Independent Residential Care – Volume and Expenditure



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

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

**FIGURE 9: UASC Supported Accommodation Placements**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

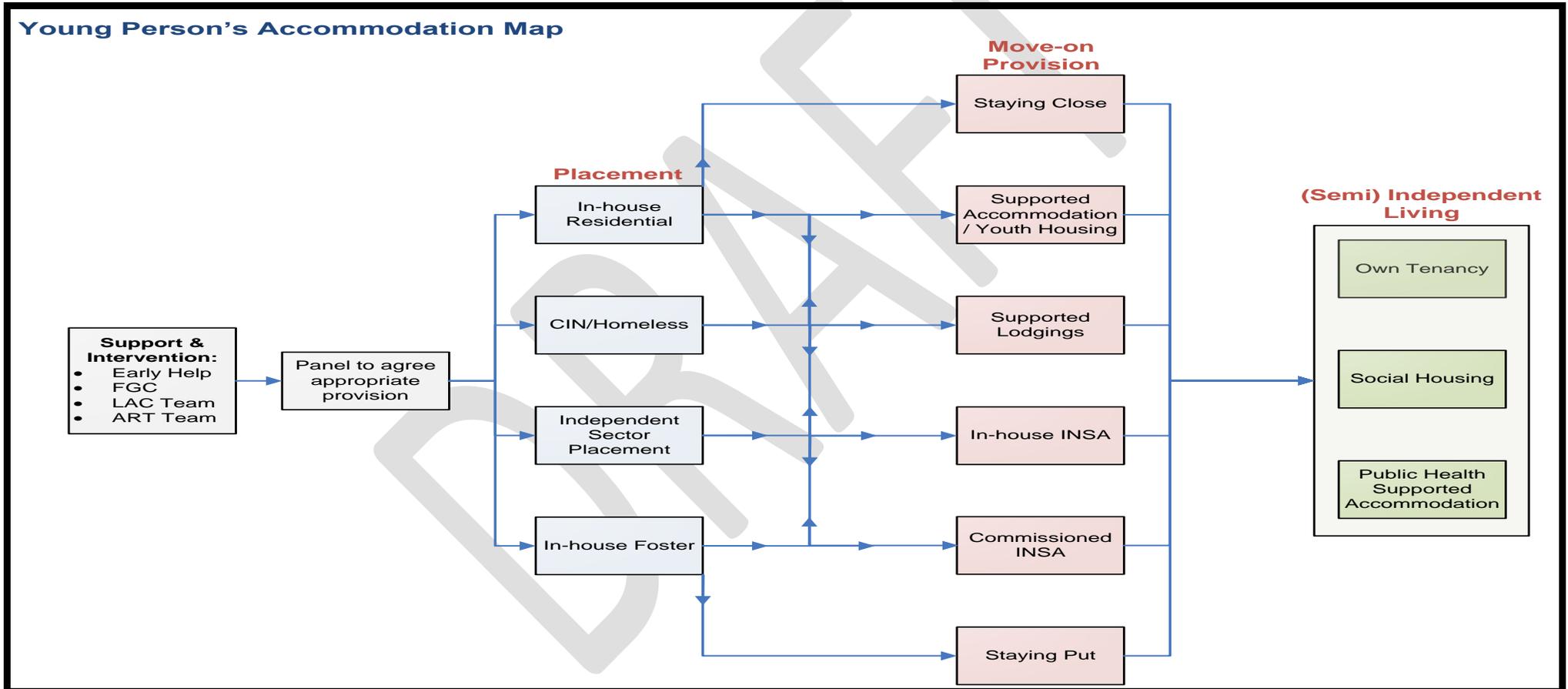
work as these children may be open to a number of services and workers. We also acknowledge that many of the young people we work with have multiple complex needs which require specialist support such as psychological, speech, language and communication or substance misuse. If not properly addressed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

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

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

## 4 Housing Options

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



## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

## FOSTER CARE

## Internal :

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

## External :

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

## RESIDENTIAL CARE

## Internal :

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

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

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

## External :

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

## CARE LEAVERS

## COMMISSIONED SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

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

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

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

## SEMI—INDEPENDENT LIVING (UNREGULATED)

## External :

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

## STAYING PUT

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

STAYING CLOSE (*proposed*)

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

## INDEPENDENT LIVING

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

## **5 Future Plans**

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

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

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

### **Residential**

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

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

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

### Supported Accommodation

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

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

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

### Intense Needs Supported Accommodation

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

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

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

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

### **Supported Lodgings**

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

### **Staying Close**

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

Some of the issues we face are:

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

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

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

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

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

### **Adult Housing Related Support and Independent Living (Post 18)**

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

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

## **6 Conclusion**

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

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

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

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## Policy and Scrutiny

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

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 July 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Edge of Care Support Service</b>

#### Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the Edge of Care Support Service which is due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on 30 July 2018. The views of the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of her consideration of this item.

#### Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to

- (1) consider the attached report and to determine whether the Committee supports the recommendation(s) to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services as set out in the report.
- (2) 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 a report on the Edge of Care Support Service. 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(s) in the report and whether it wishes to make any additional comments to the Executive Councillor. The Committee's views will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

See report to the Executive Councillor attached at Appendix 1.

#### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

See report to the Executive Councillor attached at Appendix 1.

### **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report.	
Appendix 1	Report to the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services on Edge of Care Support Service

### **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 Jo Fox, Children's Commissioning Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 553410 or [joanne.fox@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.fox@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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

Report to:	<b>Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services</b>
Date:	<b>30 July 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Edge of Care Support Service</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I015858</b>
Key decision?	<b>No</b>

**Summary:**

This countywide service currently offers support to struggling families with a view to stabilising these families in times of crisis; preventing the escalation of need, lowering the risk of child abuse and neglect, and reducing the number of children taken into care. The families will have been identified by Children's Social Care and Early Help Teams as requiring support at 'step down' or to prevent a case escalating further.

The service is currently delivered by Safe Families for Children (SFfC), a volunteer organisation (currently there are 227 Lincolnshire volunteers) working in the main with local churches to recruit these volunteers and carrying out an early intervention approach. This approach is targeted mainly at secondary prevention, offering support to struggling families with a child aged under 12 years and providing 'edge of care' support as an alternative to a short stay in foster care. The contract will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Overall performance indicators for the service are good and the support provided has been shown to have positive benefits for diverting children from care and successfully supporting families through times of crisis. Feedback from Early Help Workers, Social Workers and Service Areas is good and children and families have communicated through a variety of feedback methods that they value the support given to them by the service. From the analysis undertaken in Lincolnshire, it appears to be supporting direct or indirect de-escalation of need for families both at the 'early intervention' and 'edge of care' levels, and has also prevented some cases being re-opened.

The current contract ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and the recommendation is that this contract is re-procured by means of an Invitation To Tender.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Executive Councillor:

1. Approves the continued provision of an 'Edge of Care Support Service' to be commissioned through re-procurement by means of a competitive tender
2. Approves the making of a 3 month extension to the existing contract (if required) by way of direct award Safe Families for Children to allow sufficient lead-in time for the new service (Total value: £18,750)
3. Delegates to the Executive Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services, the authority to determine the specification of the service and approve the commercial and contractual terms and the entering into of any contract to give effect to the commissioning of the service.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. Decommission the Service. The service provided is not a statutory service, therefore the Council could decide to decommission the service and cease the funding of this support for vulnerable families in Lincolnshire. Key implications of decommissioning the service would be:
  - The Council would no longer be able to refer families to this service, and could potentially have more families needing Early Help or FAST support or requiring temporary fostering accommodation
  - The Council would no longer be able to offer the same opportunity for community volunteers in Lincolnshire to provide this facilitated support
2. Insource. The Council could consider whether it is in a position to insource the service. From a resource perspective, this would specifically involve recruiting community volunteers, assessing eligible families who could benefit from this support and matching them with the right volunteers, managing these relationships, supporting volunteers and monitoring the outcomes for individual families. Key considerations for insourcing the service would be:
  - The Council would need to employ staff to undertake this role, including the associated on-costs, and there may also be TUPE implications
  - The Council does not have the same level of experience and expertise in recruiting and maintaining this scale of community volunteer network
  - Existing volunteers recruited through the Service Provider, may be dedicated to that organisation and therefore not willing to volunteer directly for the Council
3. Re-procure by means of an exception to directly procure the service from the existing provider.

Whilst this option was considered, such a course of action would fail to determine if there are any other potential providers in the county who can deliver a volunteer network, with the requisite infrastructure, meet the requirements of service delivery, and provide better value for money.

### **Reasons for Recommendation:**

Based on the above considerations, it is recommended that the Council goes out to the market at this time and extends, if appropriate, the existing contract for three months to allow sufficient lead-in time post-tender.

Key considerations in recommending this option are:

- Although the market for delivering this service is uncertain and untested, there needs to be an opportunity for other organisations in the market to offer to deliver the service
- By going out to market, LCC will be able to specify the outcomes required and establish if there are other organisations who can deliver more effectively than the existing model
- Any ITT will need to ensure sufficient lead-time is offered. i.e. at least 6 months, to allow providers to identify and recruit a volunteer network
- By inviting other organisations to tender it will ensure the Council achieves value for money.

## **1. Background**

### Overview

The Service Provider will work with families in crisis by providing timely and appropriately targeted support for families who are experiencing adversity and providing 'edge of care' support to these struggling families as an alternative to a short stay in foster care.

This type of support is most beneficial in cases where:

- There is a short to medium-term crisis or need that is affecting or likely to affect the wellbeing of the children
- Either 'hosting' the child/ children or supporting the parent/ carer is beneficial to enable sustained healthy parenting (respite can be overnight stays or day time support, both one-off and recurring)
- The parents/ carers are choosing to become involved with the provider under no pressure or coercion.

Currently families are referred by FAST and Early Help teams, who continue to work with and assess the needs of families during the Service Provider's support. A family can choose to take-up support from a volunteer acting in one or more of the following roles:

- Family Friend – acting as befrienders or mentors to families, helping parents/ carers to increase the stability of their lives, home environment and their parenting, in order to improve the wellbeing of their children
- Resource Friend – donating much needed resources to families in need
- Host Family – taking children into their home, giving the child's parents/ carers time and space to resolve short-term crises.

The strategic outcomes the service will support are:

- The Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) 2013-2016
  - Children and Healthy & Safe
  - Children develop their potential in their early years and are ready for school
  - Children learn and achieve
  - Children are ready for adult life

### Outcomes

The provider shall support families in crisis through befriending support, providing resources or services, or by arranging short stays for children with host families in accordance with Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

The key outcomes for this user group are:

- Families have social networks and support that they need and want, feel settled and happy where they live, with access to the facilities that are important
- Families have good wellbeing, happiness and emotional health
- Families have increased confidence and self-esteem to parent, go to new places, make new friends and achieve things they would like to do
- Families' home environments are safe, comfortable and appropriate
- Families have good relationships with other family members, feel connected to their children, can express love to them and offer them attention and encouragement
- Families feel positive about their parenting and have the right practical tools and knowledge to parent their children as they would like to.

The key outcomes for the service are:

- There will be a sustained volunteer base in Lincolnshire
- There will be a reduced demand for greater levels of service intervention where families are supported by the service and their levels of need de-escalate
- There will be a reduction in the flow of children into foster care as a result of volunteers hosting children through the service in accordance with the Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

### Existing Contract - Current Commissioning

The service is currently provided by Safe Families for Children (SFfC) who were initially funded through the Department for Education (DfE) Innovation Fund, to develop 5 regional SFfC hubs (North East, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, East Midlands and West Midlands). This funding meant that for the initial 6 months during 2015/16 no funding was required from the Council. This period was intended to encourage local authorities to test the model and support scaling of the programme whilst the service became established and to provide an evaluation of its effectiveness. It also provided unique benefits for the Council in terms of the ability to establish the infrastructure at no cost to the authority, working strategically alongside regional partners, and seek to support families in crisis in the local community to help keep children out of the care system.

The Council has since commissioned the service on an annual basis, with the current contract due to expire on 31 March 2019, on the understanding that evaluative information and performance data would be provided during this time to inform the future commissioning of this service.

From October 2015 to date, the service operated in Lincoln and Boston, and from October 2016 it commenced in Grantham. Under the current contract, from April 2018, the operational area was extended and the service is now offered countywide.

At April 2018, 1093 volunteers had been recruited across the Midlands; of which 227 are in Lincolnshire. The volunteers are a balanced mix of both male and female, providing a wide range of support methods and role modelling options to suit particular families and their varied needs.

### Lincolnshire Performance

At April 2018,

- The provider had received 128 referrals for 244 children
- Of the 128 referrals:
  - 75 were Category 1 'Early Intervention' (59%)
    - 49 went on to receive support from the Service Provider
  - 53 were Category 2 'Edge of Care' (41%)
    - 40 went on to receive support from the Service Provider.
- Of the 39 that did not receive support, the reasons include: support declined by parent/ carer; rejected by the Service Provider due to: risk posed to volunteer; non-engagement by family; out of scope etc.
- The 89 supported families have been helped by 80+ family friends and 20+ host friends and include delivery of 119 bed nights.

A joint audit review was undertaken in September 2017 of all individual cases by the Council and the Service Provider and identified 56 children who, without the support from the Service Provider, may have been accommodated if they had not been supported through volunteer intervention. (A subsequent update highlighted 83 children from 37 families may have required accommodation without the intervention of the service.)

At the point of the audit, 16 children (29%) were considered to be 'direct' avoidance of care (would have required immediately accommodating); this would have been for a short period of time due to the parent/ carer being incapacitated in some way (e.g. hospital stay or short term crisis). For the remaining 40 children (71%), the audit deemed it likely that the children would have entered care for a longer period as the issues related to ongoing family stress, coupled with limited support networks.

In all cases, it is the view of the lead Children's Services Team Manager that the intervention of the Service Provider avoided these children being accommodated.

By avoiding 56 admissions into care, SFfC reduced the flow of children in care by 8% over this 23 month period:

Calculation:

Flow of Children into care over 23 month period	633
Plus Number of children Diverted from Care	56
	<b>689</b>
New Total Divided by Number Diverted from Care = 56/689	<b>8%</b>

A further analysis of the data provided showed that:

- 142 children (93%) either maintained or de-escalated in their status within Children's Services
- 85 children (56%) de-escalated and of these 68 are now closed to Children's Services
- 57 children (38%) remain at the same level
- 10 children (6%) have escalated in their level of need
- 100% of cases remain closed at March 2018.

#### Financial Evaluation:

Currently the service funds 60 referrals at a cost of £1,250 per referral (£75k per annum).

Of the 25 supported families referenced above in the joint audit, the estimated cost avoidance for those families for the period of October 2015 to September 2017 was calculated at £647,730 (See Appendix B). In comparison, the direct cost to the Service Provider was the equivalent of £187,500, with the Council incurring only limited additional indirect costs in overseeing the contract and the families referred.

#### Proposed Future Service

The edge of care support service will deliver significant benefits to struggling families in Lincolnshire; stabilising these families in times of crisis and preventing the escalation of need, lowering the risk of child abuse and neglect and reducing the number of children taken into care.

The service provides benefits for the Council in terms of the ability to work strategically alongside regional partners and seek to support families in crisis in the local community to help keep children out of the care system.

The re-commissioning of the service is likely to follow the overview above in terms of the desired outcomes and the nature of service delivery. Given the performance discussed above and, in order to provide greater security of tenure for the chosen provider, the contract will be let on a 3 + 1 + 1 (5 years) basis. The indicative value of the service will be £75,000 - £90,000 per annum (£375,000 - £450,000 over five years).

## **Legal Issues:**

### Procurement

The re-procurement of the service will be conducted through an Invitation to Tender based on an Open Competitive process and will follow OJEU guidance and be compliant with the UK Public Contract Regulations 2015.

### Extension

The proposed three-month extension to the existing contract has a contract value of £18,750 and, while this falls within the scheme of authorisation of the Chief Officer, the Executive Councillor is invited to approve this potential extension as part of any decision to continue to commission the service. Given this constitutes a direct award, and even though it is below the threshold for the application of the EU procurement regime, the Council needs to satisfy itself that the contract extension would not be of cross-border interest – of interest to a contractor in another member state. In light of the very low value and short-term nature of the contract, it is not considered that this would be of cross-border interest and it is within the powers of the Executive Councillor to authorise the requisite extension award.

### Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Equality Act 2010 section 149(1). The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation 149(7)

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having

due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others

A reference to conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act includes a reference to:

- (a) A breach of an equality clause or rule
- (b) A breach of a non-discrimination rule

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

An initial desktop Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix A; this is a live document and continues to be updated. This assessment identifies that there are likely to be more significant impacts on those with protected characteristics if a course of decommissioning the service is followed, by comparison with little or no specific impacts on those with protected characteristics based on the (re)commissioning of the proposed Edge of Care service.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The proposals contribute to the following themes of the JSNA/ JHWS.

JSNA

Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing (CYP) – the families supported by the service may include some with issues such as substance and alcohol misuse and mental health problems. The support offered will be tailored to the needs of the families and young people and empower them to address such issues.

Obesity - childhood obesity presents immediate and long-term negative effects on a child's physical and social wellbeing, educational attainment and mental health. The service will work with families and educate and support them with healthy eating and physical exercise, giving them practical tools and knowledge to enable them to do this.

Stay Safe - this service will support families with their home environment and physical needs, assisting the family to ensure their home provides a safe, comfortable, stable and appropriate environment.

Enjoy and Achieve – the service will work with families to increase their confidence, and self-esteem, to go to new places, make new friends and achieve things they would like to do. Where necessary, resources will be provided to improve day-to-day life, for example garden improvements to encourage outside play; improved learning environments to enhance education; or household appliances to support everyday tasks. The service will work with children and young people to make sure they feel happy, stay safe and make good choices about their lives.

Positive Contribution – the service will support and empower families to access universal services, including community activities, support groups and children's centres. The service will work with a family to identify outcomes they wish to achieve and support them in achieving these.

### JHWS

#### Improve Health & Social Outcomes for CYP and reduce inequalities

The service will give families information and support to help them make healthy choices, thereby enhancing life chances and reducing inequalities. It will also empower families to build up resilience through relationships and support networks both within the family and the wider community through access, where applicable, to universal and targeted services.

#### Tackling Social Detriments of Health

The service will work with families to address health inequalities, creating conditions for them to take control of their own lives, including social isolation, budget advice, education, home environments and mental and physical health support.

### Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

The service may from time to time be in contact with families who may be experiencing or partaking in crime and disorder and consideration has been given to support those most at risk and indirectly prevent crime and disorder.

## **2. Conclusion**

The Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services is asked to approve the recommendation to re-procure by means of an Invitation To Tender. This offers the best commissioning option for securing 'edge of care' services in Lincolnshire whilst opening them to competition.

The Executive Councillor is also asked to delegate to the Director of Children's Services the authority to agree the detailed specification of the 'edge of care' service model that may be required and the commercial terms and conditions of the contract.

An extension to the existing contract is recommended (if required) for 3 months to ensure there is time to implement the service successfully and allow sufficient lead-in time. This will allow the Council to secure continuity in the services.

### **3. Legal Comments:**

The Council has the power to enter in the proposed contract and implement the proposed extension to the existing arrangements. The detailed procurement law considerations are dealt within the Report.

The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive Councillor.

### **4. Resource Comments:**

The recommendation in the report to re-procure by means of an open tender will enable the continuation of a service in supporting families on early intervention and edge of care levels. Base Council budget funding exists to fund this service going forward, and the investment delivers good outcomes for families and reduces the need for high cost services provided through the Council such as early help or FAST.

The recommendation to extend the current contract for 3 months will allow for a sufficient lead-in time to ensure the best commissioning arrangements are entered into.

### **5. Consultation**

#### **a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

No

#### **b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

Yes

#### **c) Scrutiny Comments**

The report will be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 July 2018 and the comments of the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor prior to her reaching her decision.

**d) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

Yes

**e) Risks and Impact Analysis**

See the body of the Report

**6. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	EIA
Appendix B	Cost avoidance data

**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 Jo Fox, Children's Commissioning Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 553410 or [joanne.fox@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.fox@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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## Equality Impact Analysis to enable informed decisions

### The purpose of this document is to:-

- I. help decision makers fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and
- II. for you to evidence the positive and adverse impacts of the proposed change on people with protected characteristics and ways to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts.

### Using this form

This form must be updated and reviewed as your evidence on a proposal for a project/service change/policy/commissioning of a service or decommissioning of a service evolves taking into account any consultation feedback, significant changes to the proposals and data to support impacts of proposed changes. The key findings of the most up to date version of the Equality Impact Analysis must be explained in the report to the decision maker and the Equality Impact Analysis must be attached to the decision making report.

**\*\*Please make sure you read the information below so that you understand what is required under the Equality Act 2010\*\***

### Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 applies to both our workforce and our customers. Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers are under a personal duty, to have due (that is proportionate) regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics.

### Protected characteristics

The protected characteristics under the Act are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

### Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

Section 149 requires a public authority to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by/or under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share those characteristics
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The purpose of Section 149 is to get decision makers to consider the impact their decisions may or will have on those with protected characteristics and by evidencing the impacts on people with protected characteristics decision makers should be able to demonstrate 'due regard'.

### **Decision makers duty under the Act**

Having had careful regard to the Equality Impact Analysis, and also the consultation responses, decision makers are under a personal duty to have due regard to the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics (see above) and to:-

- (i) consider and analyse how the decision is likely to affect those with protected characteristics, in practical terms,
- (ii) remove any unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct,
- (iii) consider whether practical steps should be taken to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences that the decision is likely to have, for persons with protected characteristics and, indeed, to consider whether the decision should not be taken at all, in the interests of persons with protected characteristics,
- (iv) consider whether steps should be taken to advance equality, foster good relations and generally promote the interests of persons with protected characteristics, either by varying the recommended decision or by taking some other decision.

## **Conducting an Impact Analysis**

The Equality Impact Analysis is a process to identify the impact or likely impact a project, proposed service change, commissioning, decommissioning or policy will have on people with protected characteristics listed above. It should be considered at the beginning of the decision making process.

### **The Lead Officer responsibility**

This is the person writing the report for the decision maker. It is the responsibility of the Lead Officer to make sure that the Equality Impact Analysis is robust and proportionate to the decision being taken.

### **Summary of findings**

You must provide a clear and concise summary of the key findings of this Equality Impact Analysis in the decision making report and attach this Equality Impact Analysis to the report.

## Impact – definition

An impact is an intentional or unintentional lasting consequence or significant change to people's lives brought about by an action or series of actions.

### How much detail to include?

The Equality Impact Analysis should be proportionate to the impact of proposed change. In deciding this asking simple questions “Who might be affected by this decision?” “Which protected characteristics might be affected?” and “How might they be affected?” will help you consider the extent to which you already have evidence, information and data, and where there are gaps that you will need to explore. Ensure the source and date of any existing data is referenced.

You must consider both obvious and any less obvious impacts. Engaging with people with the protected characteristics will help you to identify less obvious impacts as these groups share their perspectives with you.

A given proposal may have a positive impact on one or more protected characteristics and have an adverse impact on others. You must capture these differences in this form to help decision makers to arrive at a view as to where the balance of advantage or disadvantage lies. If an adverse impact is unavoidable then it must be clearly justified and recorded as such, with an explanation as to why no steps can be taken to avoid the impact. Consequences must be included.

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**Proposals for more than one option** If more than one option is being proposed you must ensure that the Equality Impact Analysis covers all options. Depending on the circumstances, it may be more appropriate to complete an Equality Impact Analysis for each option.

**The information you provide in this form must be sufficient to allow the decision maker to fulfil their role as above. You must include the latest version of the Equality Impact Analysis with the report to the decision maker. Please be aware that the information in this form must be able to stand up to legal challenge.**

## Background Information

<b>Title of the policy / project / service being considered</b>	Edge of Care Support Service	<b>Person / people completing analysis</b>	Jo Fox
<b>Service Area</b>	Children's Services	<b>Lead Officer</b>	Jo Kavanagh
<b>Who is the decision maker?</b>	Executive Councillor	<b>How was the Equality Impact Analysis undertaken?</b>	Through regular review of existing service provided by Safe Families for Children by Commissioning Officer and FAST Team Manager
<b>Date of meeting when decision will be made</b>	20/07/2018	<b>Version control</b>	V0.1
<b>Is this proposed change to an existing policy/service/project or is it new?</b>	Existing policy/service/project	<b>LCC directly delivered, commissioned, re-commissioned or de-commissioned?</b>	Commissioned
<b>Describe the proposed change</b>	<p>This volunteer-led service currently offers support to struggling families with a view to stabilising these families in times of crisis, preventing the escalation of need, lowering the risk of child abuse and neglect and reducing the number of children taken into care.</p> <p>The service is currently delivered by Safe Families for Children and will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.</p> <p>This service is working well and a family can choose to take-up support from a volunteer acting in one or more of the following roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Friend – act as befrienders or mentors to families, helping parents/ carers to increase the stability of their lives, home environment, and their parenting, in order to improve the wellbeing of their children</li> <li>• Resource Friend – donate much needed resources to families in need</li> <li>• Host Family – take children into their home, giving the child's parents/ carer's time to resolve short-term crises.</li> </ul> <p>We are reviewing this 'edge of care' service to determine the support we intend to offer to these families and ensure good quality, effectiveness and efficiency. This includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of referrals</li> <li>• Type of referrals</li> </ul>		

- Support offered (currently Family Friend; resource Friend; Host Family)
- User Group (e.g. Age, status, social care involvement)
- Location (e.g. County wide; focus/ target areas)
- Level of funding – should this be by referral or a fixed sum per annum with number of referrals variable dependent on complexity

There are 2 options to be considered – a) Re-procure by means of an Invitation to Tender or b) De-commission the service.

**a) Re-procure**

Currently the market for delivering this service is uncertain and untested and there needs to be an opportunity for other organisations in the market to offer to deliver the service. By going out to market, LCC will be able to specify the outcomes required and see if there are other organisations who can deliver more effectively than the existing model and/or offer greater value for money

**b) Decommission**

The service provided is not a statutory service and by de-commissioning, the funding of this support for vulnerable families would cease. The implications would mean the Council would no longer be able to refer families to this service and could potentially have more families needing Early Help or FAST support or requiring temporary fostering accommodation. In addition to this, the Council would no longer be able to offer the same opportunity for community volunteers in Lincolnshire to provide this facilitated support.

### **Evidencing the impacts**

In this section you will explain the difference that proposed changes are likely to make on people with protected characteristics. To help you do this first consider the impacts the proposed changes may have on people without protected characteristics before then considering the impacts the proposed changes may have on people with protected characteristics.

You must evidence here who will benefit and how they will benefit. If there are no benefits that you can identify please state 'No perceived benefit' under the relevant protected characteristic. You can add sub categories under the protected characteristics to make clear the impacts. For example under Age you may have considered the impact on 0-5 year olds or people aged 65 and over, under Race you may have considered Eastern European migrants, under Sex you may have considered specific impacts on men.

### **Data to support impacts of proposed changes**

When considering the equality impact of a decision it is important to know who the people are that will be affected by any change.

#### Population data and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Lincolnshire Research Observatory (LRO) holds a range of population data by the protected characteristics. This can help put a decision into context. Visit the LRO website and its population theme page by following this link: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk> If you cannot find what you are looking for, or need more information, please contact the LRO team. You will also find information about the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on the LRO website.

#### Workforce profiles

You can obtain information by many of the protected characteristics for the Council's workforce and comparisons with the labour market on the [Council's website](#). As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, managers can obtain workforce profile data by the protected characteristics for their specific areas using Agresso.

## Positive impacts

The proposed change may have the following positive impacts on persons with protected characteristics – If no positive impact, please state 'no positive impact'.

<b>Age</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The Provider shall provide an early intervention approach to support families going through crisis and currently this is for families who have a child under the age of 12 and who have been identified through Social Care or Early Help Assessment. The proposed change means there will be the opportunity to operate a flexible, responsive, integrated and needs-lead service, working with other in-house teams, to improve outcomes for children and young people aged up to 15 years (potentially up to 17 years, determined on a case-by-case basis and subject to a satisfactory risk assessment)</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> No positive impacts identified</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> Mental disability can be a factor for children and families going through crisis, be it either the child or the parent/guardians mental health. The outcome of the proposed tender will help and support CYP by having the resources to develop meaningful links with support services e.g. Emotional Health &amp; Wellbeing Service and support from specialists within Children's Services</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> No positive impacts identified</p>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposal will not affect the manner in which services to CYP are provided according to their choice of gender.</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> No positive impacts identified</p>
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> Family relationships will be encouraged and supported, working with families where necessary to develop these relationships</p> <p><u>De-commission</u></p>

	No positive impacts identified
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed service could contribute towards support of pregnant mothers/ guardians and build on family relationships where there is another child in the household.</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> No positive impacts identified</p>
<b>Race</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The service is focussed on the needs of the families regardless of race. The outcomes of the tender could help to shape services to improve outcomes for those families and CYP with specific racial characteristics, being aware of what is working well, understanding gaps in current provision and contributing towards resolutions to redress those gaps, e.g. this could be through the use of an interpreter, already sourced internally, to facilitate clear communication</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> No positive impacts identified</p>
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The outcomes of the proposed plan could help to shape services to improve outcomes for those families and CYP with specific religious beliefs, being aware of what is working well, an appreciation of community diversity, understanding gaps in current provision and contributing towards resolutions to redress those gaps. The current service works mainly with local churches. Under the new plan, the service will be expected to develop joint working relationships with a variety of other buildings where people of faith may want to provide or receive support e.g. Churches, Mosques etc.</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> No positive impacts identified</p>
<b>Sex</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed plans overall are not gender specific and safeguarding measures will always apply to all</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> No positive impacts identified</p>

<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposal will not affect the manner in which services to CYP are provided according to their sexual orientation</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> No positive impacts identified</p>

**If you have identified positive impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.**

Re-procure

The service will work with families to remain together and will be flexible to meet the needs of the family seven days a week. The Provider shall provide the appropriate level of support to reduce the flow of children going into care by supporting families as part of early intervention and at the edge of care, and support families to de-escalate in their level of need.

The service will support parents/ carers to maintain or increase their outcome scores against the six domains:

- Social Networks and Support – do they have the people around them that they need and want, feel settled and happy where they live with access to the facilities that are important
- Well-being, happiness and emotional health – how they feel about day-to-day life and do they feel happy and content
- Confidence and self-esteem – how they feel about themselves, their confidence to parent, to go to new places, to make new friends, to achieve the things they would like to do
- Home environment and physical needs – does their home provide a safe, comfortable and appropriate environment for the family
- Family relationships – how are the relationships between them and family members, do they feel connected to their children, can express love to them and offer them attention and encouragement
- Positive parenting – how are they parenting their children, do they feel they have the right practical tools and knowledge to parent them as they would like to.

The Provider will provide LCC with ongoing evaluative data to support LCC to undertake a detailed evaluation as to the benefits of the Service to children and families in Lincolnshire.

The Provider will address some inequalities by offering resources to more vulnerable families including those living in deprived areas.

De-commission

By de-commissioning the service, funding of between £375,000 and £450,000 over 5 years will be saved; however, costs to other services may increase as a result, e.g. Early Help, FAST and temporary accommodation.

**Adverse/negative impacts**

You must evidence how people with protected characteristics will be adversely impacted and any proposed mitigation to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts. An adverse impact causes disadvantage or exclusion. If such an impact is identified please state how, as far as possible, it is justified; eliminated; minimised or counter balanced by other measures.

If there are no adverse impacts that you can identify please state 'No perceived adverse impact' under the relevant protected characteristic.

**Negative impacts of the proposed change and practical steps to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences on people with protected characteristics are detailed below. If you have not identified any mitigating action to reduce an adverse impact please state 'No mitigating action identified'.**

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<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p><u>Re-procure</u>  The current service supports families with a child up to the age of 12 years. If this criteria remains, this will have a negative impact on those children aged 13 to 18 years  This could be mitigated by extending the age criteria; however some volunteers may not be willing to support older children due to safety concerns. The Council is also developing a service specifically to work with risky adolescent behaviour and any service commissioned will align with the development of that service to meet the needs of 13-18yr olds</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u>  By de-commissioning the service, support for children up to (potentially) 17 years may be reduced and any other support that can be provided will be done so by mostly higher cost services</p>
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p><u>Re-procure</u>  The proposed service applies to all CYP regardless of ability/ disability. Some volunteers may struggle to support a family/ CYP with a disability, therefore volunteers would need to be carefully selected to support these</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u>  By de-commissioning the service, support for families with disabilities may be reduced and any other support that can be provided will be done so by mostly higher cost services.</p>

<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed service applies to all CYP regardless of gender</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u> No negative impacts identified.</p>
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed service applies to all CYP regardless of status</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u> The current service works with entire families, not just children. By d-commissioning the service, additional pressures faced by the family may impact negatively on the family dynamic. .</p>
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed service applies to all CYP regardless of status.</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u> No negative impacts identified</p>
<b>Race</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed service applies to all CYP regardless of their racial group.</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u> No negative impacts identified</p>
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed service applies to all CYP regardless of their faith, however the service may no longer be church-led and some volunteers who may be dedicated to the charity may then be reluctant to volunteer for another organisation</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u> By de-commissioning the service, there may be a reduced opportunities for those church-based volunteers to offer support .</p>

<b>Sex</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed service applies to all CYP regardless of their gender.</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u> No negative impacts identified</p>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The proposed change applies to all CYP regardless of their sexuality.</p> <p><u>De-commissioning</u> No negative impacts identified</p>

**If you have identified negative impacts for other groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 you can include them here if it will help the decision maker to make an informed decision.**

## Stakeholders

Stake holders are people or groups who may be directly affected (primary stakeholders) and indirectly affected (secondary stakeholders)

You must evidence here who you involved in gathering your evidence about benefits, adverse impacts and practical steps to mitigate or avoid any adverse consequences. You must be confident that any engagement was meaningful. The Community engagement team can help you to do this and you can contact them at [consultation@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

State clearly what (if any) consultation or engagement activity took place by stating who you involved when compiling this EIA under the protected characteristics. Include organisations you invited and organisations who attended, the date(s) they were involved and method of involvement i.e. Equality Impact Analysis workshop/email/telephone conversation/meeting/consultation. State clearly the objectives of the EIA consultation and findings from the EIA consultation under each of the protected characteristics. If you have not covered any of the protected characteristics please state the reasons why they were not consulted/engaged.

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### Objective(s) of the EIA consultation/engagement activity

At this point, no specific consultation or engagement has been undertaken on the development of the proposal, however, under the current contract, families provide regular feedback around the service they receive and the benefits they have gained.

Existing performance data, Government guidelines and other Local Authority processes were considered.

Including, but not limited to:

- Safe Families for Children current performance and provision, including feedback and service evaluation; research and needs analysis reports.
- Nottingham City and Derby City current provider performance and recommissioning intentions
- Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 - provision of services for children in need, their families and others
- Engagement with families involved with the service provider.

**Who was involved in the EIA consultation/engagement activity? Detail any findings identified by the protected characteristic**

<b>Age</b>	N/A.
<b>Disability</b>	N/A.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	N/A.
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	N/A.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	N/A.
<b>Race</b>	N/A.
<b>Religion or belief</b>	N/A.

Sex	N/A.
Sexual orientation	N/A
<p><b>Are you confident that everyone who should have been involved in producing this version of the Equality Impact Analysis has been involved in a meaningful way?</b></p> <p>The purpose is to make sure you have got the perspective of all the protected characteristics.</p>	Yes
<p><b>Once the changes have been implemented how will you undertake evaluation of the benefits and how effective the actions to reduce adverse impacts have been?</b></p>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> The commissioned service will be subject to contract management against performance. This will involve tracking indicators designed to monitor the effectiveness of these services at meeting people's needs, including feedback and views of service users</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> If the decision is made to de-commission, there will need to be a period of time for the service to 'close' or transfer family support before the contract ends.</p>

## Further Details

**Are you handling personal data?**

Yes

If yes, please give details.

This will include:

Name; Address; DoB; telephone number; history of involvement with children's services (e.g. copies of assessments); health information; risk information

Social Care Assessments will be shared with the supplier (if felt necessary) confidentially and subject to parental consent to ensure a full and appropriate profile.

In line with short break guidance and best practice in working in partnership with families, the Supplier will disclose addresses and contact details of Host Family volunteers to supported families.

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<b>Actions required</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<p>Include any actions identified in this analysis for on-going monitoring of impacts.</p>	<p><u>Re-procure</u> Undertake engagement with professionals, service users and other stakeholders to identify further impacts</p> <p><u>De-commission</u> Undertake case analysis to determine future support required</p>	<p>Jo Kavanagh</p>	<p>30 September 2018</p>

**Signed off by**

**Date**

Click here to enter a date.

## Appendix B: Edge of Care Support Service

### Safe Families for Children: Analysis of cost avoidance as a result of direct/ indirect diversion from care

- Length of support for indirect diversion of care is total support for closed cases and estimated to end of 2017/18 financial year for remainder
- Estimated costs for direct diversion of care cases are based on the number of bed nights provided
- Estimates are based on 2015/16 in-house fostering unit costs (£378 per week)

**Estimated cost avoidance for referrals to date is £647,730**

Case	No. of Children	Ages	Length of Support	Bed nights	Diversion from care	Estimated Cost (in-house) to end August 2017	Comments
1	2	1 & 2 years	7 months (Closed)	0	Indirect	2 x 7 months @ £378 per week <b>£21,168</b>	Case referred by social worker following concerns around Mum's mental health (MH) & the impact of this on her engagement with the boys often leading to physical chastisement of the children. FF worked with Mum around building her confidence as a parent, seeing the importance of taking responsibility for the care & supervision of her children & coaching on alternative parenting approaches. She engaged more positively with her boys throughout the support which prevented an escalation of physical chastisement & the potential for S47 investigations around this. We saw evidence of mum taking on greater responsibility for parenting. Mum was a challenging individual to engage with but through positive support she experienced the worth of the intervention which could help her future engagement.
2	1	3 months	6 months (Closed)	0	Indirect	1 x 6 months @ £378 per week <b>£9,072</b>	Case referred by social worker for young Mum who was a victim of domestic violence. She was very vulnerable & there were concerns her peer group would have a negative influence on her parenting – it was felt she particularly vulnerable to those influences due to a lack of family support & her Autism. FF worked with Mum around understanding the needs of her baby & the importance of her safety. FF helped Mum to feel confident as a parent & understanding her babies needs & supported her in accessing a mother & baby group where she could build a positive support network. Mum is now better equipped to meet the needs of her baby & has ongoing support to help her in her parenting from other parents she has met. Support also enabled other agencies to end their involvement.
3	1	3 months	9 months (Closed)	7	Indirect	1 x 9 months @ £378 per week <b>£13,608</b>	Case referred by social worker while case was in proceedings. Mum had been subject to multiple CP plans & has been vulnerable to CSE as a child. She had previously been living with her son in a mother & baby foster placement. Due to placements success they were living in the community in supported accommodation when referred. FF's initially supported

							Mum whilst living independently with a view to build on her independent living skills & offer some positive role models (as Mum's own parents are long term substance misusers & were not allowed unsupervised contact with her son). Her housing situation broke down & she moved in with her grandparents. The FF's were able to then support Grandparents with this placement as they were struggling with their own health & wider family issues. Grandma has articulated how this support & occasional hosting to provide them with respite has meant she has felt able to continue the placement. The FF & HF have been positive role models encouraging her to parent effectively, prioritise the needs of her child over her own parents' needs & also get back into education. She now has a place at college for September & her son is booked into nursery close by. There were real concerns that if Mum was not successfully placed with her grandparents, who were a final option, she could have become a LAC herself or homeless at 16, & her son could have been placed for adoption.
4	4	15, 13, 8 & 1 year	10 months (Closed)	12	Direct/ Indirect	12 days @ £378 per week  <b>£648</b>  4 x 10 months @ £378/ week  <b>£60,480</b>	Case referred by social worker - children were on a CIN plan due to being placed with their grandparents on a combination of RO & SGO's. There was risk of marital breakdown which would have required the LA to search for alternative placements for the children, & a high chance the siblings would have been separated. Support from FF & HF enabled grandparents to have respite during a stressful period, build their energy up & focus on marital issues. This has stopped the situation deteriorating to a point grandparents are unable to support their grandchildren. The youngest child is now at nursery & pressure on grandparents is easing. During the course of support concerns were raised around one of the children. The existing relationship with the HF meant that they were able to host one of the children whilst the social worker and family put a safety plan in place.
5	2	3 & 7 years	9 months (Closed)	6	Indirect	2 x 9 months @ £378 per week  <b>£27,216</b>	Case referred by EHSW, Mum had previous SC involvement due to chastisement & lack of supervision. Extended family support had broken down & Mum was struggling with managing her bipolar & health conditions which were in turn affecting her parenting. Mum spoke about being unable to cope with the children & without support the situation was deteriorating. FF's have been able to support Mum in building her local support networks & confidence as a parent & a HF has been able to offer respite to the family. Mum has much more confidence in her parenting, increased self-confidence & now has network of friends who can support her if her bi-polar begins to affect her capacity to parent effectively – preventing future deterioration.
6	1	7 years	9 months (Closed)	2	Direct	2 days @ £378 per week  <b>£108</b>	Case was referred by social worker. Child was on an RO and had been placed with Grandma when younger. Grandma was struggling with the care of her granddaughter and was asking for respite – without which she felt she would have been unable to continue caring for her granddaughter. The granddaughter has foetal alcohol syndrome and autism. A HF were able to offer day time and overnight respite. This support was offered alongside a FF who was

							able to help with practical things in the home, and support Grandma to resolve her own health difficulties and access to appropriate support. Grandma was very dependent on SC and our support enabled SC to end their involvement and reassured her ongoing anxieties. This placement has been maintained because of the support from the HF and FF which are likely to continue following closure.
7	2	2 & 4 years	8 months (Closed)	0	Indirect	2 x 8 months @ £378/week  <b>£24,192</b>	Case was referred by FWT Key Worker. Two children were on an SGO and had been placed with grandparents. The marriage broke down and Granddad was left to be sole carer of the two children, both of whom had chromosomal disorders, sleep disorders and very challenging behaviour. He was struggling to adjust to caring for the children independently. We were unable to offer support from a HF due to the risks to volunteers but have a team of FF's who will be offering day time respite to Granddad. FF's have also helped practically in the home; enabling him to maintain home conditions. They have supported him with his reading and writing, this has been particularly important due to all the medical/educational paperwork for the children. This case could easily have escalated due to concerns around Grandad's ability to meet the needs of the children. Granddad has stated he would have struggled to continue caring for the boys alone. He also has more appropriate services from ESCO which will help him meet the needs of the boys more effectively.
8	1	3 years	4 months (Closed)	8	Direct	8 days @ £378/week  <b>£432</b>	Case referred by social worker at CIN level. Mum was victim of historic domestic violence & very social isolated. FF supported Mum with building her confidence and social networks. FF was able to assist in a crisis situation due to the relationship she had built with the family - Mum and child left family home following a domestic incident and did not want to return home. Mum and child were hosted together for 4 nights with a HF while an appropriate refuge place was sought by Mum and social care – this was fairly time consuming as she was South African and there were issues/queries around her status. If we had not done this SC would have had to find accommodation for both mother and child. Mum and son fled to a refuge in Nottingham where support was able to continue with the Nottingham Safe Families team. Concerns around Mum's alcohol use became prevalent whilst supporting the family and were fed back to social care – this led to the escalation of the case.
9	1	10 years	6 months (Closed)	0	Indirect	1 x 6 months @£378/ week  <b>£9,072</b>	Case referred by EHSW. Grandparent carers had care of their grandson who was placed by Doncaster Council on a SGO. They were struggling with health difficulties and maintaining the placement of their grandson who they had only anticipated having short term. It then became apparent the placement would be long term. They had also moved to a new area so had not extended family or friend support. FF were linked with the family to offer day time respite to the child and build his support and friendship networks. Grandparents now feel more settled in the local area, they feel more rested and their health and stress levels have improved. This support has continued informally following closure and will ensure the family

							have support in the future if any other problems or tensions arise.
10	1	2 Years	7 months (Closed)	0	Indirect	1 x 7 months @ £378/ week  <b>£10,584</b>	Case referred by social worker as elderly grandparent carer with health difficulties was struggling with maintaining the placement of her grandson – he had been placed under a SGO by LCC. No alternative placement was available to the child as mother was in prison and wider family members were seen as a risk to the child. FGC plan provided support to grandma – but this was reduced over time. HF support was offered but due to Grandma’s anxieties about overnight stays we instead provided a team of FF’s who offered a period of weekend and weekday support, always ensuring he was brought home for bedtime. Grandma has therefore been able to continue with the placement and other professionals have commented on how this impacted on her presentation and health.
11	4	8, 4, & 2 years & UBB	2 months (Closed)	6	Direct	6 days @£378/ week  <b>£324</b>	Case was referred by a social worker. A Polish Mum who was a victim of domestic abuse – her partner had seriously assaulted her and hospitalised her when pregnant (which he has been imprisoned for). She had no family or friends locally so when Mum had to be induced and stay in hospital for two nights the 3 children were all hosted together by a HF. If this had not happened the children would have needed to be placed by LCC and they may not have been able to be placed together. A polish speaking volunteer was able to support the process enabling good communication The HF were able to meet the children prior to the hosting to make the experience as positive as possible for the children.
12	5	2, 2, 5, 8 & 10 years	13 months (Closed)	0	Indirect	5 x 13 months @£378/ week  <b>£98,280</b>	Case was referred by EHSW. Historically this family have had intensive involvement from social care. Dad was previously imprisoned for harming a child and has a history of drug and alcohol dependence. Mum and Dad also have a history of domestic violence and Mum spent time in a refuge with the children. Social Care involvement resolved and Dad was integrated into the family home and felt to be a safe and appropriate carer for the children. Mum struggles with complex mental health problems and during support was admitted to a psychiatric unit on three occasions. The family asked for help and engaged positively with our service throughout which enabled Dad to cope with all 5 children when Mum was in hospital and give Mum respite on her return to the family environment. Four volunteers supported parents with regular day time respite of the 3 older children (5, 8 and 10) twice weekly and where possible increased during school holidays. The older children were also referred to the Young Carers service and the family signposted to lots of local clubs, activities and groups they could access on an ongoing basis. The volunteers also supported the children with educational difficulties and during support the children were reported to be much more settled in school. It is felt our service sustained the family during a crisis period and beyond and stopped the case escalating which was likely considering their history. The case is no longer open to TAC.
13	2	8 & 9	2 months	0	Indirect	2 x 2 months @	Case was referred by social worker. Dad had recently had his two older children aged 8 and

		<b>years</b>	<b>(Closed)</b>			£378/ week <b>£6,048</b>	9, placed with him, his new partner and 18-month-old son. The older children had lost their Mum who had cancer and then been abused by their step father so experienced serious trauma prior to being placed with Dad. His oldest son had Autism and challenging and complex behaviour that escalated during the period of support. Dad during support suggested he could not cope with the two older children and their level of need. Varying support was offered to both parents in understanding his son's behaviour and needs and respite of the children as he was feeling overwhelmed. His older son's behaviour continued to escalate and professionals struggled to support Dad in learning to respond to his needs and behaviour appropriately. Dad could not care for his son who was placed as a LAC but felt able to care for his daughter who is still in his care. The support we offered alongside other professionals helped Dad realise he could continue to care for his older daughter.
<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5 years</b>	<b>11 months (Closed)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Indirect</b>	1 x 11 months @ £378/ week <b>£16,632</b>	Case referred by EHSW. Single Dad with anxiety, depression & a cut in benefits was struggling with parenting & maintaining home conditions. His son had been placed with him by a court order due to concerns around the mother's care. Son was also at risk of exclusion due to behavioural concerns in school. FF's have supported Dad with improving home conditions & building confidence in parenting & maintaining home environment. They have also helped him to access his GP regarding his mental health. Dad feels more motivated to make changes and ensure his child has a positive childhood experience with him, he is also ensuring his son is accessing the right support from education and health.
<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 &amp; 5 years</b>	<b>12 months (Closed) + 5 months (Open)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Indirect</b>	2 x 12 months @ £378/ week <b>£36,288</b> 2 x 5 months @ £378/ week <b>£15,120</b>	Case was referred by FWT Key Worker. Two children were on an SGO and had been placed with grandparents. The marriage broke down and Granddad was left to be sole carer of the two children, both of whom had chromosomal disorders, sleep disorders and very challenging behaviour. He was struggling to adjust to caring for the children independently. We were unable to offer support from a HF due to the risks to volunteers but have a team of FF's who are offering day time respite and emotional support to Granddad. FF's have also helped practically in the home; enabling him to maintain home conditions. They have supported him with his reading and writing, this has been particularly important due to all the medical/educational paperwork for the children. This case could easily have escalated due to concerns around Grandad's ability to meet the needs of the children but our support sustained him through a crisis period. Granddad has stated he would have struggled to continue caring for the boys alone. He also now has more appropriate services from ESCO and social care which will help him meet the needs of the boys more effectively.
<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1, 6 &amp; 10 years</b>	<b>7 months (Closed)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Indirect</b>	3 x 7 months @ £378/ week <b>£31,752</b>	Case was referred by social worker. Auntie was Special Guardian of child aged 1 in addition to being a single parent of her own two children aged 9 and 7. She put herself forward as a carer when child was removed from his birth parents care despite there was a plan of adoption in place. He had been in her care for 1 year when referred to us and extended

							family support had dwindled and contact with child's parents was problematic. Social care had real concerns placement would breakdown. Day time respite of the child was offered by volunteers for 6 months while waiting for longer term respite through nursery, which prevented escalation, sustained the placement and social care involvement closed.
17	5	0, 1, 5, 7 & 7 years	12 months (Closed)	4	Indirect	5 x 12 months @ £378/ week  <b>£98,280</b>	Case referred by EHSW. Mum recently separated from children's father who was emotionally abusive, he was still visiting the property. Mum also struggling with depression, meeting the needs of the children & maintaining the home environment. Her grandmother who had been a big support had terminal cancer. There was real potential for this case to escalate. Two volunteers worked directly with Mum to offer emotional support, practical support at home when struggling with low mood, support around co-parenting & managing the children's needs. Two volunteers took the three older children out for respite regularly during support to alleviate pressure on Mum & another took some of the children during school holidays with their family. Part of the work carried out was to help Mum clear out the property as it was very cluttered & disorganised which was not safe or secure for the children, a team of 5 volunteers supported with taking items to the charity shop, help selling items on line & at least 7 trips to the local recycling centre – Mum began to maintain the changes she made with support. Three of the children were hosted overnight by HF's when Mum was struggling with the bereavement of her grandmother. Mum faced additional challenges towards the end of support, the loss of her grandmother & a domestic incident in the family home involving police – despite these challenges Mum was feeling much more able to manage and tackle the issues she faced and there was no escalation of the case.
18	1	1 10 years	2 months + 3 months (Closed)	8	Direct/Indirect	1 x 5 months @£378/ week  <b>£7,560</b>  8 Days @ £378/ week  <b>£432</b>	Case was referred by social worker. Child aged 10 was residing with his Aunt & Uncle as Mum was unable to care for him due to mental health difficulties & lack of stable home environment. His Aunt & Uncle had a scheduled holiday which was organised prior to taking on the child. Mum was not deemed able to care for him while they were away so we provided 6 nights of overnight hosting - a direct diversion from care. An additional referral was made while Aunt & Uncle were struggling to maintain the placement, it was felt a period of additional respite overnight & daytime would allow them to maintain the placement while social care sought longer term solutions such as restoring contact with father for respite, & helping Mum with her difficulties the case has deescalated to TAC level.
19	1	Age 1 (& 17 year old mum)	2 months (Closed)	0	Indirect	1 x 2 months @ £378  <b>£3,024</b>	Case referred by social worker. We had previously worked with this family to sustain a placement of 17-year-old Mum with 1 year old son living with Grandparents. Grandma articulated how Safe Families support and occasional hosting to provide them with respite meant she could continue the placement. The FF and HF supported for 8 months as positive role models encouraging her to parent effectively, prioritise the needs of her child There were real concerns that if Mum was not successfully placed with her grandparents, who

							were a final option, she could have become a LAC herself or homeless at 16, and her son could have been placed for adoption. The case was rereferred when Grandparents went on a planned holiday for 3 weeks. The 17-year-old and her son stayed with her Auntie who also had two children who had social care involvement and were on a CP plan. Safe Families involvement meant the Auntie could focus on the needs of her own children and reassured the social worker there was not a need to find an alternative placement during this period. This placement was maintained and the 17-year-old is now living independently in the community with her son and the case has deescalated to CiN level.
20	2	5 & 8 years	12 months (Open)	2	Indirect	2 x 12 months @ £378  <b>£39,312</b>  2 x 7 months (to end 17/18) @ £378  <b>£21,168</b>	Case referred by EHSW. Mum living with her two boys aged 5 & 8. Mum & the children's father had separated due to domestic abuse & there was a court order stating he could have no contact. Mum was also in major debt & liquidising her business. She was under huge stress & struggling with anxiety, depression & on occasions suicidal thoughts. There was potential for this case to escalate as Mum was really struggling & in crisis. A FF provided weekly emotional support to Mum which has been described as a 'lifeline' during several court cases & a wait for appropriate mental health services. A HF has provided overnight & day time hosting of the two boys to give Mum respite & rest during particularly stressful periods. The case remains at TAC level but the intensive support alongside other services has prevented the case escalating - things are beginning to improve for the family.
21	3	6, 11 & 12 years	8 months (Closed)	0	Indirect	3 x 8 months @ £378  <b>£36,288</b>	Case referred by CWDT Social Worker. 13-year-old boy has very complex needs and parents were really struggling with the impact of this on the younger siblings aged 7 and 11. There were concerns things may break down in the family home as parents were very isolated and had limited family support and felt like they were at crisis point. Two FF's offered day time respite to the two younger siblings twice monthly which gave parents breathing space while they accessed counselling and tackled the issues they faced with their older son. Parents could refocus, the situation deescalated and parents feel much better equipped to handle the challenges of day to day lifewhich continue due to their oldest son's complex needs.
22	2	1 & 5 years	8 months (Closed)	2	Direct	2 Days @ £378/ week  <b>£108</b>	Case was CiN out of county and referred by Refuge Worker. Support was needed for children to stay with a host family whilst mother had hospital treatment. Mum did not have any support as she had fled from domestic abuse and was living in a refuge. The two children aged 2 and 6 were hosted during the day and overnight so Mum could access hospital treatment – had we not provided this support social care would have had to accommodate the children. Whilst Mum was in the refuge and awaiting housing we offered emotional support and advice regarding local services and things she could access and liaised with housing and school transport team regarding the progress of getting the house ready for the family. When they moved, our RF's were able to support with household items, white goods and furniture so the family had what they needed in their new home, 5

							volunteers supported practically with the move. Two FF's then offered emotional support when settling into the local area, advice around nursery settings and local clubs and groups, support and advice around work and training opportunities. The case now has no social care involvement and the family are settled in their new home and area.
23	3	3, 7 & 9 years	1 month (Closed)	27	Direct	27 Days @ £378/ week £1,458	Case was referred by a social worker. Family were evicted due to massive rent arrears, of over 20K on various properties. The family are Polish so were not entitled to public resource or funding as they do not have the correct documentation. They were homeless and had no appropriate accommodation to stay in and had 3 children aged 4, 8 and 10. A HF accommodated all 3 children for 9 consecutive nights, giving the children a settled home environment, maintained their schooling and motivated parents to arrange alternative accommodation and work. The children would have needed to be accommodated by the local authority in this instance so this was a direct diversion from care.
24	3	1, 2 & 13 years	6 months (Open)	0	Indirect	3 x 6 months @ £378/ week £27,216 3 x 7 months (to end 17/18) @ £378/ week £31,752	Case was referred by EHSW. Single Mum of 3 girls aged 1, 2 and 13 had been struggling with her mental health and had been admitted to a psychiatric unit. During this time her Mum and sister helped care for her 3 children maintaining their routines as much as possible in the family home. This was challenging during holiday times due to them needing to maintain employment and having already taken as much leave as possible. 6 volunteers supported with day time hosting of the 13-year-old and her 12-year-old cousin 2 or 3 times a week during the Easter holidays, half term breaks and summer holidays. The two younger children could access respite at a local nursery. During support Mum, has continued to struggle with her mental health and was readmitted to hospital a second time. The support from Safe Families has enabled Grandma and Aunt to continue the care of the children, while Mum is accessing appropriate support for her mental health. There are concerns Mum may need long term support and struggle with the care of the children and the respite has allowed Grandma to consider earlier retirement so she can provide increased support for the family. Had this arrangement broken down the case most certainly would have escalated.
25	1	1 year	1 week (Closed)	2	Direct	2 Days @ £378/ week £108	This case was referred by a social worker. Mum was in mental health crisis and single parent of an 11-month-old. She was not known to children services but struggling with her MH. It was felt a period of hosting from a HF would give Mum some rest and allow social services time to find relevant MH support. Two nights of hosting were completed as Mum felt his would be beneficial instead of social care accommodation. However Mum attempted suicide and overdosed so was admitted for treatment, due to the uncertainty over the length of her recovery and some concerns raised regarding her ability to meet her son's needs he was placed in LAC longer term and is awaiting adoption.

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

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 July 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Corporate Parenting Sub Group Update</b>

**Summary:**

The work of the Corporate Parenting Sub Group (formerly the Corporate Parenting Panel) remains critical in promoting life chances and opportunities for vulnerable children, looked after children and care leavers. Members act as champions on behalf of these groups of children and young people. The Sub Group meets on a quarterly basis and includes representatives from looked after children and foster carers.

Through the presentation of reports, performance information, and Visiting Members responsibilities, the Sub Group scrutinise that the arrangements for the safety and welfare of looked after children and care leavers are in accordance with what every good parent would want for their own child.

It is agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Sub Group be presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, and attached are the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2018.

**Actions Required:**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to support the work of the Corporate Parenting Sub Group and to consider the matters raised and addressed.

**1. Background**

The Sub Group meets quarterly and is continually evolving and is very proactive in seeking information to inform Members about the quality of services provided by the Local Authority and partner agencies, as is evidenced in the recording of the minutes.

## 2. Conclusion

The ongoing scrutiny process looking at how well we meet our respective responsibilities and the different aspects of a child and young person's needs is pivotal to the work of the Corporate Parenting Sub Group. The attached draft minutes provide an account of the work undertaken since the previous meeting held on 15 March 2018.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

### b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Corporate Parenting Sub Group Draft Minutes 14 June 2018

## 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 Yvonne Shearwood, Service Manager Regulated Services, who can be contacted on 01522 554849 or [yvonne.shearwood@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.shearwood@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB  
 GROUP  
 14 JUNE 2018**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR D BRAILSFORD (CHAIRMAN)**

**Lincolnshire County Council:** Councillors Clio Perraton-Williams (Vice-Chairman), S R Parkin, R L Foulkes and M A Whittington

**Added Members:** Jean Burbidge (Lincolnshire Community Health Services), Polly Coombes (Foster Carer) and Ann Wright (Foster Carer)

Officers in attendance:-

Andrea Brown (Democratic Services Officer), Andrew Garbutt (Participation and Engagement Team), John Harris (Children's Service Manager - Regulated - North and Fostering), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Carolyn Knight (Quality and Standards Manager), Sarah Lane (Virtual School Team Manager), Andrew Morris (Corporate Parenting Manager) and Yvonne Shearwood (Children's Service Manager - Regulated (South and Adoption))

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor D Brailsford be elected as Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group for 2018/19.

**COUNCILLOR D BRAILSFORD IN THE CHAIR**

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor C L Perraton-Williams be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group for 2018/19.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R H Trollope-Bellew.

There were no replacement Members in attendance.

It was also noted that apologies for absence had been received from Janice Spencer (Assistant Director – Children's (Safeguarding)) and was represented by Yvonne Shearwood (Children's Services Manager: Regulated (South and Adoption)).

**2**  
**CORPORATE PARENTING SUB GROUP**  
**14 JUNE 2018**

**4**      DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

Councillor M A Whittington advised that he had an adopted son aged 22 and, although he was not receiving services available up to the age of 25, he was eligible to.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Whittington to his first meeting of the sub-group.

There were no other declarations of Members' interests at this point of the proceedings.

**5**      MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-GROUP HELD ON 15 MARCH 2018

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group held on 15 March 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**6**      EXTENSION OF CARE LEAVERS OFFER TO 25

The Sub-Group received a report from Andrew Morris (Corporate Parenting Manager) which provided an overview of the impact of the new Act for Care Leavers.

The requirement to offer a Personal Advisor Service to young people Leaving Care was to change and the offer was to be extended from age 21 to the age of 25. Children's Services must, if requested by a young person, undertake an assessment of need; develop and keep under review a Pathway Plan; and provide information, advice and guidance and support proportionate to need.

In April 2018, the offer of Leaving Care Duties was extended to the age of 25 although, locally, it was unknown how many Care Leavers would take up the offer of support to the age of 25 or the number of Care Leavers who would return to the County and access the offer of Leaving Care Support.

Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) received on 1 April 2018, made it clear that Local Authorities and their partners must:-

1. Ensure that service areas are configured and capable of delivering an Information Advice and Guidance Service for those over 21;
2. Extend the offer of a Personal Advisor support up to the age of 25;
3. Offer Leaving Care Service to those young people under 21 and leaving care support to those under the age of 25;
4. Respond if any young person contacts for support; and
5. For Care Leavers aged 21 or over – undertake an assessment of needs and develop, and keep under review, a pathway plan.

This also meant that Local Authorities did not have to provide the same level of support to care leavers aged 21 to 25 as it did for those aged 18 to 21 although there was a duty to assess need and offer Information, Advice and Guidance to all Care Leavers.

In order to meet the new obligations, LCC had extended the Leaving Care Service commissioned through Barnardo's in addition to committing an £120k additional funding every year for the next two years in order to enhance service capacity.

Due to this additional resource, when a young person approached the age of 21, Personal Advisors would discuss whether they would like to continue to receive support beyond the age of 21.

The Corporate Parenting Manager was also working with all partners, including District Councils, Public Health, health and voluntary sectors to develop a local Core Offer.

Since the report was published, it was reported that one young person, aged 23, who had found it difficult to secure employment was now being helped to write job applications and prepare for interviews. The service was also liaising with potential employers to explain the support required to the young person during this process. Members were advised that this young person, since receiving this support, had gone from not being successfully shortlisted for positions to being invited for interviews.

The Sub-Group was advised that the aspiration was that young people who leave the Leaving Care Service could continue to use services whenever needed.

Members were invited to ask questions, during which the following points were noted:-

- There was expected to be an increase in service users which may bring an additional cost pressure. The service provided would have to be made clear to young people to avoid confusion. It was envisaged that the number of individual support and duty support officers would need to be increased as the service was actively promoted;
- It was confirmed that all District Councils were committed to the service and found that the compliance and concept had grown considerably. One District Council had approved the rollout of Council Tax exemption via a non-key decision and officers were encouraging the others to do the same, if possible;
- It was asked if there would be a single point of contact within District Councils for Corporate parenting. This would be raised with Chief Executives and Leaders of each district council to request that a single point of contact be allocated. It was agreed that the culture in this area needed to be changed;
- When asked if there was a forecast of the number of care leavers between 21 and 25, it was explained that there could be in the region of 700. It was acknowledged that there would be a challenge trying to contact all as some may have moved but work had been carried out to identify the last known address of all care leavers. Neutral and anonymised letters had been sent to all of these addresses;

- It was confirmed that this service would be provided to LAC in Lincolnshire even if they had moved out-of-county. The legislation was nationwide therefore young people out of the area would receive information from councils and services in their area also;
- Barnardo's was to deliver the extended service and had appointed all the staff;
- Members were referred to the webpages in relation to Leaving Care. A full explanation of the full offer was included and could be found at <https://lincolnshire.fsd.org.uk/kb5/lincs/fsd/family.page?familychannel=1800>.

## RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted; and
2. That the growth of the offer to Care Leavers be supported.

7 V4C THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT (MARCH - MAY 2018) AND MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM VISITS TO V4C MEETINGS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER

The Sub-Group gave consideration to a report from the V4C. In guiding the Sub-Group through the report, the Participation Officer made reference to the Quadrant updates; Foster Focus; Care Pledge; the Big Conversation 16; FAB! 2018; and future meetings. Details of the information could be found within the report.

It was thought that the date of the Big Conversation 17 may have been changed from 22 October 2018. This would be clarified and Members notified.

Meeting venues in East Lindsey remained problematic and it was suggested that Fantasy Island might be engaged as this may encourage more young people to attend. The suggestion was welcomed although stressed that it would need to be clear to all those attending there would be business to conduct before social activities took place.

Councillor S R Dodds also suggested that the Scouting Association in East Lindsey might wish to assist and would make enquiries on behalf of V4C.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- In relation to Caring2Learn, it was thought that the majority of designated teachers were unaware of V4C and that this needed to be rectified;
- It was suggested that the designated teacher may not be the correct person to deal with the child but must be aware of which teacher would be;
- Children were often more comfortable using pastoral services but they must also be made aware of who the designated teachers were;
- It was reported that the proportion of designated teachers was predominantly greater in primary schools;
- Foster Carer members confirmed that they were invited to input into decisions which would affect them; and
- It was confirmed that Pupil Premium Plus, allocated for Looked After Children, was an initial payment grant which had to be logged against the child.

Members were referred to information available for V4C on the county council website – [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/v4c](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/v4c)

RESOLVED

That the V4C update for June 2018 be noted.

## 8 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by Carolyn Knight, Quality and Standards Manager, which provided an overview of the Looked After Children everyday care arrangements.

The Annual IRO report provided evidence relating to the IRO Services in Lincolnshire as required by statutory guidance. Due to the core business of the team also including child protection, short breaks and Regulation 44, the report also contained information relating to those areas where appropriate.

Members were invited to ask questions, during which the following points were noted:-

- Meetings with CAFCASS colleagues had continued on a six monthly basis and had resulted in the existing protocol being reviewed;
- IT issues within the Council needed to be resolved to ensure that information could be shared, securely, between relevant teams. LAC workflow issues had been identified and currently being reworked following the Ofsted inspection;
- Preparation for the inspection had allowed officers time to identify challenges faced around the Mosaic system;
- It was explained that participation in Reviews was not just attendance. A lot of young people would not attend reviews but evidence should be provided that the views of the child have been considered.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

## 9 COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS & COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Consideration was given to a report by Simone Haywood, Customer Relations and Complaints Manager, which provided an overview of Looked After Children Complaints.

Yvonne Shearwood, Children's Service Manager – Regulated (South and Adoption), introduced the report and highlighted that there had been one compliment received during the period and only one complaint from a young person in Lincolnshire County Council care.

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RESOLVED

That the Compliments, Comments & Complaints received from Looked After Children for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 be noted.

10 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 4 FULL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by Janice Spencer, Assistant Director – Safeguarding, which invited Members to review performance indicators in relation to Looked After Children.

Yvonne Shearwood, Children's Services Manager – Regulated (South and Adoption), introduced the report and explained that performance had been good. Members were referred to "Participation of LAC in Reviews" which reported that this indicator had not been met. It was explained that this was, in fact, a data error which had now been rectified.

During discussion, the following point was noted:-

- It was confirmed that the conversion of fire houses in Grantham to support Care Leavers was a pilot which was due to continue until the end of March 2019. Work was ongoing to consider how this could be rolled out beyond that date and in other areas in addition to Grantham. Members asked if it would be possible to visit the accommodation and were invited to contact the Children's Services Manager – Regulated (South and Adoption) to arrange this.

RESOLVED

That the Quarter 4 performance report be noted.

11 CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-GROUP WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Consideration was given to a report from Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group to discuss and agree its work programme for 2018.

Appendix A to the report detailed the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group Work Programme for 2018.

It was asked that the Lead Contributor for the Annual Report and Statement of Purpose for Private Fostering, scheduled for consideration on 20 September 2018, be amended from Lizette Watts to John Harris (Children's Services Manager – Regulated (North and Fostering)).

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme as detailed at Appendix A, subject to the amendment noted above, be agreed.

12     DATES OF MEETINGS

Future meetings dates of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group were confirmed as follows:-

Thursday 14 March 2019 10.00am  
Thursday 13 June 2019 10.00am  
Thursday 19 September 2019 10.00am  
Thursday 5 December 2019 10.00am

Electronic appointments would be sent to Members in due course.

RESOLVED

That the future meeting dates of the Sub-Group be noted.

13     INFORMATION ITEM - VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-GROUP OUTCOME

RESOLVED

That the information item regarding the Virtual Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Group be received.

The meeting closed at 12.13 pm

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

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 July 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Restorative Practice - Lincolnshire Joint Diversionary Panels (JDP)</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with an update and overview of the impact of the Lincolnshire Joint Diversionary Panel since it was introduced in June 2017.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is invited to seek assurance regarding the impact of the Lincolnshire Joint Diversionary Panel on offending behaviour by children and young people.

## **1. Background**

The Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency service (established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) with a statutory duty to address offending behaviour by children and young people. As well as a responsibility to reduce re-offending, a key performance measure for the service is reducing the number of children each year who enter the criminal justice system by receiving a formal sanction of a Youth Caution or through being charged to Court. Those young people entering the criminal justice within this report are termed First Time Entrants (FTE).

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 the legal provisions regarding the delivery of reprimand and final Warnings under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 were repealed and a new framework for Out of Court disposals was introduced under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO). Under this act, in dealing with any offence committed by a person under the age of 18, the Police have a range of options including No Further Action (NFA), Community Resolution (CR), Youth Caution (YC), Youth Conditional Caution (YCC) and charge.

Crucially the change in legislation provided agencies with greater scope to introduce the most appropriate outcome for criminal offences which could be based on the seriousness and circumstances of the offence but also consider the background of the child or young person. In addition, the Taylor Report (2016) set

out a new vision for youth justice delivery and outlined a clear expectation that every area should move to establish a practice model that diverts young people away from the formal criminal justice system wherever possible.

Recent research has shown that a young person is actually more likely to reoffend if they have been to court and receive a formal sanction. Restorative disposals have been shown to demonstrate better outcomes and reduced reoffending rates for children and young people. A cohort tracked in Leicestershire who received out of court disposals returned a 9% re-offending rate compared to a national average of 36% re-offending rate and a national re-offending rate following custody of more than 70%.

Joint Diversionary Panels in Lincolnshire were primarily established following detailed analysis of criminal justice disposals for children and young people. This analysis resulted in a shared acknowledgement that there was evidence of inappropriate use of Police cautions against children and young people. Lincolnshire Police data suggests that between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016 approximately 330 Youth Cautions were issued. As a direct consequence this practice had then resulted in a much higher number of first time entrants for Lincolnshire in comparison to our statistical neighbours.

Critically without a significant change in practice, there was a clear potential for the increased criminalisation of children in Lincolnshire, especially Looked After Children. It is essential that Looked After Children (LAC) are afforded a distinct and appropriate consideration within the panels due to the increased potential to be criminalised by their often complex behaviour and interaction with Police. The work of the panel is supported by the new Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) protocol to reduce criminalisation of children in residential care which serves as an additional safeguard for the most vulnerable children.

The use of Youth Cautions without any meaningful support or intervention can often represent an essentially administrative process and achieve limited impact. More importantly they have the potential to unnecessarily criminalise children and also have far reaching implications for their future education and employment prospects. However from a community safety and victim perspective it was apparent that the application of a caution does not adequately address the underlying factors which are influencing the young person's behaviour.

Prior to the introduction of the Joint Diversionary Panel the vast majority of decisions relating to sanctions and disposals following criminal behaviour by children and young people were the sole and primary responsibility of Lincolnshire Police. Where the gravity and seriousness of offending is very high these decisions are still directed to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

### 1.1 - Panel Process

Since its establishment in June 2017 the Joint Diversionary Panel (JDP) now meets on a weekly basis to review the cases of children and young people in Lincolnshire who have committed and admitted a criminal offence. Prior to the panel sitting all relevant information will be obtained regarding the child or young

person in respect of their social care involvement, health, and education and family circumstances. The voice of the young person and views of victims and crime are also sought to generate a full understanding and picture to inform holistic decision making.

The panel is chaired by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) but has standing representation from Lincolnshire Police, Early Help and Team Around the Child (TAC) Co-ordinators to provide a partnership approach and specialist input.

The panel may choose one of the following **formal** outcomes:

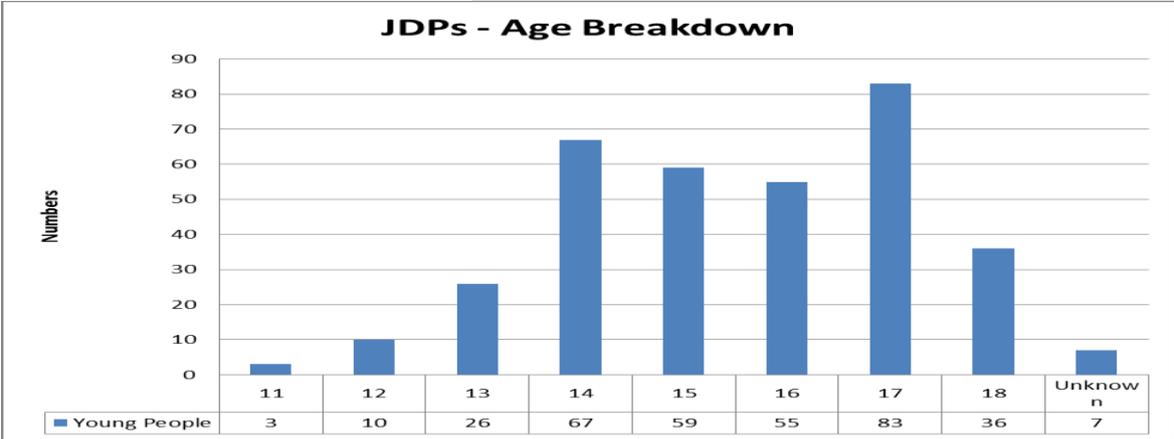
- Youth Caution
- Youth Conditional Caution
- Charge to Court

However since the commencement of the diversionary panel there is far greater use of non-statutory restorative outcomes - Youth Restorative Intervention (YRI). The YRI represents a new intervention established specifically for the joint diversionary panel. These disposals do not criminalise and have a restorative focus for both the victim and young person.

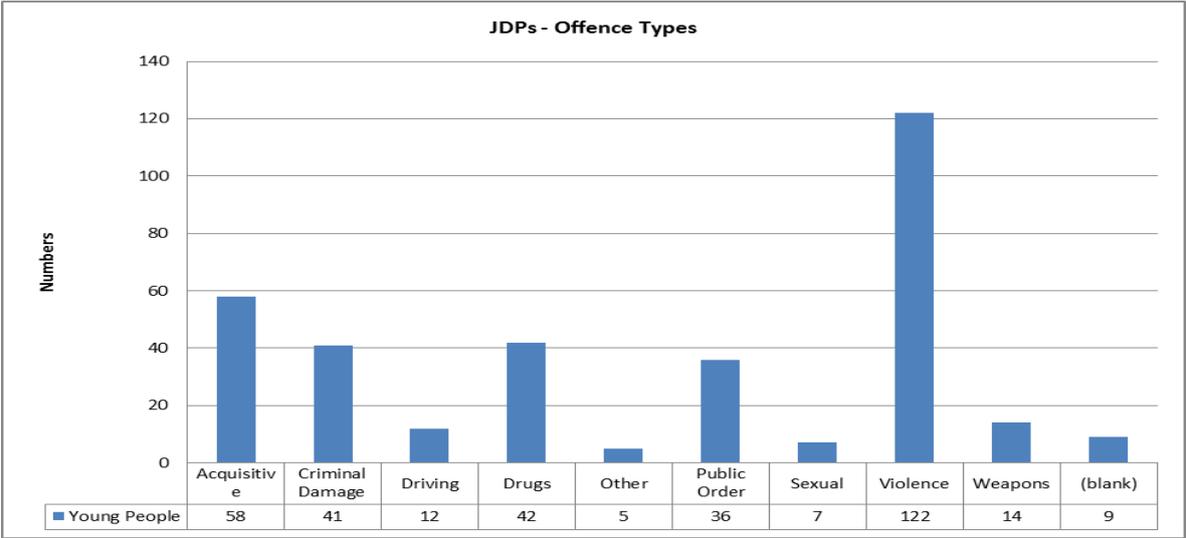
Example Youth Restorative Intervention Outcomes

<u>Tier 1</u>	<u>Tier 2</u>	<u>Tier 3</u>
Possession of cannabis	Shoplifting/Common Assault	Threats to Kill, grievous bodily harm, sexual offences
Referral to Addaction for substance misuse education/support	Attendance on 'RESTORE' group work programme to understand impact of offending.  Victim Restorative Conference and Community Reparation	These cases will be allocated to a YOS caseworker to undertake and assessment and plan of intervention over a three month period.

1.2 - Cohort Profile and Offences



The JDP currently reviews cases of children and young people aged between 10 and 18 if still working with the Youth Offending Service. The above data indicates that the predominant age profile is within the 14 -17 year old age range. The identification of offending behaviour at a younger age represents a better opportunity to intervene earlier before it becomes embedded. The gender analysis highlights that 25% of cases reviewed by the panel are female which represents a significantly higher proportion than those who appear before the court.



The above table highlights the range of offences committed by young people which have been reviewed by the panel since June 2017. Whilst theft and criminal damage feature frequently there are a greater proportion of violent offences. It should be noted that many of the violent offences are often against peers and at the lower threshold to enable a restorative outcome to be considered. This also provides opportunities to introduce restorative conferences with victims and utilise the 'Status' programme as an intervention to promote healthy relationships and address attitudes which may support violence.

**2. Conclusion**

The Joint Diversionary Panel (JDP) exemplifies excellent partnership and commitment from all key stakeholders (YOS, Lincolnshire Police, Early Help and TAC Leads) to promote the very best outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in Lincolnshire. It should be highlighted that officers from Lincolnshire Police have also been instrumental in driving forward the change in practice and ensuring it is embedded within the force. The implementation of the panel framework has been overseen and scrutinised by the Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board with partnership oversight.

Lincolnshire Children's Services has an overarching belief in utilising restorative principles and approaches within all areas of practice. National research within criminal justice has demonstrated the effectiveness in restorative justice in respect of the longer term benefits for young people, victims of crime and their communities. The Joint Diversionary Panel is demonstrating how restorative

practice can minimise the potential for children to become involved in the formal criminal justice system whilst still being supported with effective intervention.

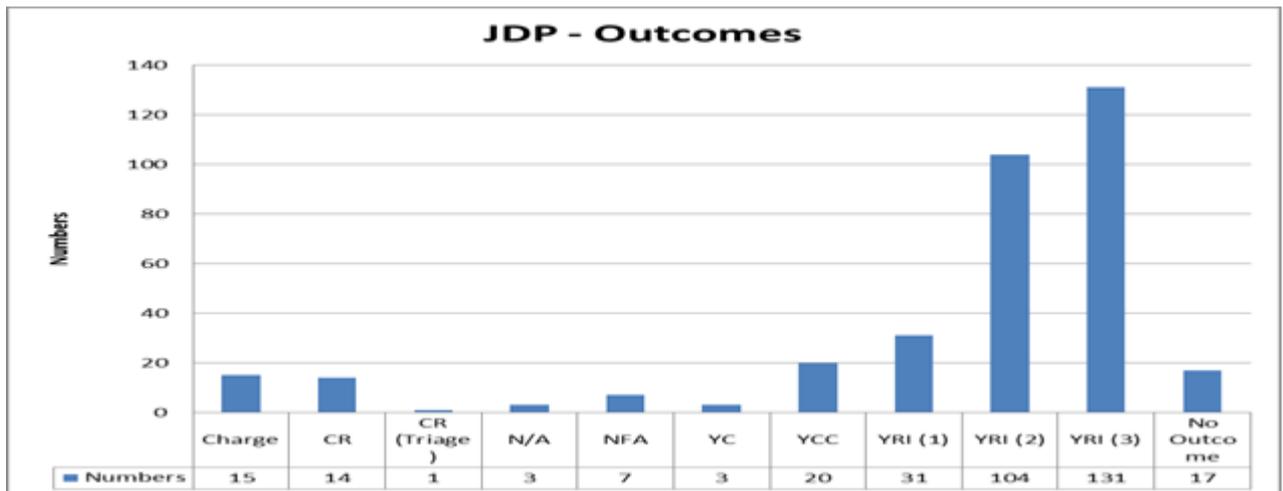
This JDP has undoubtedly contributed to improved and proportionate decision making that reflects the best interests of the child and young person and their families. However the duty to victims of crime and victims has not been diluted or overlooked as the panel seeks to provide a robust and credible alternative to conventional and formal criminal justice outcomes. Consultation with key stakeholders has been critical throughout and the panel has received the backing of the Youth Court User Group, Youth Magistrates and defence solicitors.

The new HMIP Inspection framework now includes an additional domain that will focus on out of court work. This work now represents half of the Youth Offending Service caseload and ensures that diversion and early intervention are prioritised. The national, regional and local trends reflect a falling statutory workload for youth offending teams. The number of Police arrests is continuing to fall and the changes to the Bail Act have altered Police behaviour in how they investigate crime. The number of young people coming to court has shown a considerable decrease as the panel are now acting as gatekeepers for a significant number of offences.

## 2.1 Performance and Impact

It is highly encouraging that the most recent national performance data indicates that the rate of first time entrants (FTE) in Lincolnshire has dropped by approximately **22%** since the diversionary panels came into operation. It will take further time to reflect the full impact of the panels, however all indications suggest there is the potential to continue an on-going reduction in the first time entrant rate.

Since the introduction of the Joint Diversionary Panels in Lincolnshire more than **350** cases have been reviewed by the panel (see table below). The panel has been able to utilise a youth restorative option (Tier 1, 2 and 3) in **82%** of all cases. This has clearly resulted in numerous children being offered timely support without acquiring a formal criminal conviction and managing the associated negative impact into adulthood. In addition, as a direct result of the creation of the panels, the use of Youth Cautions within Lincolnshire has decreased by over **90%**. This represents a substantial reduction which should be welcomed and demonstrates the genuine commitment across agencies to restorative outcomes.



### 2.3 - Evaluation

Performance reporting in respect of youth justice is submitted on a quarterly basis to the Youth Justice Board and published by the Ministry of Justice. The work of the diversionary panel is monitored by the Performance and Partnership Manager within Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service. A key measure relating to the success of the panels is the impact that this has upon re-offending. The JDP cohort will be tracked to firstly determine if the intervention and support provided has made a meaningful impact in addressing re-offending. Early indications suggest a positive impact both in respect of young people not returning to the panel but also the absence of further offences post panel intervention. The work of the Joint Diversionary Panel is also contained within the Partners in Practice (DFE) work stream and a formal evaluation is being scoped. Furthermore discussions have been undertaken with the University of Lincoln to secure funding to complete a longitudinal academic evaluation to understand the longer term impact of diversion for children and young people and also the quality of interventions they receive.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

No

#### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

Monitoring and evaluation of the panel is provided through the Lincolnshire Out of Court Scrutiny Panel.

### **4. 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 Andy Cook, who can be contacted on 01522 552367 or [andy.cook@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.cook@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 July 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Partners in Practice Programme Update</b>

**Summary:**  
This report provides the Committee members with an update for Lincolnshire's Partners in Practice Programme.

**Actions Required:**  
The Committee is invited to seek assurance regarding the progress and outcomes of the Partners in Practice Programme.

## 1. Background

### Partners in Practice Overview

Under the Department for Education (DfE) reform programme the Putting Children First document (published July 2016) set out the three fundamental pillars of reform:

<b>People and Leadership</b>	<b>Practice and Systems</b>	<b>Governance and Accountability</b>
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To achieve the desired outcomes set out under each pillar the DfE has established a Partners in Practice (PiP) programme that brings together the country's eight leading authorities, Lincolnshire being one. The DfE together with the PiP authorities will work together to achieve the following:

- Understand how the PiP authorities got to 'good'
- Establish how to go from 'good' to 'outstanding'
- Boost sector led improvement
- Investigate the most difficult practice questions facing the children's social care system

Putting Children First, is at the heart of our work in Lincolnshire, Working Together with Families to Enhance Children's Present and Future Lives. It explains the way Lincolnshire Children's Services works, with children being put first to not only make their current situation better, but to also shape their future; and the importance of doing this 'with' families and not 'to' them.

**Children, Young People and Families in Lincolnshire will be:**

- Helped to make changes for themselves
- Seen as a positive solution to the challenges they face
- Able to get the right service at the right time
- Understood as a whole family

**Supported by an integrated Children's Services workforce that:**

- Uses evidence informed practice
- Understands and applies Relationship Based Practice
- Is Restorative in approach
- Is well trained and supported

**Enabled and equipped by:**

- Clear governance that puts children and families at the heart of how we plan and deliver support for them
- Using Signs of Safety methodology that builds on families' strengths.

**Programme Overview**

For many years now, Lincolnshire Children's Services has consistently achieved 'good' or 'outstanding' Ofsted judgements. In Lincolnshire, the foundation of good children's social care is exceptional early help arrangements, as effective safeguarding occurs within a system of commitment by all agencies, which have a role and responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

The Partners in Practice (PIP) programme will improve practice in Lincolnshire and other Children's Services, transforming the quality of children's social care services and early help arrangements, and support the reform of the wider system; putting practice excellence and achieving more for the children we serve at its heart.

Lincolnshire has a proven track record of continuous improvement and good performance, and the vision is to improve Children's Services in Lincolnshire and elsewhere.

The PiP programme is scheduled to run until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and is made up of two workstreams (Practice and Systems and People and Leadership) which align directly to the three fundamental pillars of the DfE reforms. The six individual projects sit below the overarching workstreams, that once implemented will deliver the desired outcomes and positive impacts. Each project has a project manager and a senior manager lead as set out below.

		<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Senior Manager Lead</b>
<b>Workstream</b>	1	Signs of Safety	Danielle Marshall	Roz Cordy
	2	Early Help/Social care interface	Nicky Myers	Damian Elcock
	3	Risky Behaviours/Youth Offending	Nicky Myers/ Tracey Evans	Jo Kavanagh/ Andy Cook
	4	Caring2Learn	Krysta Parsons	Kieran Barnes/John Harris
	5	Workforce Development	Sam Clayton	Tara Jones
	6	Improvement Offer	Tara Jones	Debbie Barnes

**Practice and Systems** – creating the right environment for excellent practice and innovation to flourish, reducing bureaucracy, whilst creating a culture which prioritises excellent practice, based around the principles of innovation and excellence. Whilst the power to innovate to test where legislation and regulations might be getting in the way of excellent practice was removed from the Children and Families Bill, PiP's did get the flexibility to propose changes from statutory guidance.

### **Project 1**

Signs of Safety is well embedded in Lincolnshire but the constraints of Working Together and Ofsted means that it currently has to be shoe-horned into other existing policy and practice, which leads to extensive duplication. We will redesign Social Work Policy, Procedure and Practice to place Signs of Safety at the heart of all that we do, recognising that Relationships are key to change and being restorative in our approach to each other and with families.

#### Progress to date:

- Trained 1120 frontline staff in 2 day Signs of Safety (SOS) training
- 155 people have attended the 5 day Enhanced SOS Training programme with a further 65 planned for this year
- 152 staff have attended an Introduction to Restorative Practice for Frontline Workers (1 day course)
- 106 staff have attended an Introduction to Restorative Practice for Leaders (1 day course)
- Service led workshops have been undertaken with the Independent Reviewing Officers and Chairs, Contact Service, Family Group Conferencing, Early Help Teams, partners including Health/Police/Probation, Commissioning teams, leaving care, Customer Service Centre, Adoption and Fostering panels
- In consultation with children and families, we have revised and developed a new Single Plan (Child and Family Progress Plan). To support the Plan, we have updated our Children in Need process and procedures
- Developed our Social Care assessment to one family assessment for all service areas
- Reviewed our new progress plan
- Introduced Restorative practice to complement Signs Of Safety (SOS)
- Developed and published a new 'Meeting the Needs' document

## **Project 2**

The interface between Early Help and Social Care is not fluid enough and does not lend itself to Relationship Based Practice, and continuity of relationships and trust for children and families. The project will set out to implement a culture change, with respect, reciprocity, appreciative enquiry and reflective practice at the core that will improve the interface between Early Help and Social Care. Social Workers and Early Help workers through working better together and sharing risk will help to ensure continuous trusting relationships with children, young people and families are maintained, improving support and outcomes. At the heart of our approach will be the Signs of Safety methodology.

### Progress to date:

An Early Help (EH) review is underway and is focusing on key questions, using agreed methodology agreed by Directorate Management Team (DMT).

- We have ascertained views from all children's services teams and partner agencies inclusive of schools and academies
- Gathered the views of children, parents and carers in group work and focus groups
- Tracked some of our most complex cases
- Observed practice county-wide including allocations
- Reviewed data in terms of workflow, re-referrals, step up to Social Care, step downs to Team Around the Child (TAC)
- Began a skills audit of EH staff

Three key themes have emerged: inconsistency in how EH are applying thresholds and allocating work. A difference in how EH is offered across the county and differing priorities across the quadrants. As a conclusion from the interim progress report submitted to DMT, a new interim front door for all EH screenings and allocations will come into effect from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

There has been an agreed movement of resource from East Lindsey and Boston/South Holland, to West Lindsey/Lincoln. We have also agreed a review of our parenting strategy from 0-19 years.

## **Project 3**

To build on the Research in Practice (RIP) 7 principles. RIP brings together research and practitioner expertise to build the sector's capacity for evidence informed practice. RIP has developed seven service and practice principles to improve LA's responses to adolescent risk. This project will explore how to best intervene and support young people who are engaging in risky behaviours to effectively enact change outside of child protection arrangements. This will involve developing an evidence based practice framework of what works, based on the RIP research, and creating a local system together with partner agencies that effectively safeguards a young person, recognises adolescent development and is based on relationship based practice.

### Progress to date:

Within this project, we have explored the development of a Lincolnshire Edge of Care/Adolescent Risk Taking Behaviours Service, which effectively supports all young people to manage risk and also supports young people to remain living with their family network and community. We have reviewed the learning from and key elements of other existing innovations in this space and have worked with Mutual Ventures to conduct a horizon scan of relevant innovations and develop a blueprint of the future service. Within this work, we have reviewed 120 cases that staff identified as their top complex cases involving adolescents. Together with Mutual Ventures, young people and partners, we have developed a service model, identified the cohort for the service (including a vulnerability matrix), developed a set of principles and outcomes for the service and produced a report to DMT and Exec DMT. The proposed model has been shared within locality events to ensure engagement of practitioners as plans develop. The new service will go live in autumn 2018.

The multi-agency Joint Diversionary Panel was established in July 2017 to ensure timely and proportionate responses to offending by young people with restorative principles embedded within it.

The latest Youth Justice Board data indicates that since the commencement of the panels there has been a significant 22% reduction in the number of first time entrants within the criminal justice system. The indicative data suggests that this reduction will improve further in the coming months. In addition the use of simple youth cautions for children and young people in Lincolnshire has reduced by 90%. Further analysis will continue to monitor the impact around interventions, reductions in re-offending and victim satisfaction. It is really encouraging that more than 370 young people's cases have been reviewed within the panel and resulted in 78% of the outcomes being restorative and non-criminalising.

Finally, a new assessment tool is currently being trialled by Youth Offending practitioners for use with out of court disposals which better reflects the needs of children and young people and is aligned with Signs of Safety principles. The new assessment is designed to be holistic, proportionate and promote the voice of the young person in shaping their plans.

### **Project 4**

The overall aim of this project is to improve a wide range of outcomes for Lincolnshire's looked after, care leavers and other vulnerable children and young people. We want all Lincolnshire education settings to be confident in nurturing vulnerable children and young people so they achieve better than expected progress and we want carers, foster carers and residential care staff, to champion education in the home. We want all our looked after children and young people to feel safe and to belong in their home and school, which will provide them with a solid foundation to have the confidence to go on to learn, be aspirational and achieve their full potential.

Progress to date:

Caring2Learn is an innovative multi-agency project focused on improving educational outcomes for looked after children (LAC) and young people from Early Years to post 16. Caring2Learn aims to bring together all professionals working with our young people and also improve training and support and raise the profile of foster and residential carers across the county. The project has focused on 3 main areas of work:

- Developing a locality based support network for foster and residential carers, designated teachers and education professionals and bring them together sharing good practice and information on how best to support LAC and young people in education.
- Creating and recruiting to the role of 60 Education Champions from foster and residential carers and designated teachers to provide peer support and challenge as part of the support network.
- The development of the Caring2Learn Award for Learning Homes and Caring Schools, currently in the pilot stage, which will assess, celebrate and drive good practice for Lincolnshire LAC when it is launched to all schools and carers in September 2018.

The project has grown from 6 schools involved in the initial research in September 2017 to 60 schools and education providers participating in the first cohort of the Caring2Learn Award between May to July 2018. The project has grown from 6 foster carers in September 2017 to now having 16 Foster Carer Champions appointed and 30 foster carers taking part in the Learning Homes Award since April 2018. 100 people have taken part in Restorative Practice training in June 2018 with a further 100 to access this training in October 2018. In partnership with the Virtual School we will have 20 schools attending training on 'Assessing Emotional and Well-being needs of children through the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires' which will be rolled out to all schools in the Autumn Term. We also have between 60 and 90 schools, foster carers and social care staff attending Social Pedagogy training in July. In September 2018 is the first Caring2Learn Conference where over 270 education professionals, carers and Children's Services professionals will come together.

As part of the project we have developed and introduced the very first assessment and audit toolkit for schools and foster carers which will culminate in them receiving either a Caring School or Learning Home Award. 60 schools and education settings and 30 foster carers, with support and training led by the Caring2Learn team, are currently working through the assessment and audit toolkits and will be submitting their portfolios in July. Carers report that they are becoming more confident in supporting learning in the home and the toolkit is helping them to take a more structured and professional approach to their role. Initial feedback from schools indicate a positive response to the toolkits with schools leaders and designated teachers reporting that it is helpful in defining good practice for vulnerable children and contributing to their school development plans to drive further improvements. With the help of Restorative Practice and Social Pedagogy training schools and Carers are putting nurture and well-being at the core of their provision and working alongside the Virtual School we are raising the profile and expertise of the Designated teacher for Looked After Children through

cluster meetings and information sharing at Leadership Briefings across the county.

**People and Leadership** – bringing the best people into the profession, and giving them the right knowledge and skills for the incredibly challenging but hugely rewarding work we expect them to do, and developing leaders equipped to nurture practice excellence.

### **Project 7**

We will implement a whole Children's Service Workforce Strategy for social care. This will include Early Help, Social Work, the Residential Homes and the Children's Nurses. This will provide a national, practice focused, career pathway based on the highest levels of skill and knowledge.

#### **Progress to date:**

Within this project and with the support of 33 Branding Company, we have redesigned all of the children's services recruitment process. Recruitment continues to progress positively with 16 vacancies across the social work teams. We continue to attract new social workers to the organisations using our offer with The Guardian and Community Care, agency contract (to recruit permanent staff) as well as supporting internal promotions. This has been supported by our staff who have contributed to the editorial and articles produced. The work relating to retention and succession planning continues with sessions having been completed with managers in June 2018. This has identified staff who could progress in the organisation within the next year who will be supported on developmental programmes for this to become a reality.

The SYTP (South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership) continues with further government funding and 100 of our staff have completed Post Qualifying training courses and attended masterclasses over the last year; this continues to expand with the workforce development work. The impact of these combined initiatives is evident in our low staff turnover rates which are currently running at 7.3% whilst the national average remains at 16%. A second cohort of 8 social workers have completed a development course 'Bridging the gap' and these people continue to successfully achieve internal promotion; 2 within a month of completing the course and we will look to expand this across the Children's services teams this Autumn.

24 newly qualified social workers have been recruited since January and will be starting their ASYE (assessed and supported year in employment) in September. The establishment of the peri team to build internal capacity and other retention initiatives continually attract new qualified staff to the organisation. We continue to prepare all our qualified social work staff for the National Assessment and Accreditation System, 240 already having completed training by designing and delivering bespoke training to refresh knowledge and skills, and deliver excellent practice, this was evidenced in the recent Ofsted focused visit. We contribute to the national advisory group and work with the Department for Education in the establishment of the new regulator Social Work England due to go live in 2019.

## **Project 8**

We welcome collaboration being a key part of improvement where good Children's Services work with other Children's Services to provide high-quality diagnosis of what is needed for improvement, with advice, guidance and monitoring as well as training and development to the workforce to drive effectiveness. We will support sector led improvement through our experience as an intervention partner with Rotherham and Tower Hamlets, by building the vision, values and culture of the organisation through robust self-assessment and acceptance of external feedback.

### Progress to date:

As a Partner in Practice authority, Lincolnshire has lead on the development of the East Midlands Regional Improvement Alliance (RIA) pilot, to learn, share, improve and innovate across the East Midlands. Following the completion of the pilots, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), Local Government Association (LGA), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and Department for Education (DfE) have given consensus on the establishment of Regional Improvement Alliance for every region. The purpose of the alliance is the creation of a self-improving system through a trusted, effective and coherent sector led model which is underpinned by robust self-evaluation, peer review and challenge process, offered through the RIA's. The Alliances will build on best practice, share expertise and work collaboratively to provide the right support at the right time, to councils at each stage of their improvement journey. They will also serve as the primary means by which the sector will address the early identification of concerns before they reach crisis point.

Each RIA will undertake a common core of activity on an annual basis, including the sharing of a common core data set, bringing a greater level of coherence to the sector led improvement work of regions.

We have been improvement partners for Rotherham Borough Council and Tower Hamlets Borough Council. It is pleasing to note that following their full inspection in January 2018, Rotherham received an overall judgement of "Good". We have also supported 43 local authorities with their implementation of Signs of Safety.

### Governance Arrangements

The Programme management office provides project management support to the whole programme. The programme reports directly to the Children's Services Transformation Board. Each PiP programme is partnered with a DfE advisor and project evaluation partner. Independent evaluation is an essential part of the Partners in Practice programme, as it enables the DfE to have a robust mechanism for measuring the impact of the projects and the conditions required for change. It will also enable the Department to share insights and learning with the sector, for example through the new What Works Centre.

The Partners in Practice programme will be evaluated alongside the Innovation Programme Round Two. Opcit Research UK has been contracted by the Department for Education to co-ordinate the independent evaluation process across the Innovation Programme and Partners in Practice from 2017-20.

## 2. Conclusion

The project plan for the 4 year programmes has been developed. Project briefs have been signed off by the Transformation Board, with all Business cases, stakeholder engagement plans having been finalised and signed off by the Transformation Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Monies have been agreed by the Department for Education (DfE), amount and regularity of payments has been confirmed. The Money will be transferred via a Section 31 grant.

## 3. Consultation

### a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Individual Risks and Issues Logs are being developed for each project.

There is an overall programme risk and issue log that is monitored by the Programme Board.

### b) Risks and Impact Analysis

The Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

## 4. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Putting Children First	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/putting-children-first-our-vision-for-childrens-social-care">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/putting-children-first-our-vision-for-childrens-social-care</a>
That Difficult Age - RiP Seven Principles	<a href="https://www.rip.org.uk/news-and-views/latest-news/evidence-scope-risks-in-adolescence/">https://www.rip.org.uk/news-and-views/latest-news/evidence-scope-risks-in-adolescence/</a>

This report was written by Tara Jones, who can be contacted on 01522 552686 or [tara.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:tara.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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## Policy and Scrutiny

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills,  
Director responsible for Democratic Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 July 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme</b>

### **Summary:**

This item enables the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its work programme to ensure that its scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit. Members are encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme.

### **Actions Required:**

Members of the Committee are invited to:

- 1) Review and agree the Committee's work programme as set out in Appendix A to this report.
- 2) Highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

## **1. Background**

### Purpose of Scrutiny Activity

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

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

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.

Policy Review - The Committee is reviewing the implementation of policy, to consider the success, impact, outcomes and performance.

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

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

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

Member Report – The Committee is reviewing the work of the Sub-Groups or Working Groups.

Requests for specific items for information should be dealt with by other means, for instance briefing papers to members.

The Committee's proposed work programme is attached at Appendix A. A list of all upcoming Forward Plan decisions relating to the Committee is also attached at Appendix B.

Members of the Committee are invited to review, consider and comment on the work programme as set out in Appendix A and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

## **2. Conclusion**

The Committee is invited to consider the content of its forthcoming work programme.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

Not Applicable

### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

Not Applicable

## **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	Forward Plan of Decisions relating to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

## **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, Senior Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or by e-mail at [tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Councillor Robert Foulkes

Vice Chairman: Councillor Robert Kendrick

<b>20 July 2018</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help Andrew Morris, Corporate Parenting Manager	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor Decision: 30 July 2018)
Edge of Care Support Service	Joanne Fox Commissioning Officer	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor Decision: 30 July 2018)
Corporate Parenting Sub Group Update (14 June 2018 minutes)	Cllr David Brailsford, Chairman of the Sub-Group	Member Report
Restorative Practice - Lincolnshire Joint Diversionary Panels (JDP)	Andy Cook, Youth Offending Manager	Policy Review
Partners in Practice Programme Update	Tara Jones, Children's Service Manager – Partners in Practice	Policy Review

<b>7 September 2018</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Inclusive Lincolnshire Strategy – Policy Review	Mary Meredith, Children's Service Manager - Inclusion	Policy Review
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update (9 July 2018 minutes)	Cllr Sarah Parkin, Chairman of the Sub-Group	Member Report
Theme Performance: Quarter 1	Sally Savage, Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Performance Scrutiny

<b>19 October 2018</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Building Communities of Specialist Provision – A Collaborative Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities in Lincolnshire (Final Decision)	Eileen McMorrow, Senior Project Officer SEND Review	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Decision – 6 November 2018)
Sector Led School Improvement Model – Progress Report	Martin Smith, Children's Service Manager - School Standards	Policy Review
Lincolnshire Learning Partnership (LLP) Strategic Plan and Impact Evaluation	Sue Williams, Children's Service Manager – Education Strategy	Policy Review
Corporate Parenting Sub-Group Update (20 September 2018 minutes)	Cllr David Brailsford, Chairman of the Sub Group	Member Report

<b>30 November 2018</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Prevent and the Implications for Children and Young People	Nicole Hilton, Community Assets and Resilience Commissioning Manager	Policy Development
Significant Place Planning and the Process for School Reorganisation	Matthew Clayton, Admissions and Education Provision Manager	Policy Review
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update (18 October 2018 minutes)	Cllr Sarah Parkin, Chairman of the Sub-Group	Member Report
Theme Performance: Quarter 2	Sally Savage, Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Performance Scrutiny
Armed Forces Pupil Premium	Sue Williams, Children's Service Manager – Education Strategy	Briefing Paper (By email)

<b>18 January 2019</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Revenue Budget Proposals 2019/20 and 2020/21	Debbie Barnes OBE, Executive Director of Children's Services	Budget Scrutiny
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the process behind Education, Health and Care Plans	Sheridan Dodsworth Children's Services Manager - SEND	Policy Review
Corporate Parenting Sub-Group Update (6 December 2018 Minutes)	Cllr David Brailsford Chairman of the Sub Group	Member Report

<b>8 March 2019</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Lincolnshire Local Authority School Performance 2017-18	Martin Smith, Children's Service Manager - School Standards	Performance Scrutiny
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update ( <i>January 2019 minutes</i> )	Cllr Sarah Parkin, Chairman of the Sub Group	Member Report
Theme Performance: Quarter 3	Sally Savage, Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Performance Scrutiny

<b>26 April 2019</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Corporate Parenting Sub-Group Update ( <i>14 March 2019 minutes</i> )	Cllr David Brailsford, Chairman of the Sub Group	Member Report

<b>7 June 2019</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group Update ( <i>April 2019 minutes</i> )	Cllr Sarah Parkin, Chairman of the Sub-Group	Member Report
Theme Performance: Quarter 4	Sally Savage, Chief Commissioning Officer – Children's	Performance Scrutiny

**Items to be programmed**

- Home to School Transport Policy – Grammar School Transport (*The outcome of the scrutiny review in 2016 on Grammar School Transport was to reconsider the current policy in two years' time.*)
- Elements of Safeguarding Children and Social Care Work

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

**APPENDIX B**

**FORWARD PLAN OF DECISIONS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM 2 JULY 2018**

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
I015858 New!	Edge of Care Support Service	30 July 2018	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services	Representatives from Children's Services FAST Teams; Children's Services DMT; Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Report	Commissioning Officer Tel: 01522 553410 Email: <a href="mailto:joanne.fox@lincolnshire.gov.uk">joanne.fox@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	No	All Divisions
I015859 New!	Accommodation Pathway for Children and Young People	30 July 2018	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Report	Jo Kavanagh - e-mail: <a href="mailto:jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk">jo.kavanagh@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01522 554505	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	All Divisions

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
1015623	Building Communities of Specialist Provision: A Collaborative Strategy for Children and Young People with Specialist Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Lincolnshire	6 November 2018	Executive	Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum; Special School Head Teachers; Trustees and Governing Body members; Lincolnshire Schools' Forum; Lincolnshire Learning Partnership; Mainstream School Leaders; Staff, parents/carers and friends of the special schools; union representative; all parent/carers of pupils attending Special Schools in and outside of the county; all SENDCo's registered with Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) SENDCo network; all independent non-maintained special schools and out of county schools where LCC have pupils placed; Health: commissioning and providers; key interested parties noted on the list; general public and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Report	SEND Project Office Tel: 01522 554943 Email: eileen.mcmorrow@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care, Health and Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	All Divisions