



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

12 October 2023

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Friday, 20 October 2023 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Debbie Barnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
(11 Members of the Council and 3 Added Members)

Councillors R J Kendrick (Chairman), W H Gray (Vice-Chairman), A J Baxter, A W Briggs, Mrs J E Killey, C Matthews, Mrs S A J Nutman, N Sear, T J N Smith, M A Whittington and R A Wright

Added Members

Church Representative: M Kyle

Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs M R Machin and Dr E van der Zee

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA
FRIDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2023**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence / Replacement Members	
2	Declaration of Members' Interest	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting held 8 September 2023	7 - 12
4	Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration and Chief Officers	
5	<p>Recommissioning of Children and Young People's Online Mental Health Support Service</p> <p><i>(To receive a report from Kevin Johnson, Commissioning Manager – Children's Mental Health, LD and Autism, Emily Humphries, Commissioning Officer and Lynda Whitton, Senior Commissioning Officer which invites the Committee to consider the Recommissioning the Children and Young People's (CYP) Online Mental Health Support Service, which is being presented to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration for a decision between 27 October and 3 November 2023)</i></p>	13 - 40
6	<p>The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning</p> <p><i>(To receive a report by Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy, on the Re-commissioning the Maples Short Breaks Provision. The Committee is invited to comment on and consider this item ahead of a decision by the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 30 October and 3 November 2023)</i></p>	41 - 62
7	<p>Potential Topics for Scrutiny Review by Scrutiny Panel A</p> <p><i>(To receive a report from Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, to enable the Committee to consider whether to make any suggestions for an in-depth scrutiny review, for consideration and decision by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board).</i></p>	63 - 72
8	<p>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme</p> <p><i>(To receive a report from by Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which enables the Committee to comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit)</i></p>	73 - 82

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 9 Update on the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy** 83 - 106
(To receive a report from Sheridan Dodsworth, Head of Special Educational Needs and Disability, Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager, SEND Strategy, and Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development which updates the Committee on the implementation of the Building Communities of Specialist Provision; Together in Lincolnshire Strategy, and the progress made between October 2023-October 2023 within the Capital Programme and all supporting system areas)
- 10 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**
In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the following items of business 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 Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.
- 11 Education Provision Planning** 107 - 142
(To receive an exempt report from Matthew Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency, on Education Provision Planning ahead of a decision from the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 27 October and 3 November 2023)
- 12 Expansion of Saxilby Church of England Primary School** 143 - 158
(To receive an exempt report from Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development, and Alison Toyne, Project Manager – Corporate Property, on the Expansion of Saxilby Church of England Primary School, which is being presented to the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) for a decision between 27 October and 3 November 2023)

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

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

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Friday, 20th October, 2023, 10.00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

All papers for council meetings are available on:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
8 SEPTEMBER 2023**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R J KENDRICK (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors W H Gray (Vice-Chairman), A J Baxter, C Matthews, Mrs S A J Nutman, N Sear, T J N Smith, M A Whittington and R A Wright

Added Members

Parent Governor Representatives: Dr E van der Zee

Councillor S Roe was also in attendance.

Officers in attendance:-

Melissa Bennett–Shaul (remote) (Senior Commissioning Officer – Children’s), Matthew Clayton (Interim Head of Capital Reform & Education Sufficiency), Linda Dennett (Assistant Director - Children's Health and Commissioning), Rachel Freeman (Head of Service - Children in Care and Residential Estates), Charlotte Gray (Head of Service – Children's Strategic Commissioning), Sara Gregory (Commissioning Manager, Children's Strategic Commissioning), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Jo Kavanagh (Assistant Director of Early Help), Sarah Nardone (Assistant Director - Sector Led Improvement) Dave Pennington (Head of Property Development), Heather Sandy (Executive Director of Children's Services), Martin Smith (Assistant Director for Children's Education), Matthew Stapleton (Senior Project Manager-Corporate Property), Alison Toyne (Project Manager – Corporate Property), and Jess Wosser-Yates (Democratic Services Officer).

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A W Briggs and Mrs. P A Bradwell MBE – Executive Councilor for Children’s Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration.

18 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations made at this point in proceedings.

19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2023

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, COMMUNITY SAFETY, PROCUREMENT AND MIGRATION AND CHIEF OFFICERS

Councillor S Roe, Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement, and Migration had attended several visits to District Council's in Lincolnshire to discuss Corporate Parenting responsibilities. The sessions, which were run by the Corporate Parenting Manager, were well received by District colleagues.

Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children's Services, informed the Committee following recent press coverage that there had been no reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) identified in Lincolnshire academies or maintained schools. The Committee was assured that the Property Team had also conducted checks on children's centres, children's homes and secure children's homes and had not identified RAAC.

21 LINCOLNSHIRE SECURE CHILDREN'S HOME – LAND PURCHASE AND SECTION 203

Consideration was given to a report from Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development, Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency, Dave Clarke, Service Lead – Secure Estate and Rachel Freeman, Head of Service - Children in Care and Residential Estates. The Committee was invited to consider the contents of the report which was being presented to the Executive for a decision on 3 October 2023.

Support was given to the new secure children's home and its proposed location which would help to generate economic growth in this area. It was recognised that the existing secure unit was very dated, and the current location did not allow for any expansion.

During its discussion, the Committee explored the following topics:

Invoking Section 203 Powers

- Assurance was provided that invoking Section 203 to override the restrictive covenants was a managed risk and was a power that had been used by other local authorities to also override restrictive covenants. The process used at other local authorities had been examined to ensure the Council followed the same route and was not doing anything different. Several lawyers in Legal Services Lincolnshire have been working on this issue and external barristers have also been consulted with on multiple occasions.
- Any challenge to the engagement of the Section 203 provisions would be from an adjacent landowner if they felt the value of their land had suffered a loss. Legal advice had confirmed that there was limited risk that loss would be suffered by overriding the restrictive covenants due to the nature of the development. All the landowners had been contacted on a regular basis to provide them with an opportunity to comment on the proposals. As this was evidenced, the Council would have a very strong case if any challenge was received and would be able to demonstrate that the Council had acted reasonably and taken every step to mitigate the risk and engage adjacent landowners.

Enabling Works Contract

- The cost for the enabling works was being negotiated and had already been reduced from the £7.26 million stated in the report. Legal advice had confirmed that the formal decision would still give the Council authority to continue with the scheme even if the final value was less.

Timescales and Next Steps

- In relation to the timescales for completion, it was confirmed that the plan was to start construction on site in early 2024, with the new secure home being completed at the start of 2026.
- With regards to next steps, a full scheme appraisal would be brought through the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and then for a decision towards the end of 2023. This would set out the main works contract and would be for the totality of the project and include the full cost for construction.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee supports the recommendations to the Executive as set out in the report.
2. That any additional comments be passed on to the Executive in relation to this item.

22 RECOMMISSIONING OF THE PORTAGE SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report Sarah Gregory, Commissioning Manager – Children’s Strategic Commissioning, on the recommissioning of the Portage Service. The Committee was invited to consider the contents of the report ahead of a decision by the Executive Councillor for Children’s Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 18 and 22 September 2023.

During its discussion, the Committee explored the following topics:

Lead Provider Selection Process

- In relation to selecting a lead provider to provide the Portage Service, it was confirmed that special schools within the Lincolnshire SEND Alliance would be approached and invited to nominate a lead provider. The Council would then engage in discussions with the lead provider. A draft service specification had been developed setting out proposals for service provision as well as clear performance targets and outcomes. As this would be a partnership collaboration agreement, the Council would work in partnership with the lead provider to also identify anything else that they could offer above the minimum service provision and agree any other targets and outcomes that the Council would like to see included as well.
- Assurance was provided that special schools had been engaged with during the review process and officers were confident that they would be able to identify a lead provider based on the proposed model.

Potential Impact of not recommissioning the Portage Service

- If the Portage Service was not recommissioned, there would be increased pressure on SEND services and other services that support children during their early years. This could mean that services would not be able to meet a child's needs quick enough, which could result in more children going into special schools or more specialist provision. Through early intervention, different services could work together to provide support to these children earlier to prepare them for school, which and support as many as possible to have their needs met in mainstream school. Without the Portage Service, there could be more children starting school with speech, language and communication needs, which would put increased pressure on primary schools and on speech and language services, and delay support being provided to children who were already behind where their peers might be.

Funding the Cost Pressure

- With regards to funding the cost pressure of nearly £53,000 per annum, it was confirmed that a strategic board considered the cost pressures on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, and this cost pressure had been factored in, in anticipation that it would come through. Through the transformation work and strategies such as the Portage Service, it was hoped that the demand on the High Needs Block could be managed and met within the overall budget for the next financial year, and this cost pressure would be mapped into the budget moving forward.

Single Point of Access

- It was expected that the new single point of access to the Portage Service would be managed by the lead provider after further discussions with the special schools to ensure that it would not become a bottleneck. The lead provider would be responsible for looking at where the requests come in from and moving staffing resources around to where the demands were in order to support families sooner.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee supports the recommendations to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration.
2. That any additional comments be passed on to the Executive Councillor in relation to this item.

**23 SERVICE LEVEL PERFORMANCE REPORTING AGAINST THE SUCCESS FRAMEWORK
2023-24 - QUARTER 1**

Consideration was given to a report by Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help, which provided a summary of the Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 for Quarter 1.

The Committee was guided through the report, and during the discussion the following points were highlighted:

PI 45 16-17 year old Children in Care participating in learning

- This measure did not meet its target; Members noted that the cohort of Children in Care (CiC) assessed by this measure fluctuated each quarter and had varying backgrounds and needs.
- The Assistant Director – Early help noted the work of the Virtual School which supported 16–17-year-old CiC to engage with education, employment, or training.
- This cohort of CiC included Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), who were cared for by the Local Authority.
- Members raised several concerns about the potential impact on Children’s Services due to the possible arrival of UASC in Scampton later in the year, on top of the current 89 UASC already in Lincolnshire. It was assured that Children’s Services and the Home Office were working to mitigate risks. It was noted that social workers in Lincolnshire would have to be supported to conduct age assessments.
- The Committee considered the benefits of introducing online learning tools to help CiC who struggled to attend or engage with school.
- LCC Children’s Services engaged regularly with the Education Endowment Foundation which aimed to improve the educational attainment of the poorest pupils in schools, and used the data produced by the Foundation to assess the effect of interventions on various cohorts of pupils. Additionally, it was noted that The Assistant Director for Children’s Education worked closely with the teaching school hubs to further shape pupil interventions to help improve outcomes.

PI 23 Children in Care

- It was noted that this measure was 50.1% but achieved its target of 49.8% as it fell within the tolerance range.
- Members considered the ramifications of the gradual increase of CiC since 2021. The Executive Director – Children’s Services acknowledged the potential risk of the increase and informed it was compounded by national increased costs of placements for CiC since the pandemic meaning a small increase of CiC could cause significant financial pressures. Members were assured that Children’s Services prioritised early intervention to prevent young people from entering the care system, and further assurance was provided that CiC received an excellent service in Lincolnshire despite financial pressures.
- The Executive Director – Children’s Services highlighted that central government intervention would be required to stabilise the cost of CiC placements.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Committee’s satisfaction with the Children and Young People Service Level Performance for 2023-24 Quarter 1 be noted.

24 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report by Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, which provided the opportunity for the Committee to comment on its work programme to ensure that its scrutiny activity was focused where it can be of greatest benefit. There had been no changes published, although the Senior Scrutiny Officer informed Members that the next meeting would include an item inviting the Committee to consider potential topics for a Scrutiny Review.

6

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 SEPTEMBER 2023

Upon request, the Executive Director – Children’s Services agreed to speak with the Chief Executive to determine the most appropriate Committee to consider an item on the impact of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people on LCC’s services.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme be reviewed and agreed upon.

25 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business 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 Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

26 HOLBEACH WILLIAM STUKELEY COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL - SINGLE CLASSROOM EXTENSION, HALL AND STAFFROOM EXTENSION.

Consideration was given to the exempt report, and the Committee raised a number of questions which were answered by the Officers present.

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee supports the recommendations to the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council as set out in the report.
2. That the Committee’s comments be passed on to the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council in relation to this item.

The meeting closed at 12.23 pm



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2023
Subject:	Recommissioning of Children and Young People's Online Mental Health Support Service

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the Recommissioning of Children and Young People's Online Mental Health Support Service, which is being presented to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration for a decision between 27 October and 3 November 2023.

The views of the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of their 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 Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration as set out in the report.
2. Agree any additional comments to be passed on to the Executive Councillor in relation to this item.

1. Background

The Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration is due to consider a report on the Recommissioning of Children and Young People's Online Mental Health Support Service between 27 October and 3 November 2023. The full report to the Executive Councillor is attached at Appendix A 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 for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration. Comments from the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

3. Consultation

The Committee is being consulted on the proposed decision of the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 27 October and 3 November 2023.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Recommissioning of Children and Young People’s Online Mental Health Support Service to be presented to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 27 October and 3 November 2023.

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 Lynda Whitton, who can be contacted on 07827832520 or lynda.whitton@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director for Children's Services

Report to:	Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration
Date:	27 October - 3 November 2023
Subject:	Recommissioning of Children and Young People's Online Mental Health Support Service
Decision Reference:	I030207
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

Lincolnshire County Council's Children's Services currently commissions an online mental health support service that provides anonymous advice, information, forums and counselling support to Lincolnshire's children and young people (CYP) aged 11 to 18 years (or 25 years if SEND and/or a care leaver), who are experiencing emotional wellbeing or mental health concerns.

Lincolnshire CYP have been able to access an online mental health support service since 2011, provided by Kooth Digital Ltd, who have been awarded multiple contracts following open competitive tenders.

As of 1 April 2023, the current annual value of the contract is £295,152. In 2023/24, this was jointly funded from the Council's Public Health Grant funding (£200,000 recurrent) and NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) (£95,152 non-recurrent). The current will cease on 31 March 2024.

A CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme is being undertaken in partnership with Lincolnshire ICB and Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT), who provide most CYP mental health services in Lincolnshire. Decisions related to the Transformation Programme will be taken in due course and any agreed changes to services are anticipated to embed from 2025 onwards. Future online mental health support is being considered as part of the Transformation Programme.

This report makes recommendations for the re-commissioning of a CYP online mental health service from 1 April 2024.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration:-

- 1) approves the carrying out of an open competitive tender to re-procure an online mental health support service for two years from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026;
- 2) delegates To the Executive Director – Children’s Services in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration authority to take all decisions necessary to progress the procurement up to an including determination of the final form and the award and entering into of the contract.

Alternatives Considered:

- **Do nothing/decommission** – The current contractual arrangement for the online mental health support service will expire on 31 March 2024. Doing nothing means we would allow the contract to expire, or decommissioning means we would decide not to re-procure, both with no future online service provided. A CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme is currently being undertaken and the digital offer is a key part of this. The review will determine whether the current digital offer is right for Lincolnshire CYP, but an informed decision is not yet able to be made. There would also be a risk of increased demand on LPFT’s mental health services, which are already under pressure following the pandemic. This would reduce early intervention support for emotional wellbeing concerns in Lincolnshire. There would be a reputational risk of not providing this service without appropriate evidence and engagement of how the needs of CYP currently accessing this service will be met in future. This option would also negatively impact the data that is flowed to the Mental Health Statistical Data Set (MHSDS); at April 2023 the service contributed 11.7% of the Lincolnshire ICS access count for the number of CYP who had at least one contact in the last 12 months.
- **Influencing** – Currently, this is not a viable option, but the ongoing CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme work will determine the future model of any online counselling offer. The Council has already been able to agree increased investment from Lincolnshire ICB so that more CYP could be supported by the service and it may be possible that further investment would be considered, however this will not be until the outcome of the transformation programme.
- **Insourcing** – It is not feasible for the Council to consider insourcing the online mental health support offer. The Council does not have the IT or workforce infrastructure in place to offer an online mental health support service and to develop the required infrastructure would require a significant investment and take a significant period of time to be realised. In addition, the counsellors providing online support for Kooth do not work specifically to provide support in Lincolnshire and work nationally across all areas that commission Kooth. It is unlikely any counsellors would transfer to the Council and the Council does not

have a sufficient skilled workforce to deliver the service.

- **Partnership** - It is not feasible for the Council to work in partnership with a private provider or VCSE organisation for the future provision of developing a bespoke and discrete online offer for Lincolnshire as this would not be allowed under the Public Contract Regulations 2015. However, the Council could enter into partnership agreements with NHS bodies as contained in Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and the NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000 as amended. Given that under the Regulations the Council already has arrangements in place with LPFT for the provision of CYP Mental Health Services and that these Agreements can be properly considered to be public to public collaborations under Regulation 12(7) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, this affords the Council the opportunity to enter into direct discussions with LPFT on enhancing their online offer, if that were to be considered as an alternative recommendation through the CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme. Until this work has been completed and a transformation plan developed it is not possible to determine whether LPFT could enhance its online offer or if this is a preferred option.

Reasons for Recommendation:

The current commissioning arrangements for a CYP online mental health support service are due to end on 31 March 2024.

The benefits of completing an open competitive tender process to procure a CYP online mental health support service are that:

- Lincolnshire CYP will continue to have a choice in how they access emotional wellbeing and mental health support.
- It will support Lincolnshire towards achieving the mental health access figure, which is a key NHSE target, linked to the NHS Long Term Plan. At present, the service contributes 11.7% of Lincolnshire's overall access to support.
- Due to the digital nature of the service, CYP are able to access emotional wellbeing and mental health support county-wide, including within the most rural areas and outside of normal office hours.
- Research indicates that BME groups are most likely to self-refer or seek online mental health support for themselves. This service can support this method of access.
- Lincolnshire CYP will be able to access support for emotional wellbeing and mental health without the implication of transport costs.
- It will ensure there are no gaps in provision for Lincolnshire CYP in terms of supporting their emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns whilst digital support is reviewed as part of the CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme.
- It will ensure a compliant procurement process is undertaken, giving other providers a fair opportunity to bid to provide a service in Lincolnshire and help deliver best value for the Council.

1. Background:

Lincolnshire County Council's Children's Services commissions an online mental health support service from Kooth Digital Health Ltd (previously known as Xenzone Ltd) via a contract for services. The web-based service, known as Kooth, provides anonymous advice, information, forums and counselling support for Lincolnshire's CYP aged 11 to 18 years (or 25 years if SEND and/or a care leaver) who are experiencing emotional wellbeing or mental health concerns.

Kooth was introduced as a one year pilot programme in September 2011, and since then has continued to provide online mental health support for CYP in Lincolnshire, commissioned through open competitive tenders. During this time Kooth has expanded its market share, and is currently available to over 60% of 10-25 year olds across the UK. Their growth and success demonstrates that Kooth has established itself as a strong competitor in the UK for online mental health services and is widely recognised as offering a quality service that improves CYP outcomes.

As of 1 April 2023, the current annual value of the contract is £295,152. This is jointly funded from the Public Health grant (£200,000 recurrent funding) and NHS Lincolnshire ICB (£95,152 non-recurrent funding agreed for 2023/24).

The current contract commenced 1 April 2018 and initially ran to 31 March 2023 but has been extended for a further year until 31 March 2024 under an exception to the Council's Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules (CPPRs). This was to align with the CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme. However, the scale of the Programme has increased significantly, which has impacted on timescales.

The CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme is being undertaken in partnership with LPFT and Lincolnshire ICB. The review encompasses a wide programme of engagement. A transformation plan will be developed following review, prioritisation, options analysis and planning, and any transformation work is anticipated to begin to embed from 2025 onwards, which will include future recommendations for any online mental health support beyond the end of this proposed procurement.

Statutory Duties

The Council has no explicit statutory duty to provide an online mental health support service. Although the service is not statutory, alongside other relevant mental health and emotional wellbeing services, it does support the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to the following:

- **The Service supports delivery of Public Health duties** in relation to CYP's mental health promotion, prevention of mental health problems and suicide prevention and improving lives, supporting recovery and inclusion of people living with mental health problems. The responsibility for commissioning related activity has been delegated in Lincolnshire to Children's Services.
- **The NHS Act 2006 (Section 28)** places duties on local authorities in relation to improving the health of its local population.

- **The Children Act 1989 (Section 22(3)(a))** as amended by Section 52 of the Children Act 20054: places a duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare (including physical, emotional and mental health) of children in care.
- **The Health and Social Care Act 2012:** places duties on local authorities in relation to addressing health inequalities of CYP.
- **The Equality Act 2010**, including the public sector Equality Duty: sets out the statutory duty to ensure we help make society fairer by tackling discrimination and providing equality of opportunity for all.

National Strategy/Guidance

A Green Paper on CYP’s mental health was published for consultation in December 2017, which set out measures to improve mental health support, particularly through schools and colleges. The government has confirmed that it remains committed to delivering the key proposals within the Green Paper including piloting a four week waiting time. The current online mental health support service strongly supports Lincolnshire’s percentage achievement of the four-week wait for mental health support of 72% as at January 2023.

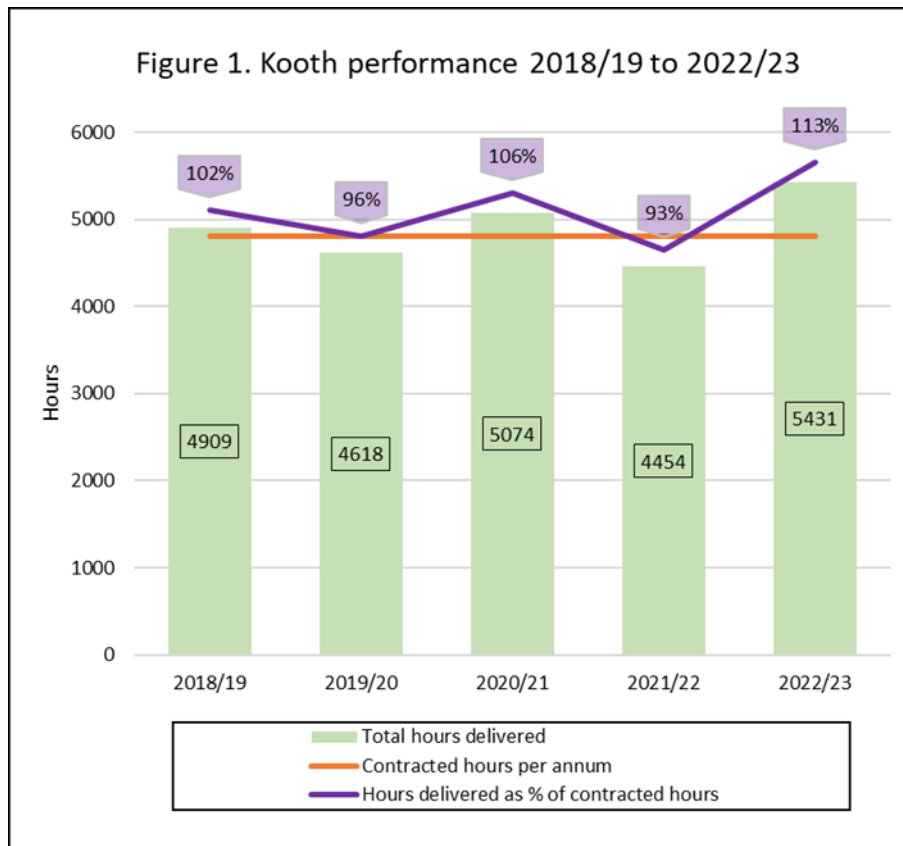
Under the NHS Long Term Plan, funding for CYP’s mental health services should increase more than overall NHS funding, total mental health spending and each ICB’s (formerly CCG’s) spend on mental health. A key area of focus includes expanding community-based mental health services and increasing access to services. The online mental health support service supports this.

Current Service Performance

Kooth has played an important role in increasing access to mental health support for CYP in Lincolnshire. At April 2023, Kooth accounted for 11.7% of Lincolnshire’s mental health access figure. This is a key NHSE target linked to the NHS Long Term Plan to substantially increase access for CYP to mental health support. NSHE measures how many under 18’s receive at least one contact from a mental health service. Lincolnshire is below this target currently. To decommission or reduce access to online mental health support would significantly reduce Lincolnshire’s performance against this target.

From 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2023 Kooth was commissioned to deliver 4,800 hours of support per year (400 per month).

Figure 1. provides the performance data for the Kooth Online Counselling Service and shows that the percentage of counselling hours delivered per year has often exceeded the hours commissioned. As such, from 1 April 2023, the contract hours were increased to 5,280 hours per year (440 per month) to meet growing demand for the service. Lincolnshire ICB funded this increase.



Between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2023, the number of service users using the platform decreased by 21.6%. However further analysis of the data indicates increased usage per individual CYP of the platform and the number of logins has continued to increase, therefore CYP are accessing more support via the platform and for longer periods. At March 2023, there was an average of 14 logins per service user, compared to eight logins per service user at March 2021.

At April 2023, 74% of the CYP registered to the platform were utilising the offline messaging function and 18% of CYP were accessing the online counselling support. When compared to intelligence from April 2022, the number of CYP utilising the online counselling support has remained consistent, whereas the number of CYP accessing the offline messaging support has increased. The number of CYP who were accessing articles, forums, journals and self-help content on the platform was at 93%. This has increased slightly when compared to averages from April 2022.

As with all CYP mental health services, there has been a reported increase in the acuity of need. At April 2023, the proportion of CYP who presented with self-harm ideation continued to rise; from 20% in November 2022 this has increased to 40%. Kooth reporting shows the percentage of CYP presenting with suicidal ideation in Lincolnshire is 31%. This is 4% higher than Kooth users within the sub-region and slightly above the average across the platform. This has decreased since December 2022.

Kooth practitioners use goal-based outcomes (GBOs) to measure progress and outcomes of interventions; the most common goal categories are “getting professional help”, “self-help/self-care”, “getting more help” and “feeling happier”. In April 2023, 79% of CYP who

created or updated goals had a positive goal score movement of more than 3 (considered to be achieved), with an average movement of 6.5.

Kooth gather feedback from service users on functionality and experience of the platform; the most recent data shows that 94% of CYP consider Kooth to be safe, responsive, non-judgemental environment and would recommend Kooth to a friend.

A higher number of CYP are accessing the service outside of normal 'office hours', when other support services would not be available. At April 2023, 68% of CYP logging onto the platform were outside of normal office hours and 32% of logins were within normal office hours.

At April 2023, the highest number of CYP accessing the platform continues to be from those who reside in either Lincoln or Boston. Data and intelligence from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2023) states that these two districts sit within the top three areas with the highest child poverty rates in the county (28% of CYP in Lincoln City and 26% of CYP in Boston). Additionally, of the 317 local authority districts ranked in England on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), where the rank of 1 is most deprived, Lincoln ranks 38th and Boston ranks 105th.

In terms of value for money and savings Kooth has a quantifiably positive impact on society whilst also saving healthcare systems money. In 2022, the York Health Economics Consortium published an independent health economics study showing that Kooth delivers £3.14 in cost savings for every £1 spent. The cost calculator in the study compared CYP with emerging mental health needs who did and did not access Kooth and compared costs for aspects such as the proportion having GP appointments, prescribed antidepressants and referred to CAMHS in comparison to contract costs.

The Continued Need for Online Services

It is well evidenced that the prevalence of mental illness in CYP has increased in recent years, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic. National prevalence data shows that, based on 2022 population estimates, c. 10,824 CYP aged 6-16 (11.1%) in Lincolnshire have a possible mental disorder and c.16,968 CYP aged 6-16 (17%) in Lincolnshire probable mental disorder.

During the pandemic, CYP mental health services provided by LPFT received an increase in referrals leading to staffing capacity becoming an issue. Increased ICB investment in CAMHS has supported waiting times to reduce by 57% in the last year. The current trajectory shows by March 2024 waiting times should be within target. Online support can be accessed within much shorter waiting times, or whilst waiting for face-to-face support.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, including the periods of lockdowns, the current online counselling service continued to operate as business as usual with no disruption to service users.

Evidence shows that Lincolnshire CYP have more contacts with community and outpatient mental health services than the Midlands regional rate, but this is still less than the England average. The Midlands region, including Lincolnshire, currently has the lowest levels of ‘access’ to mental health services nationally. Providing online mental health services for CYP, including out of normal office hours, makes services more accessible. This is hugely important in a rural county such as Lincolnshire where transport to access support can be restrictive. Online services provide CYP with a choice of treatment options and provide a more anonymous way for them to share their concerns and get help.

Boston and Lincoln, the two highest accessing areas of the county, also have the highest Black or Minority Ethnic (BME) populations in Lincolnshire. A regional report into CYP mental health inequalities by The Strategy Unit, undertaken in 2021, found that BME groups are most likely to self-refer or seek online mental health support for themselves.

Funding Recommendations

The Council has funded the service at £200,000 per annum since 2018 from the Public Health Grant.

The cost of the service between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2023 was £41.66 per hour at a volume of 440 hours per month. At the time of extending the contract from 1st April 2023, the supplier advised that inflationary increases now needed to be applied as they could no longer deliver the service at the 2018 rate; either the cost needed to increase or the volume reduced. Lincolnshire ICB provided non-recurrent funding to meet the price increase and to increase the support hours commissioned to meet expected demand. The current funding for the online mental health support service from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 is £295,152, which is broken down as follows:

Funding source	Annual Cost
Public Health Grant	£200,000
NHS Lincolnshire ICB	£95,152
Total	£295,152

The current (2023/24) funding is based upon 440 support hours per month, at a rate of £55.90 per hour and an annual cost of £295,152.

Market research has shown that the likely 2024/25 cost for an online mental health support service will be c.£63 p/h and therefore to offer same level of service will likely cost up to £333,000.

The preferred options would place no additional financial burden on the Council except to continue the current £200,000 funding per annum from the Public Health Grant for the two years of the contract.

A request for recurrent funding will be submitted to NHS Lincolnshire ICB to be considered alongside other funding proposals in Quarter 4 2023/24. In any case Lincolnshire ICB and LPFT have agreed that existing uncommitted deferred income/underspend as part of the

CYP Mental Health Services S75 Agreement with LPFT can be used instead for the new contract period.

It is expected that an inflationary uplift may be necessary for the second year of the contract and an appropriate mechanism will be set out within contract terms and conditions.

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.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been initiated during the early development of this work and whilst this is a working document, the current draft of the EIA is included as at Appendix A. Given that the recommendation is to re-commission a CYP online mental health support service without reducing the current service offer therefore, it is not anticipated that there will be persons with protected characteristics negatively impacted.

The EIA will be further developed should this be required following decision making.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (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 and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

Poor social and emotional capabilities increase the likelihood of mental health problems, a decrease in physical health and wellbeing and can lead to a poorer quality of life and lower educational attainment.

One of the JHWS priorities is the mental health and emotional wellbeing of CYP and the provision of online mental health support ensures that CYP have a choice in how and when they access support.

The re-commissioning of an online mental health support service will ensure that there is no gap in provision and CYP continue to be supported to maintain good mental health and emotional wellbeing.

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.

Re-commissioning of an online mental health support service will support the promotion of good social, emotional and psychological health in order to protect against poor behaviour, including anti-social behaviour.

3. Conclusion

Online mental health support is highly valued and well utilised by CPY in Lincolnshire and should continue to be commissioned. Whilst future online delivery models will be

determined through the CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme, recommissioning a service for two years will ensure that there is no gap in provision for Lincolnshire CYP.

The recommended option would place no new financial burden on the Council except to continue the current £200,000 funding per annum from the Public Health Grant for the two years of the contract. The remainder will be funded from NHS contributions.

The service should be procured through an open competitive tender process with a new contract in place from 1 April 2024.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council has the power to commission the services proposed.

The value of the contract falls within the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015 threshold. Therefore, the contract must be procured in accordance with the requirements of the PCR 2015. The proposed procurement route via the Open Procedure is compliant with PCR 2015.

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

5. Resource Comments:

The recommendation in the report to approve the re-procurement of an online mental health support service through an open competitive tender will assist in delivering value for money for the service. The continuation of the service provision will provide support for children and young people experiencing emotional wellbeing or mental health concerns.

The service is currently funded as a base budget through the Council’s Public Health grant (£0.200m) and non-recurrent underspend from Lincolnshire’s Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Council has sought recurrent funding from the ICB (£0.133m) to support this service going forward, which will support the delivery of ICB targets. Mitigating measures are in place in the event recurrent funding is not secured through uncommitted underspends as part of the CYP Mental Health Services S75 Agreement with Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT).

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

Not Applicable

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

This report will be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 20 October 2023 and the comments of the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risks should the re-procurement of CYP Online Mental Health Support not be agreed:

There will be a negative impact to the access data which is flowed to the Mental Health Statistical Data Set (MHSDS); at April 2023, the service contributed 11.7% of Lincolnshire's access count for the number of CYP who had at least one contact in the last 12 months.

There would be a risk to Lincolnshire's CYP; a decreased number of mental health services available for support would increase pressure on LPFT's CYP mental health services, negatively impacting waiting times and elevating the risk to CYP wellbeing.

A CYP Mental Health Transformation Programme is currently being undertaken and the digital offer is a key part of this. There has been an increase in the national provision of free online counselling services, as well as more locally available self-help. The review will determine whether the current digital offer is right for Lincolnshire CYP, but an informed decision is not yet able to be made. There would also be a reputational risk of not providing this service without appropriate evidence and engagement for how the needs of CYP currently accessing this service will be met in future.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Equality Impact Assessment

8. Background Papers

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Government Green Paper – December 2017	Transforming children and young people s mental health provision.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)
York Health Economics Consortium Study	An economic evaluation of Kooth, a web-based mental health platform for children and young people with emerging mental health needs medRxiv

This report was written by Lynda Whitton, who can be contacted on 07827832520 or lynda.whitton@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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.

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

Title of the policy / project / service being considered	CYP Online Mental Health Support	Person / people completing analysis	Emily Humphries
Service Area	Children's Services Commissioning Team	Lead Officer	Kevin Johnson
Who is the decision maker?	Lincolnshire County Council – Exec DLT	How was the Equality Impact Analysis undertaken?	Through review and stakeholder engagement
Date of meeting when decision will be made	25/09/2023	Version control	V0.1
Is this proposed change to an existing policy/service/project or is it new?	New	LCC directly delivered, commissioned, re-commissioned or de-commissioned?	Re-commissioned
Describe the proposed change	The Council currently commissions an online mental health support service for Lincolnshire YP aged 11 to 18 years (25 SEND and/or care leaver) that provides online counselling support, text messaging support, self-help information, message boards and online forums. The recommendation is to re-procure the service, from 1 st April 2024 until 31 st March 2026.		

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 1st 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'.

Age	No perceived positive impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.
Disability	Perceived positive impact for children, young people and their parents and carers as the service can be accessed from home.
Gender reassignment	No perceived positive impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.
Marriage and civil partnership	No perceived positive impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy and maternity	No perceived positive impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.
Race	No perceived positive impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.
Religion or belief	No perceived positive impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.

Sex	No perceived positive impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic
Sexual orientation	No perceived positive impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic

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.

The service can be accessed despite the cost and availability of personal or local transport, supporting those on lower incomes and/or living in particularly rural areas of the county.

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'.

Age	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic
Disability	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic
Gender reassignment	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic
Marriage and civil partnership	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic
Pregnancy and maternity	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic

Race	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.
Religion or belief	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.
Sex	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.
Sexual orientation	No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on this protected characteristic.

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.

No perceived negative impact as any changes to the current model is not perceived to impact on groups not specifically covered by the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

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 engagement@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.

Objective(s) of the EIA consultation/engagement activity

To help inform the review of the current online mental health support service in order to make any further recommendations for the procurement of the service in Lincolnshire.

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

<p>Age</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement was undertaken with Lincolnshire YP, including the Council’s Young Inspectors. This was through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An online stakeholder engagement survey which was shared with Lincolnshire YP via schools, the Council’s Participation Team, practitioners working with YP within other emotional wellbeing and mental health services such as Healthy Minds Lincolnshire and Mental Health Support Teams, parents/carers and social media. • A “mystery shopper” review of the current service offer undertaken by the Council’s Young Inspectors. • Stakeholder feedback provided directly to the current service by Lincolnshire YP (anonymous). <p>The engagement via the Council’s Young Inspectors and the online survey was undertaken between January and February 2022.</p> <p>The age range of YP who provided feedback primarily included ages 11 to 25 years, with some feedback from YP under the age of 11 and included YP who identified as female, male and other genders (but did not specify which other genders they identified with).</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>As above</p>

Race	As above
Religion or belief	As above
Sex	As above
Sexual orientation	As above
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? The purpose is to make sure you have got the perspective of all the protected characteristics.	Yes – all engagement has taken into account feedback from the current review.
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?	There are no recommended changes to the current online mental health support model. The recommendation is to re-procure service with the current delivery model. Implementation, contract management and quality assurance processes will adhere to internal policies and procedures. This involves tracking performing indicators and other information designed to monitor the effectiveness of delivery in meeting YP's needs, including anonymous feedback and views of service users.

Further Details

Are you handling personal data?	No If yes, please give details.
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Actions required	Action	Lead officer	Timescale
Include any actions identified in this analysis for on-going monitoring of impacts. 			

Version	Description	Created/amended by	Date created/amended	Approved by	Date approved

Examples of a Description:
 'Version issued as part of procurement documentation'
 'Issued following discussion with community groups'
 'Issued following requirement for a service change; Issued following discussion with supplier'



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2023
Subject:	The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning

Summary:

This report invites the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning, which is being presented to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration for a decision between 30 October and 3 November 2023.

The views of the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor as part of their 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 Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration as set out in the report.
2. Agree any additional comments to be passed on to the Executive Councillor in relation to this item.

1. Background

The Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration is due to consider a report on The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning between 30 October and 3 November 2023. The full report to the Executive Councillor is attached at Appendix A 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 for Children's Services, Community

Safety, Procurement and Migration. Comments from the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor.

3. Consultation

The Committee is being consulted on the proposed decision of the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 30 October and 3 November 2023.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning to be presented to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration between 30 October and 3 November 2023.

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 Eileen McMorrow, who can be contacted on 07795 801706 or eileen.mcmorrow@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Cllr Mrs P A Bradwell, OBE, Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety Procurement and Migration
Date:	27 October – 3 November 2023
Subject:	The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning
Decision Reference:	I030207
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for an overnight short breaks provision at The Maples residential unit. Approval of this proposal would increase the sufficiency of short breaks provision to meet growing demand.

A review of demand for overnight short breaks has indicated that existing provision is not sufficient to meet the social care needs of children and young people (CYP) in Lincolnshire in the near future. In addition, CYP who reside in the East Lindsey locality but do not attend St Bernard's School have to travel significant distances to access overnight short breaks provision.

By ensuring The Maples is commissioned to provide increased short breaks provision, comparable to the county's other residential facilities, the council would be future-proofing sufficiency and improving accessibility.

The cost of ensuring sufficient short breaks provision by commissioning of The Maples is £596,785 for 2024/25 rising to £609,126 by 2025/26. Subject to an agreement in principle contribution from the ICB (Better Care Fund) of £179,035, LCC would be required to fund the service at a cost of £417,751 per annum.

Recommendation:

That the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety Procurement and Migration:-

- 1) Approves the commissioning by way of public-public co-operation agreement with Lincolnshire Wolds Federation Trust of an overnight 3 bed short breaks provision for Children with Disabilities (CWD) at The Maples residential unit, located at St Bernard's Special School in Louth, for a period of 10 years

commencing on 1 April 2024; and.

- 2) Delegates to the Executive Director – Children’s Services in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Children’s Services, Community Safety Procurement and Migration authority to determine the final details of the arrangement including the terms of the contract and to approve the entering into of the contract.

Alternatives Considered:

TABLE 1: Options considered and rejected.

Rejected Options	Reason
Do Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sufficiency of overnight short breaks. • Delays for families to access short breaks resulting in increased risk of CWD entering care. • Risk of challenge of not meeting statutory requirements.
Lincolnshire to operate with the two existing in-house provisions with The Maples ceasing to provide short breaks provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sufficiency of overnight short breaks. • Delays for families to access short breaks resulting in increased risk of CWD entering care. • Risk of challenge of not meeting statutory requirements.
Commission short breaks provision via a competitive tender from the open market or individual commissioning of placements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficiency of providers in Lincolnshire to provide overnight short breaks provision. Market development would be needed which would take time. • Cost is likely to be in excess of the Maples proposal. • Increased transport costs if individual placements were outside of Lincolnshire.
Expansion of existing provision to meet growing demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No capital funding to support this option. • Insufficient land to support expansion proposal. • Existing service will require no capital expenditure to facilitate increased provision.

Reasons for Recommendation:

The Council's Short Breaks Statement sets out the desired outcomes of short breaks provision as to tackle social isolation; provide access to leisure facilities; develop friendship networks; promote personal development; and promote happiness and well-being for children, young people, and their families.

However, once families are at the point of suitability for overnight short breaks, the outcomes for their young people can be much more transformative. Short breaks homes are successful at restoring family stability; increasing parental/carer resilience; diverting family crisis which may result in children becoming Children in Care (CIC); instilling independence for the child with disabilities; and preparation for adulthood.

Appendix A sets out the process for accessing short breaks provision¹.

There are benefits which relate specifically to The Maples provision due to its location and incorporation with an all needs special school.

One of the most significant challenges to ensure high occupancy levels in shorts breaks homes is the recruitment and retention of staff. Both Strut House and Haven Cottage have experienced this over the last 2-3 years. The Maples has not faced the same challenges, has an experienced staff team, and can call upon the support of qualified staff from St. Bernard's school to offer cover at short notice.

If the recommendation is approved, The Maples would register with Ofsted as a Children's Home and be able to offer short breaks to children and young people from schools other than St Bernard's. This would mean the setting could offer short breaks provision to children and young people who may attend other schools but reside in the locality, making short breaks more accessible and reducing travel time.

The CWD Team would then work with all three short breaks homes to align occupancy with locality, residential address, and nearest special school with a view to reducing journey time and transport costs for young people accessing each facility.

As part of The Maples proposal, there is also the opportunity for an emergency bed to be commissioned. This would be available with immediate effect and staffing this resource would not impact on routine provision. Additional staff from St Bernard's School could be drawn upon to support the emergency bed at short notice, offering greater flexibility and response times than the council currently has access to.

¹ In summary, it can be noted that overnight short breaks are only recommended when undesirable or unavoidable events, such as imminent or likely future family breakdown, or family emergencies occur; and/or where challenging behaviour and complex medical needs are manifest; and/or to give families a break; and/or due to social exclusion, including limited extended family, single carer status, poor or inadequate housing etc.

1. Background

1.1 The Council has two authority-run short breaks homes:

- Haven Cottage - a 5 bedded unit in Boston with an emergency bed commissioned, currently providing overnight breaks to 45 young people (Jan 2023)
- Strut House - a 5 bedded unit in Lincoln currently providing overnight breaks to 59 young people (Jan 2023).

1.2 Strut House and Haven Cottage provide a maximum of 1740 units per annum (closed on bank holidays). Occupancy will fluctuate for a range of reasons:

- Emergency admissions impact on occupancy as the compatibility and dynamics of the group of children alters, therefore it can become necessary to reschedule care to a future date.
- Children and young people are sick and unable to attend their short break.
- Parents unable to facilitate and giving short notice.
- Staff absence/shortages.

TABLE 2: Budget for existing LCC Short Breaks units (2022/23)

Unit	LCC Budget	ICB Contribution (Better Care Fund)	Total
Strut	£667,905	£165,291	£833,196
Haven Cottage	£466,037	£336,066	£802,103
TOTALS	£1,133,942	£501,357	£1,635,299

1.3 The Council also funds short breaks places at The Maples. This is located at St Bernard's School (part of Lincolnshire Wolds Federation Trust (LWFT)). The Maples is a 6-bedded² unit that offers short breaks provision at weekends and during school holidays but is restricted to students attending St Bernard's that are open to the Council's CWD Team (with an identified need following a social care assessment and panel approval) as it is not a registered children's home.

1.4 334 short breaks units (one bed for one child per night) per annum are currently provided for 13 children, and the facility is only open weekends and school holidays.

1.5 Over recent years, the existing short breaks provision of Strut House and Haven Cottage has experienced increased demand on services and a range of influencing factors affecting occupancy.

1.6 The existing arrangement between Strut House, Haven Cottage and The Maples does not provide sufficient short breaks places going forward, therefore, it has been

² The recommended proposal will initially utilise only 4 of the 6 beds (3-block commissioned plus an emergency bed). There is scope to enhance provision in the future if demand increases.

necessary to review the range of overnight short breaks provision in order to ensure sufficiency within the council's respite offer.

1.7 Legislative framework for Short Breaks Provision - Please see Appendix A.

1.8 Process for Overnight Short-Breaks - Please see Appendix A

1.8.1 Children may be assessed through our Early Help team, Social Care teams and/or the Children with Disabilities Team.

1.8.2 In order for a child or young person to be considered for support from the Children with Disabilities Team, a number of areas of need relating to the child's disability and impact on the family are considered. Disabled children meeting eligibility for specialist services will usually be in receipt of higher-rate DLA in care and mobility components. Following assessment of need, a Child and Family Plan is developed which considers the needs of the young person, their siblings and the needs of carers. If there is an unmet social care need, the following resources can be considered by the CWD panel to meet the agreed outcomes: need for personal care, access to social inclusion and carers breaks. These services are provided through a range of options via either LCC commissioned service for domiciliary care provider, Kids, direct payment, spot purchase for domiciliary care / access to social inclusion or overnight short breaks.

1.8.3 Children who do not meet the stringent criteria but have other SEND needs/diagnosis will be referred to other appropriate teams or agencies.

1.8.4 It is important to note that the full offer of short breaks provision needs to be considered/accessed before families are identified for overnight short breaks. The recommendation for overnight short breaks is not typically the first recommendation for children and young people when they first enter the service. Overnight short breaks are recommended when:

- Family breakdown is either imminent or likely in the future, due to the additional stress caused by bringing up a child with a disability, which would be eased by the provision of a service.
- Challenging behaviour from a child with a disability, beyond that which it would be reasonable to expect from a young person of that age.
- Complex medical needs requiring a significant level of care, beyond that which it would be reasonable to expect when looking after a young person of that age.

1.8.5 As well as the CWD team assessing overnight short breaks for young people, panel also considers request for Children in Care (CIC) who are placed with our foster carers. This is due to complex needs of the young person where there is typically no-one available to provide the respite for the foster care (specialist equipment, training for any medication, moving and handling etc.). Whilst this a small number of children, the LA needs to ensure sufficient provision for our foster carers to support and retain them.

1.9 Requests to accommodate and responding to family crisis.

- 1.9.1 When a young person is open and known to the CWD team and needs to be accommodated in an emergency, due process is followed via a placement request. However, short breaks units are typically accessed as the young person is known, their care needs understood, specialist equipment is in place and the team are trained in meeting need.
- 1.9.2 Haven Cottage does have an emergency bed; the 6th bedroom was created to facilitate and support a short-term emergency admission of a child or young person. However, the home does not have the staffing levels to accommodate six young people. It is worth noting that Strut House and Haven Cottage tend to support a child and their family where the CYP is already accessing a particular home. In both homes an emergency placement can result in reduced occupancy and cancelled care (with the expectation that the cancelled care would be reallocated at the earliest opportunity).
- 1.9.3 As part of The Maples proposal, there is the opportunity for an emergency bed to be placed in this provision. Reassurance has been provided by Lincolnshire Wolds Federation Trust that the emergency bed would be available with immediate effect and that staffing this resource would not impact on routine provision. Additional staff from St Bernard's School could be drawn upon to support the emergency with very short notice, offering greater flexibility and response times than the council currently has access to.
- 1.9.4 Providing regular short breaks for Children and young people can stabilise care arrangements and avoid emergency situations arising. Whilst providing short breaks will never mitigate the requirements for a small number of children becoming CIC, the provision of regular short breaks maintains families and enables children and young people to live at home for as long as possible and prevents family breakdown for most.

1.10 Future Short Breaks Demand

- 1.10.1 Considering all the identified operational and staffing challenges faced by short breaks homes and benchmarking with other local authorities, it has been determined that the optimum occupancy for short breaks homes is 80%.

1.10.2 Table 3 shows range in levels of occupancy of Strut House and Haven Cottage since 2017'

Table 3: Annual Average Occupancy Rates – Strut and Haven			
Year	Capacity	Occupancy Rate	Comments
17 – 18*	10.6	75.20%	
18 – 19*	10.8	81.90%	
19 – 20*	10.8	81.90%	
20 – 21	10	68.27%	Impacted by COVID -19 restrictions and regulations and Strut House opened from 13/6/20 – 19/7/20 for one resident ONLY due to complexity of need.
21 – 22	10	72.94%	The Haven had closures due to no hot water, covid and opening for one resident ONLY due to complexity of need.

*This data is collected from the CIPFA Children Looked After Benchmarking Club reports.

1.10.3 Access to short breaks provision is through a stringent assessment process, facilitated by the Children with Disabilities Team. Referrals to this service range between 100 and 120 per annum, with current caseloads sitting at 270, which is the highest level of demand known in recent history. The service is seeing a trend for younger children being referred for assessment with complex needs and typically with unmet social care needs that require a service and intervention and, whilst the service does not agree to short breaks as the first option of support, this is an indicator of the number of children coming through the service. Children as young as 8 years old are being approved due to unmet social care needs and considering the length of time they are likely to be in the system, this is creating a significant long-term demand.

1.10.4 In addition, recruitment challenges in the social care sector are impacting the services capacity to meet care needs in the home, creating a greater likelihood of children and young people requiring short breaks provision as family resilience is impacted.

1.10.5 Projected demand data³ and future potential capacity is therefore presented based on this agreed optimum level. Occupancy at 80% including The Maples would provide the following in-house provision in the locality for short breaks against the forecast demand over the next three years:

³ Based on numbers currently in service; numbers turning 18yrs and leaving the service; forecast increases based on age and need; annual trends relating to numbers becoming Children in Care (CIC); supporting CIC with complex needs in foster care.

NB: it does NOT include new cases coming into service, so the forecast demand is likely to be the MINIMUM requirement.

TABLE 4: Future Capacity (based on 80% occupancy) v Demand Comparison			
Short Breaks Unit	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Strut House	1392	1392	1392
Haven Cottage	1392	1392	1392
The Maples	835	835	835
TOTAL:	3619	3619	3619
Forecast Demand	3374	3794	3798
Surplus/ Shortfall	+245	-175	-179

1.10.6 At 80% occupancy, with The Maples providing a 3-bedded unit, sufficiency is secured until 2025/26 after which there is projected to be a shortfall of 175 units, followed by 179 units the following year. It is likely that this low shortfall could be managed across the existing provision, with the usual peaks and troughs of occupancy.

1.10.7 Commissioning of a 3 bedded unit at The Maples provision would secure the option of further expansion as this facility can accommodate up to 6 CYP per night.

1.10.8 A short breaks provision at The Maples is required to ensure the council has sufficient capacity to meet its statutory responsibilities regarding short breaks and its current and future demand.

1.11 Cost Implications

1.11.1 The proposed cost of commissioning the recommended provision is:

TABLE 5: Cost of commissioning 3-bedded unit (+ emergency bed) at The Maples		
2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
£584,939	£596,785	£609,126

1.11.2 As highlighted in Table 2, funding for existing overnight short breaks provision comes from both LCC and ICB (Better Care Fund). Agreement in Principle to continue with this shared funding approach has been approved and cost breakdown will be as follows:

TABLE 6: Budget for existing LCC Short Breaks units (2022/23)			
Unit	LCC Budget	ICB Contribution (Better Care Fund)	Total
Strut	£667,905	£165,291	£833,196
Haven Cottage	£466,037	£336,066	£802,103
TOTALS	£1,133,942	£501,357	£1,635,299
	Projected LCC Cost Pressure	Projected ICB Contribution (Better Care Fund)	Projected Total
The Maples	£417,751	£179,035	£596,786

1.11.3 Following a contribution from the ICB (Better Care Fund) of £179,035, LCC would be required to fund the service at a cost of £417,751 per annum, subject to contracted inflationary increases.

1.11.4 This proposal is at this time an unfunded budgetary pressure which has been included as part of the 2024/25 Children’s Services budget setting process. If the Council approves the inclusion of the pressure in the 2024/25 budget the funding will be available prior to any CYP making use of the Maples in accordance with this Report.

1.12 Value for Money

1.12.1 In a comparison with our in-house short breaks provision, The Maples is financially favourable, as can be seen from the table below.

TABLE 7: Comparison of in-house Short Breaks Units costs⁴		
Strut House	Haven Cottage	The Maples (Proposed)
£599 per unit	£576 per unit	£437 per unit

1.12.2 Consideration has been given to the possibility of spot-purchasing from the independent market to meet the additional demand. Based on projected demand analysis, additional units of 590, 1010, and 1014 would need to be purchased respectively in 2024/25, 2025/26, and 2026/27.

1.12.3 However, there are no independent suppliers within the county registered to provide the service required and out of county provision is severely limited; where it exists, there would be additional transport costs, especially in midweek when children are escorted to school, making it unviable. By way of further comparison, the cost of CIC is set out below.

1.12.4 The only identifiable provider outside of the Council at present is LWFT who are responsible for The Maples; they have indicated that the provision would not be sustainable on a spot purchase arrangement and requires a fully commissioned block service agreement.

1.12.5 If this proposal is not approved, the most significant risk associated with the decommissioning of short breaks provision at The Maples is insufficiency of places. Table 2 above illustrates the situation if the recommendation is approved, with capacity barely meeting demand. Not approving the recommendation will result in a shortfall of available units of 590 in 2024/25, 1010 in 2025/26, and 1014 in 2026/27.

1.12.6 A lack of provision will result in waiting times and reduction in the number of overnight breaks families have been assessed as entitled to. As the provision of

⁴ Other Local Authorities indicated costs of inhouse and independent short breaks provision ranging from £350 to £850 per unit per night, with costs rising as staffing ratios increase due to complex needs.

short breaks is a statutory requirement, the LA would be at risk of challenge should families not be able to access their assessed entitlement.

- 1.12.7 Providing regular short breaks for children and young people can stabilise care arrangements and avoid emergency situations arising. A robust package of care for children and young people including short breaks provision can be instrumental in ensuring the young person remains with their family and does not become subject to child in care arrangements. Whilst providing short breaks will never mitigate the requirements for a small number of children becoming CiC, the provision of regular short breaks maintains families and enables children and young people to live at home for as long as possible and prevents family breakdown for most.
- 1.12.8 Four CiC are currently placed in independent non-LCC maintained placements at an average cost, including education, of £323,986 per annum. The other five CWD CiC are placed at an in-house residential care home at an average cost of c. £145,940 p.a. excluding education costs. The benchmark cost of £324k per annum for a child in an independent care placement means it would cost less to run The Maples 3-bed short break facility for one year than to support two children in such placements (£648k).
- 1.12.9 Not approving the recommendation would subsequently place increased demand on the two in-house facilities, who are not able to meet this need. Both Strut House and Haven Cottage are already operating at capacity and the additional 13 children requiring short breaks would impact detrimentally on the existing service. Families would have to wait longer to access this provision and the number of units offered could be reduced.
- 1.12.10 Depending on referral times, families can already wait up to three months to access their overnight breaks, due to rota allocation which are planned three months in advance. There have been a small number of instances of families having to wait up to twelve months to access their approved overnight short breaks, though three months remains the general waiting period for this service. For families, lengthy delays can have detrimental consequences on their lives.

1.13 Commissioning

- 1.13.1 The services would be commissioned via a Public-to-Public Cooperation Agreement with Lincolnshire Wolds Federation Trust, an academy special school.
- 1.13.2 Under Regulation 12(7) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 a contract is not covered by the procurement rules if it is concluded exclusively between two or more contracting authorities and :-
- (a) the contract establishes or implements a co-operation between the participating contracting authorities with the aim of ensuring that public services they have to perform are provided with a view to achieving objectives they have in common;
 - (b) the implementation of that co-operation is governed solely by considerations relating to the public interest; and

(c) the participating contracting authorities perform on the open market less than 20% of the activities concerned by the co-operation.

1.13.3 In this case the commissioning arrangements will ensure that the Council and the special school fulfil their respective obligations in such a way as to enable common objectives relating to support to children with disabilities are achieved in the public interest. These services are not performed by either the Council or the schools on the open market.

1.13.4 This Agreement would commence 1 April 2024 for up to ten years but would be reviewed annually in terms of cost and capacity requirements. The Terms and Conditions of the Agreement would allow the Council and Supplier to terminate the agreement through no-fault with 12 months' notice.

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.

The primary equality consideration relating to the commissioning of overnight short breaks provision is to ensure sufficiency of provision for children and young people with disabilities and their families. Through the commissioning of this service, the council is not only continuing to meet its specified duties but is ensuring that children and young people with disabilities have fair and equitable access to a service which will enable their specific needs to be met, whilst experiencing respite activities.

This service will support children and young people with disabilities to access life-enhancing activities and overnight breaks, comparable with those experienced by their neurotypical and non-disabled peers. The service supports its users to develop skills for independence and enhances social opportunities to develop relationships.

Furthermore, this service will ultimately support children and young people with disabilities to remain in the care of the families through the provision of respite and care during times of difficulty. Families are supported at points of low resilience to ensure children and young people with disabilities remain at home and receive the best possible care.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (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 and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The JSNA and JHWS report on the health and well-being needs of all people in Lincolnshire looking at emerging challenges and projected needs.

The JSNA sets out that the percentage of CYP with a long-term illness, disability or medical condition, medically diagnosed at age 15, is significantly higher in Lincolnshire than the national average (Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities). Increasing numbers of CWD mean that demand of short breaks is growing; additional capacity would support the Council to meet the needs of more CYP and their families.

CWD are more likely to experience inequalities compared to their peers. The Papworth Trust Facts and Figures Report (2018) identified:

- It costs three times more to raise a disabled child as it does to raise a non-disabled child;
- 84% of mothers of disabled children do not work, compared with 39% of mothers to non-disabled children. Only 3% of mothers of disabled children work full time;
- Disability Rights UK estimates 40% of disabled children are living in poverty;
- 1 in 6 families (17%) with disabled children go without food, 1 in 5 (21%) go without heating
- 1 in 4 (26%) go without specialist equipment or adaptations, and 86% go without leisure activities;

There is also a greater risk of CWD experiencing loneliness if opportunities are limited because of disability. Loneliness can be distressing and is interrelated with feelings of low self-esteem. (Source: Loneliness amongst children with special needs).

The provision of short breaks for CWD helps to support CYP by providing appropriate and safe and environments where they can interact with others, access fun activities, use specialist equipment that supports their needs, develop their independence and benefit from nutritious meals. The short breaks provision proposed is free of charge for families which provides a level of financial support as well as a break from caring responsibilities, so families have time to focus on their wider wellbeing.

A key priority identified in the JHWS includes to 'Ensure appropriate support services are in place for pupils with a special educational need and/or disability.' The commissioning of additional short break capacity will support delivery of this priority.

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.

Section 17 has been taken into account but the decision is not considered directly relevant to the section 17 matters.

3. Conclusion

3.1 This paper has evidenced that the current arrangements for overnight short breaks provision is insufficient to meet the growing demand within this service. Existing provision provides a high-quality service for CYP with complex disabilities where families require additional support in the form of an overnight short break in order to avoid breakdown or periods of crisis. However, the existing provision is being impacted by demand and

therefore it is now necessary for the council to address the level of provision to ensure long-term sufficiency.

3.2 The commissioning of a 3-bedded unit at The Maples would provide an immediate response to the sufficiency challenges, as no capital works are required and staffing and resources are already in place to meet demand. This unit would provide an additional 501 overnight breaks per annum to meet the respite needs of CYP with disabilities and their families. Commissioning of The Maples provides the most effective solution to the council sufficiency challenge in terms of time, cost and consistency for children and families. Those that access The Maples for their short breaks will continue to do so and those living the East Lindsey locality will be able to access a facility closer to home, with reduced travel on families and school transport.

3.3 The recommendation of this report is for the council to commission a 3-bedded overnight short breaks facility through LWFT at The Maples.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council has the power to enter into the agreement proposed which is enables the Council to fulfil the statutory responsibilities referred to in Appendix A of the Report.

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

5. Resource Comments:

The recommendation is to commission a 3-bedded unit plus emergency bed with estimated costs of running the home of £0.597m per year (from April 2024) to ensure sufficient capacity is available to meet existing and future demand. The Better Care Fund (BCF) provides a financial contribution to the existing short-break homes to provide additional staff resource to support the health needs of children and young people. It is modelled that a 30% contribution from the BCF is applied (£0.179m) to support the running of the home.

A cost pressure of £0.418m has been added within the Council’s medium term finance plan from 2024/25, which will be subject to the approval of the Council budget in February 2024

Without such provision, there will be delays for children and young people in accessing short breaks, which could result in an increased risk of CWD entering care. This will have a financial implication.

Mark Popplewell BSc (Hons) FCCA - Strategic Finance Lead, Children's Services Financial Strategy

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

TBC

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The decision will be considered by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 October 2023 and the comments of the Committee will be reported to the Executive Councillor

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

See the main body of the Report

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report:

Appendix A	Short Breaks Offer and Legal Framework
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8. Background Papers

The following Background Papers were used in the preparation of the Report

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Building Communities of Specialist Support; Together in Lincolnshire Strategy	Decision - Building Communities of Specialist Provision - A Collaborative Strategy for Children and Young People with SEND in Lincolnshire (modern.gov.co.uk)

This report was written by Eileen McMorrow, who can be contacted on 07795 801706 or eileen.mcmorrow@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lincolnshire County Council Short Breaks Offer

Short Breaks Entitlement

What are Short breaks?

Children and young people with a disability can access enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers to enhance their personal and social development, while parents, carers and other family members are provided with a valuable break from their caring roles and responsibilities, or offered help in accessing the community for, and or, with their child or young person.

Who is entitled?

Short Breaks activities and provision are for children and young people from birth to 18 years with a disability. Specialist intervention from the Children with Disabilities team may be required for children and young people who have a profound and multiple learning disability might have difficulties seeing, hearing, speaking, and moving. Their disabilities will have significantly affected their ability to communicate and be independent compared to children of a similar age without a disability. They may have complicated health and social care needs due to these or other conditions. They will need support to help them with some areas of their life, such as eating, washing or personal care. All children and young people with a diagnosis of a disability are entitled to an assessment under The Children Act 1989, either by Early Help or a social worker.

Since 1 April 2011, local authorities must provide Short Breaks for children and young people who are eligible. This is called the Short Breaks Duty. The following legislation is also in place to protect and support children, young people and their families:

- The Children & Young Person's Act 2008
- The Short Break Regulations 2011 - Paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 - all Local Authorities are required to publish a Short Break Duty Services Statement from 1st October 2011 and undertake an annual review.
- The Equality Act 2010 • SEND Reforms 2014
- Children's & Families Act 2014
- Care Act 2014 Short Breaks are designed to support families so that they do not reach crisis point.

Lincolnshire County Council's meets its statutory duty through the publication of a Short Breaks statement which clearly sets out the short breaks offer and how it can be accessed. [Short breaks services statement \(lincolnshire.gov.uk\)](http://lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Lincolnshire County Councils Short Breaks offer is available across Universal. Targeted and Specialist Services which require a social work assessment of need.



Children and Young People with SEND can access the universal and targeted offer via self-referral and do not require a social work assessment for these services.

When families identify a need for short breaks provision, they will be directed to the universal and targeted services.

Total of C/YP supported throughout the quarter Via our commissioned Targeted Positive Activities

		Youth	Community	Holiday
2022/23 Qtr 1	April 22 - June 22	62	63	89
2022/23 Qtr 2	July 22 - September 22	65	58	89
2022/23 Qtr 3	October 22 - December 22	62	62	91
Totals		189	183	269

If it is deemed that a child or young person's needs are sufficiently complex to require interventions beyond what is available through the universal or targeted provision, a referral will be made to the Children with disabilities (CWD) social work team, who are responsible for the statutory assessment of children and young people 0-18 years of age with severe and profound disabilities. A stringent criteria separates those children and

young people that should be referred to specialist services and those that should have their needs met within universal and targeted services.

Children may be assessed through our Early Help team, Social Care teams and/or the Children with Disabilities Team.

In order for a child or young person to be considered for support from the Children with Disabilities Team, a number of areas of need relating to the child's disability and impact on the family are considered. Disabled children meeting eligibility for specialist services will usually be in receipt of high-rate DLA in care and mobility components. Following assessment of need, a Child and Family Plan is developed which considers the needs of the young person, their siblings and the needs of carers. If there is an unmet social care need, the following resources can be considered by the CWD panel to meet the agreed outcomes: need for personal care, access to social inclusion and carers breaks. These services are provided through a range of options via either our commissioned service for domiciliary care provider, Kids, direct payment, spot purchase for domiciliary care / access to social inclusion or overnight short breaks.

Children who do not meet the stringent criteria but have other SEND needs/diagnosis will be referred to other appropriate teams or agencies.

Children whose main needs centre around emotional / behavioural development and or mental health can be referred or signposted to other appropriate teams or agencies who can best meet their needs, including Early Help, Social Care Teams, CAMHS, and Early Support Co-ordination Team.

Lincolnshire County Council Short Breaks Offer

Legal Context

Policy and Statutory Duties

Legislation

The Council has various specific and general statutory duties in relation to supporting CWD:

Children Act 1989¹

Section 17 of the Act places a general duty on all local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need.

Schedule 2 Paragraph 6 stipulates that every local authority shall provide services designed to:

- minimise the effect on disabled children within their area of their disabilities;
- give such children the opportunity to lead lives which are as normal as possible; and
- assist individuals who provide care for such children to do so, or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring.

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970²

Section 1 directs local authorities to ensure CWD are aware of services provided by the authority or other organisations relevant to their needs.

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011³

These Regulations are made further to paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989, which imposes a duty on local authorities, as part of the range of services they provide for families, to provide breaks from caring to assist parents and others who provide care for disabled children. Local authorities must have regard to (a) the needs of those carers who would be able to provide care more effectively if they had breaks from caring, and (b) the needs of those carers who would be unable to continue to provide care unless a break were offered to them (regulation 3). Regulation 5 places a duty on local authorities to publish and regularly review a Short Breaks Services Statement⁴ for carers in their area detailing the range of services available and any relevant eligibility criteria.

Childcare Act 2006⁵

This Act places a duty on local authorities to improve the well-being of, and reduce inequalities between, young children in their area. Childminders and childcare providers registered on the Early Years Register must meet the legal requirements set out in the Childcare Act 2006 and associated regulations to remain registered.

Children and Family Act 2014⁶

¹ [Children Act 1989 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

² [Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

³ [The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Short breaks services statement \(lincolnshire.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Childcare Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

⁶ [Children and Families Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Act strengthens rights for children and young people aged 0-25 years that have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). A local authority must '*exercise its functions*' to identify all the children and young people in its area who have a disability.

Section 19(d) requires local authorities to support the children and their parent/carers to facilitate the development of the child and to help achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes. Section 32(2) states local authorities are to provide relevant advice and information about matters relating to children with SEND.



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2023
Subject:	Potential Topics for Scrutiny Review by Scrutiny Panel A

Summary:

On 28 September 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board requested each overview and scrutiny committee to consider whether it has a topic that would benefit from an in-depth scrutiny review by Scrutiny Panel A. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is due to evaluate the suggestions at its meeting on 21 December 2023.

This Committee is requested to consider whether it would wish to make a suggestion for a potential scrutiny review topic to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Actions Required:

To consider the request from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for a suggestion for an in-depth scrutiny review by Scrutiny Panel A, bearing in mind the following criteria (as detailed in Appendix A):

- (a) Would the proposed review topic add value?
- (b) Is the proposed review topic of concern to local residents?
- (c) Is the proposed review topic a priority for the Council or partner agency?
- (d) Would the proposed review topic avoid duplication with any other reviews or actions?
- (e) Is the proposed review topic unlikely to be affected by new legislation or guidance in the coming year?
- (f) Is the review topic sufficiently focused to be completed within an appropriate timescale?

1. Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B

Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B have recently completed their respective reviews of Town Centre Improvements and Lincolnshire Agricultural Sector Support, which have each been presented to the Council's Executive. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, which is responsible for allocating topics, has already assigned the topic of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire to Scrutiny Panel B as its next review, and is seeking a topic for Scrutiny Panel A to undertake.

As has previously been reported, Scrutiny Panels conduct their reviews in accordance with the following principles:

- Scrutiny panels should aim to collect a broad range of evidence on the particular review, interviewing interested parties, and engaging local communities, where this is feasible.
- Scrutiny panels should focus on developing realistic recommendations for improvement in relation to the topic under review.
- Scrutiny panels will submit their draft reports to the relevant overview and scrutiny committee for consideration, approval and onward referral as appropriate.

Scrutiny Panels undertake their reviews in accordance with the terms of reference and timetable determined for each review by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

One of the essential roles of overview and scrutiny is to carry out in-depth reviews where the outcomes can clearly influence and improve policy and service delivery for the people of Lincolnshire. In accordance with the Council's constitution, this role is undertaken by the two scrutiny panels.

These two scrutiny panels provide an opportunity for scrutiny councillors to consider a particular topic in detail, for example by engaging with a range of individuals in less formal settings, which is not always possible in the formal setting of a committee meeting. Based on the evidence received, a report is compiled, with the panel making recommendations for possible improvement.

2. Identifying Potential Scrutiny Review Topics

A Scrutiny Panel should only be set up when a suitable topic for a scrutiny review is identified by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board using the Prioritisation Toolkit. Suggestions for scrutiny reviews may come from a variety of sources such as the scrutiny committees, other non-Executive Councillors, Executive Councillors, and senior officers.

When considering a potential topic for a scrutiny review, it is important that the Board ensures that the potential scrutiny review will not be duplicating any review work that is being undertaken by officers or external partners. The remit for the potential scrutiny review should be focused and not too broad, so that an in-depth review can be completed within a set timescale and will lead to achievable outcomes.

3. Role of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is responsible for making decisions about whether a scrutiny panel is merited, and in so doing the Board applies the guidance in the prioritisation toolkit attached at Appendix A.

Once a potential topic for a scrutiny review has been identified by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and assigned to a scrutiny panel, the terms of reference will be drafted by the Scrutiny Panel and submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, if they have not already been approved by the Board. This does not prevent the panel from undertaking initial work on its topic.

4. Composition of Scrutiny Panels

Each scrutiny panel may comprise up to eight members including its chairman and vice chairman appointed by the County Council. The remaining members of each panel are appointed for each particular review, and there is an aim to make the membership politically inclusive. All non-executive councillors are eligible, with nominations for membership being sought from the leader of each political group.

5. Role of Overview and Scrutiny Committees – Approval of Final Report

As stated above, when each scrutiny panel completes its review, its draft report is submitted to the relevant overview and scrutiny committee for consideration and approval. Following its approval, the final report, including any recommendations, is submitted to the relevant decision-making body, which in most instances would be the Executive for matters relating to the County Council's executive functions. The relevant scrutiny committee is responsible for receiving the response to the review and for any future monitoring of recommendations.

6. Commentary from the Executive Director / Lead Officers

The Executive Director of Children's Services has suggested the following two topics for consideration by the Committee:

- **Young Carers**

Young Carers' rights were strengthened under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014. Since this time the service has been integrated within Children's Services Early Help, whilst also maintaining support to partners in identifying and supporting young carers and their families. The service also works collaboratively with Adult Services and Public Health. Caring is a significant factor in the lives of many Lincolnshire families, with an estimated 7,000 young carers in the County.

Since the Covid-19 Pandemic, identification of young carers has increased significantly and the support they receive has had to adapt to the changing circumstances of family life. Some children have begun caring for the first time and others have had their caring role change

or increase during lockdowns. Our own staff and schools have responded to the additional challenges posed by Covid-19 restrictions.

Media and social media coverage of the issues for young carers has increased nationally and locally. As well as the challenges faced by young carers, Lincolnshire has tried to maintain a positive message to young carers and our young carers have been proud to tell us about their roles.

Our young carers participation group is going from strength to strength; and our young people, their families and our staff, would value the opportunity to tell their stories, and be recognised by councillors for the positive contributions they are already making. There is however more for us to do.

We need to ensure all young carers know where to access information and support for themselves and their families. In particular, we recognise that children and young people caring for family members with mental health problems, or who misuse drugs or alcohol, are less likely to identify as a young carer or access support. We also know that early identification of support for young carers at the point of diagnosis of their parents or carers would ensure need is met early and our engagement with wider partners, in particular GPs, would enable this to happen consistently.

We would like Scrutiny to consider whether the balance of awareness raising both within the Local Authority, and with partners and communities, is appropriate; and whether service provision both face to face and virtual is accessible and relevant to those who need it most.

- **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

Having sufficient workforce numbers to deliver our services is a key aspect of successful delivery to our communities. Children's Services have prioritised recruitment and retention and have through their workforce development group implemented a variety of innovative and creative approaches, focusing particularly on areas such as Social Work, Children's Health and Residential Services to ensure we have the right people in the right place at the right time.

We would like Scrutiny to consider the work done to date and our ongoing plans for continuing to address workforce recruitment and retention challenges and feed back any further suggestions for improvement.

7. Conclusion

Following the decision by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 28 September 2023, this Committee is being asked to consider whether it wishes to suggest a scrutiny review topic, for the Board to assign to Scrutiny Panel A in December. In responding to the Board, the Committee may wish to be mindful of the criteria set out in Appendix A to this report.

8. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Scrutiny Prioritisation - Prioritisation Toolkit

9. 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 Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or by e-mail at nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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Appendix A

Scrutiny Prioritisation

Prioritisation is a key tool for successful scrutiny. Selecting the right topics where scrutiny can add value is essential for scrutiny to be a positive influence on the work of the Council. Scrutiny committees must be selective about what they look at and need to work effectively with limited resources. Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

The questions below are a guide to help members and officers consider and identify key areas of scrutiny activity for consideration.

Will Scrutiny input add value?

- Is there a clear objective for scrutinising the topic?
- What are the identifiable benefits to residents and the council?
- Is there evidence to support the need for scrutiny?
- What is the likelihood of achieving a desired outcome?
- Is the topic strategic and significant rather than relating to an individual complaint?
- Are there adequate resources to ensure scrutiny activity is done well?

Is the topic a concern to local residents?

- Does the topic have a potential impact for one or more section(s) of the local population?
- Has the issue been identified by Members through surgeries and other contact with constituents?
- Is there user dissatisfaction with service (e.g., increased level of complaints)?
- Has the topic been covered in the local media or social media?

Is it a Council or partner priority area?

- Does the topic relate to council corporate priority areas?
- Is there a high level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area?
- Is it a poor performing service (evidence from performance indicators /benchmarking)?

Are there relevant external factors relating to the issue?

- Central government priority area.
- New government guidance or legislation.
- Issues raised by an internal or external audit or from formal inspections, etc.
- Key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations.

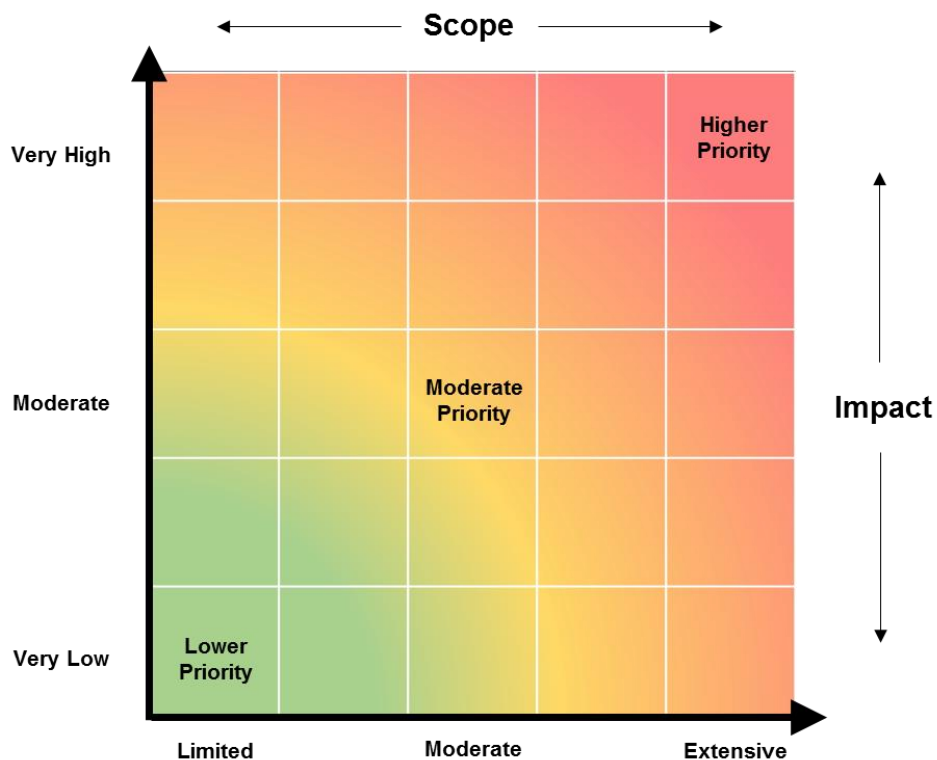
Criteria for not considering topics

- There is no scope for scrutiny to add value/make a difference or have a clear impact.

- New legislation or guidance is expected within the next year.
- The issue is being examined elsewhere - e.g., by the Executive, working group, officer group or other body.
- The objective of scrutiny involvement cannot be achieved in the specified timescale required.

Prioritisation Matrix

The prioritisation matrix shown below is a framework to aid in prioritising a number of scrutiny options or topics. Each topic should be assessed in terms of the impact it would have and the overall scope of the activity.

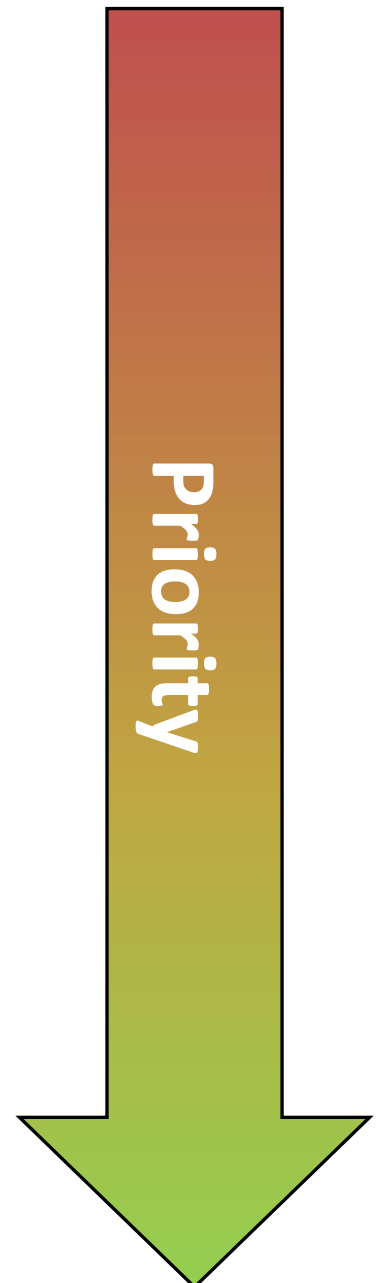
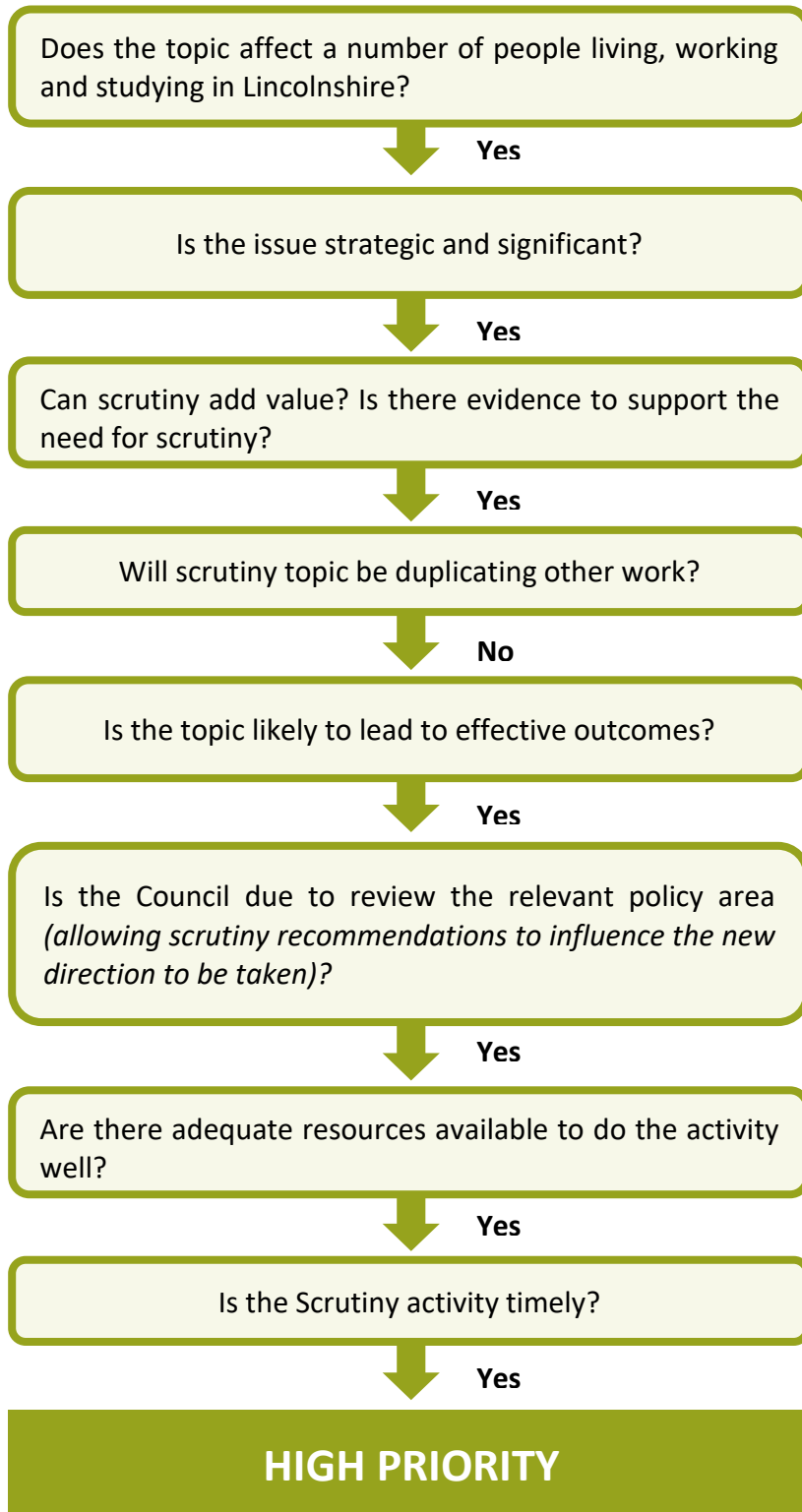


When considering the scope and impact of a Scrutiny item it is important to consider the following areas:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • People / Communities | • Reputation |
| • Assets / Property | • Likelihood of Impact |
| • Financial | • Resource Required |
| • Environmental | • Cost Effectiveness |

Prioritisation Tool

The prioritisation tool below can be used in deciding on whether an issue would warrant being considered by Scrutiny or the subject of a Scrutiny Review.



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**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2023
Subject:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

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. The Committee is encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme.

Actions Required:

- (1) To review and agree the Committee's work programme as set out in this report.
- (2) To highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be considered for inclusion in the work programme.

1. Background

Current Items

For reference, the Committee's items for this meeting are set out below: -

20 October 2023			
	Item	Contributor	Purpose
1.	Recommissioning of Children and Young People's Online Mental Health Support Service	Kevin Johnson, Commissioning Manager - Children's Mental Health, LD and Autism Emily Humphries, Commissioning Officer Lynda Whitton, Senior Commissioning Officer	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision between 27 October – 3 November 2023)

20 October 2023			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
2.	The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning	Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision between 30 October – 3 November 2023)
3.	Potential Topics for Scrutiny Review by Scrutiny Panel A	Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer	To suggest topics for in-depth reviews by a scrutiny panel
INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS			
4.	Update on the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy	Sheridan Dodsworth, Head of Special Educational Needs and Disability Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	Policy Review (Yearly Update)
EXEMPT ITEMS			
5.	Education Provision Planning (EXEMPT)	Matthew Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision between 27 October – 3 November 2023)
6.	Expansion of Saxilby Church of England Primary School (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Ali Toyne, Project Manager, Corporate Property	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Leader decision between 27 October – 3 November 2023)

Planned Items

The Committee's planned items are listed below:

01 December 2023			
	Item	Contributor	Purpose
1.	Lincolnshire Secure Unit (LSU) Catering Service	Mark Rainey, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children's Services	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision between 8 – 15 December 2023)
2.	Service Level Performance Reporting against the Success Framework 2023-24 – Quarter 2	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help	Performance Scrutiny
INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS			
3.	Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Report	Nicky Myers, Interim Head of Service Early Years and Childcare Support	Policy Review
EXEMPT ITEMS			
4.	Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home (LSCH) (EXEMPT) (TBC)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency Dave Clarke, Service Lead - Secure Estate Rachel Freeman, Head of Service Children in Care and Residential Estates	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (TBC)
5.	Myle Cross & Cherry Willingham Refurbishment – Alternate Provision (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development Mark Rainey, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children's Services	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Leader decision between 1 – 15 December 2023)
6.	Primary School Mobile Replacement Scheme (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Leader decision between 1 – 15 December 2023)

12 January 2024			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.	Children's Services Budget Proposals 2024/25	Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children's Services Mark Popplewell, Strategic Finance Lead – Children's Services	Budget Scrutiny / Pre- Decision Scrutiny
2.	Attendance in Schools, Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education Annual Report 2022/23	Jill Chandar-Nair, Inclusion and Attendance Manager	Annual Report
3.	Children in Care Transformation Programme Update	Matt Clayton, Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency Tracey Robinson, Programme Manager – Sector Led Improvement & Children in Care Transformation Tara Jones, Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding	Policy Review
INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS			
4.	Youth Offending Service – Progress against HMIP Inspection Recommendations	Andy Cook, Head of Service – Future4Me and Youth Offending	Inspection Outcome
EXEMPT ITEMS			
5.	Welton William Farr – New Sixth Form Block and Dining Remodelling (EXEMPT)	Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Leader decision TBC January 2024)

08 March 2024			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.	Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services - Improvement Plan	Andrew Morris, Head of Service – Care Experienced Young People	Inspection Outcome
2.	Lincolnshire School Performance 2022 - 23	Martin Smith, Assistant Director – Education Matt Spoons, Head of Service - School Standards Nicky Myers, Interim Head of Service Early Years and Childcare Support	Performance Scrutiny
3.	Children's Services Annual Statutory Complaints Report 2022-23	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director - Early Help	Performance Scrutiny
4.	Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Success Framework 2023-24 Quarter 3	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help	Performance Scrutiny
5.	Gosberton House Academy - New Block Extension and External Works as part of the SEND Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy (EXEMPT)	Eileen McMorrow, Programme Manager SEND Strategy Dave Pennington, Head of Property Development	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Leader Decision between 18 – 22 March 2024)

19 April 2024			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.	Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Annual Report 2023	Chris Cook, Chair of LSCP Stacey Waller, LSCP Manager	Yearly Update
2.	Children and Young People Mental Health Transformation Programme	Charlotte Gray, Head of Service – Children’s Strategic Commissioning	Policy Review

14 June 2024			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.			

19 July 2024			
Item		Contributor	Purpose
1.	Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Success Framework 2023-24 Quarter 4	Jo Kavanagh, Assistant Director – Early Help	Performance Scrutiny

2. Conclusion

The Committee is invited to review, consider and comment on the work programme as set out above and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme. A list of all upcoming Forward Plan decisions relating to the Committee is also attached at Appendix A.

3. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Forward Plan of Decisions relating to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

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 Tracy Johnson, Senior Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07552 253814 or by e-mail at tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

FORWARD PLAN OF DECISIONS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM 01 OCTOBER 2023

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	REPORT STATUS	DECISION MAKER AND DATE OF DECISION	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED	OFFICER(S) FROM WHOM FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED AND REPRESENTATIONS MADE (All officers are based at County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL unless otherwise stated)	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
I030126	Education Provision Planning	Exempt	Executive Councillor: Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration Between 27 Oct 2023 and 3 Nov 2023	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Exempt Reports	Interim Head of Capital Reform and Education Sufficiency E-mail: matthew.clayton@lincolnshire.gov.uk	All Divisions
I030233	Saxilby Primary School - three Class Extension	Exempt	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) Between 27 Oct 2023 and 3 Nov 2023	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Exempt Reports	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Nettleham and Saxilby
I030207	CYP Online Mental Health Support	Open	Executive Councillor: Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration Between 27 Oct 2023 and 3 Nov 2023	Children's DLT Children's Executive DLT Commissioning and Commercial Board Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Reports	Commissioning Manager - Children's Mental Health, LD and Autism E-mail: Kevin.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk	All Divisions

I029533	The Maples Short Breaks Provision - Re-commissioning	Open	Executive Councillor: Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration Between 30 Oct 2023 and 3 Nov 2023	Parents and Carers, and service users Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Reports	Programme Manager - Children's Services (SEND) E-mail: eileen.mcmorrow@lincolnshire.gov.uk	All Divisions
I030410 New!	Welton William Farr - New Sixth Form Block and Dining Remodelling	Exempt	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) Between 1 Dec 2023 and 15 Dec 2023	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Exempt Reports	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Welton Rural
I030411 New!	Primary School Mobile Replacement Scheme	Exempt	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) Between 1 Dec 2023 and 15 Dec 2023	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Exempt Reports	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	All Divisions
I030186	Myle Cross & Cherry Willingham Refurbishment – Alternate Provision	Exempt	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) Between 1 Dec 2023 and 15 Dec 2023	Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, Children's Services, Legal Services, Property Services	Exempt Reports	Children's Service Strategic Commissioning Manager Tel: 01522 554053 Email: mark.rainey@lincolnshire.gov.uk	All Divisions; Birchwood

I030084	Lincolnshire Secure Unit (LSU) Catering Service	Open	Executive Councillor: Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration Between 8 Dec 2023 and 15 Dec 2023	Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee LSU Staff Legal Services	Reports	Children's Services Strategic Commissioning Manager E-mail: mark.rainey@lincolnshire.gov.uk	All Divisions
I028654	Gosberton House Academy - New Block Extension and External Works as part of the SEND Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy	Exempt	Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning) Between 18 Mar 2024 and 22 Mar 2024	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	Exempt Reports	Head of Property Development E-mail: dave.pennington@lincolnshire.gov.uk	

Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2023
Subject:	Update on the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with an update on the implementation of the Building Communities of Specialist Provision; Together in Lincolnshire Strategy, approved by the Executive on 6 November 2018. The report summarises the progress made between October 2022- October 2023, within the Capital Programme and in all supporting system areas.

Actions Required:

Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are invited to note the contents of the report.

1. Background

The Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy was developed in response to the Department for Education (DfE) requirement of all Local Authorities (LA) to review provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) in order to ensure that there are sufficient good school places which meet the changing needs of pupils with SEND. The review required local authorities to work in close collaboration with special schools and parent/carer groups to co-produce a strategic plan which delivers sustainable, good quality provision to meet current and future needs.

In November 2018, the Executive granted approval to implement the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy. Implementation commenced in January 2019 with the final school changes being made by Spring 2025.

The strategy is making significant changes to the existing special education provision, creating an integrated and sustainable school system where pupils can attend their nearest special school, confident that their education and health needs can be fully met. The allocated capital investment will improve premises and facilities, enabling each school to offer places to pupils from within their local communities with a wider range of needs.

All special schools have committed to making significant changes to the type of need catered for and expansion where this has been identified and these are outlined in the strategy. All fourteen special schools will be able to meet 'all complex needs' once fully implemented.

The SEND Education Partnership and SEND Governance Board has oversight of strategic implementation to ensure equity of provision and accountability within the programme.

1.2 Programme Update

1.2.1 Capital Programme

The Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy commenced implementation in 2019 and will be completed by Spring 2025. This has a slight delay from the original completion date of late 2024 due to design and procurement challenges on three individual schemes within the programme; these issues have now been addressed and the timeline amended. (See Appendix A).

The programme is nearing the end of implementation, with the majority of capital schemes complete and supporting operating systems well established. Governance is well established with budget and progress reviews taking place monthly and reporting to members of the Corporate Leadership Team and Portfolio Holder on a bimonthly basis.

1.2.2 Progress Overview

The Council has made significant progress in the delivery of the Strategy. There are currently nine SEND schools completed, offering special education to children and young people with a wide range of needs and disabilities. A further two schemes are in construction and two schemes are in detailed design/enabling works stage.

- Boston Endeavour Academy
- Bourne, Willoughby Academy
- Spilsby, The Eresby School
- Louth, St Bernard's School
- Spalding, Tulip Academy Waterside Campus
- Lincoln, St Christopher's Primary

The following schools have been redeveloped by the governing Academy Trust as part of the Council's capital programme.

- Grantham Ambergate Sports College
- Spalding, Tulip Academy Springview Campus
- Grantham Sandon School

The following schools are in construction:

- Lincoln St Christopher's Secondary School
- Horncastle St Lawrence School

The following schools are in detailed design phase:

- Lincoln St Francis School
- Gosberton House Academy

The key milestones for the capital programme met in this reporting period are:

- Official Opening for The Eresby School, Spilsby
- Official Opening for St Bernard's School Louth
- Official Opening for Lincoln St Christopher's Primary School
- Official Opening for Tulip Academy, Spalding
- Construction commenced for Lincoln St Christopher's Secondary School
- Rebuild of Horncastle St Lawrence School completed with demolition of former school pending
- Self-delivery project including remodelling and new hydrotherapy pool for The Sandon School Grantham completed
- Feasibility and design process commenced for Lincoln St Francis School and Gosberton House Academy (delayed due to procurement challenges)

For images of the completed and live capital schemes, please see Appendix B.

1.3 Progress by Scheme

1.3.1 Boston Endeavour Academy

Boston Endeavour Academy was the first all needs special school to open as part of this programme, having been officially handed over to the Community Inclusive Trust and welcoming its first pupils on 6 September 2021. The school was officially opened by Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE on 13 May 2022.

This new school is now accommodating 147 pupils, an increase of 91 places since the beginning of the capital development.

The new school provides 16 classrooms, specialist teaching spaces including science, technology, ICT and art, and a hall. The school also benefits from a hydrotherapy pool, sensory and soft playrooms and dedicated therapy spaces. Externally, there are hard and soft surfaced play areas and sensory, horticulture and wildlife areas and a sensory courtyard which is enjoyed by staff and pupils throughout the school day.

1.3.2 The Willoughby Academy, Bourne

All construction work has now been completed and handover to the Priory Trust took place on 10 December 2021. The new block was officially opened by Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE on 6 May 2022.

Due to the capital investment programme, the capacity of this school has increased from 80 to 141, creating an additional 61 places.

The new build accommodation block provides six classrooms, hall, specialist secondary teaching spaces including science and technology, as well as small group spaces and hygiene facilities. Remodelling work to the existing school has provided additional therapy spaces and a medical inspection room to ensure the school can offer, in conjunction with health providers, a robust health offer to all children and young people with SEND in the local area.

1.3.3 The Eresby School, Spilsby

All construction work has now been completed and handover to the David Ross Education Trust took place on 9 May 2022. The new block was officially opened by Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE on 26 May 2023.

A phased increase of a further 10 places will take place during the 2023-24 academic year.

The new build accommodation block provides improved facilities including five classrooms, hall, ICT and science spaces as well as small group rooms, hygiene facilities and staff and meeting spaces. The remodelling work to the existing school has provided a design/technology and art room, physiotherapy space, visiting professional/therapy space, parents' room, a hygiene suite, a disabled WC and staff/administration spaces.

1.3.4 St Bernards School, Louth

All construction work has now been completed and handover to the Lincolnshire Wolds Federation Trust took place on 12 September 2022. The new block was officially opened by Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE on 9 June 2023.

The school is now accommodating 101 pupils, with an increased capacity of 12 places being made available in the first year of opening.

The new block and remodelling provide enhanced facilities including six classrooms, hall, specialist secondary teaching spaces including science and technology, as well as small group spaces, therapy and hygiene facilities.

1.3.5 Tulip Academy, Spalding

In line with the strategy, The Priory School and The Garth School successfully merged to become Tulip Academy on 1 September 2022. All construction work on both the Springview and Waterside Campus has been completed with handover taking place on 7 July 2023. The new block was officially opened on 7 July 2023 by Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE.

The Waterside Campus will now be subject to further development as part of the DfE's School Rebuilding Programme.

Tulip Academy is currently meeting the needs of 212 pupils, an increase of 84 places across the course of the capital programme.

1.3.6 Lincoln St Christopher's School

Construction of the new primary school on Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln is now complete, with handover taking place on 3 April 2023. This scheme completed two months ahead of schedule. The primary school will be able to accommodate a minimum of 130 pupils and has high-quality, state of the art facilities including a hydrotherapy pool.

The new school was officially opened by Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE on 23 June 2023.

Main works have commenced at the secondary school. In order to ensure the existing site can continue to offer an education to pupils during the construction period, some Key Stage 2/3 pupils have temporarily relocated to the primary site, leaving a maximum of 80 pupils at the current site so intrusive building work can be completed safely.

Once all works are completed St Christopher's School will be able to accommodate 333 pupils, increasing Lincoln City and the surrounding area's special school provision by 111 places.

1.3.7 Horncastle St. Lawrence School

Construction of the new St Lawrence School is now complete and due to open to pupils in October 2023 (pupils will return to the new school after half term). The scheme is due to complete in December 2023, with demolition of the current school and car park works left to complete.

Once complete the new school will have an increased capacity for a further 70 pupils since the start of the strategy's implementation.

The new school will provide 17 classrooms, three of which are specifically designed for pupils with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) with hoists and sensory corners, a new hall and studio allowing the school to offer rebound therapy, physical education and dining for all pupils, therapy spaces including soft play, sensory and physiotherapy, life skills and social recreation spaces and calm and group spaces. The new block will also provide hygiene facilities, a staff workspace, offices and meeting rooms.

The whole school site will be redesigned to provide improved drop off and pick up facilities for the pupils, increased parking provision for staff and visitors ensuring all vehicles can be accommodated on the school site. Reorganised and improved outdoor play spaces will include a sensory garden, horticulture, formal and informal sport pitches and zones for trim trails and outdoor exercise equipment.

1.3.8 Ambergate Sports College and The Sandon School

Construction of the Ambergate site completed early in the programme and pupils are enjoying the much-improved facilities.

Development of The Sandon school is now also complete. The Community Inclusive Trust has self-delivered this project with assistance with significant funding from the Council and it includes the internal remodelling of classroom spaces and a new hydrotherapy pool.

Further expansion of the Ambergate site is currently being considered, with feasibility being undertaken on the West Grantham Church of England Primary Academy – Upper School which is now empty as the school has relocated to the lower school site. As this site is located adjacent to Ambergate Sports College, there is the option to developing this site to provide additional capacity for the Grantham area in the future. Any further decisions relating to this expansion will be subject to Executive approval at an appropriate time.

1.3.9 Lincoln St. Francis Special School

Feasibility and design have commenced to provide a special school which can meet a wider range of needs for 150 pupils. Enabling works have been completed including improvements to car park and minibus drop-off area.

Delays to this scheme have arisen due to the need to change preferred contractor during the design process. The original contractor submitted costings beyond budget viability, so the scheme was retendered, and a new contract awarded. The design has been revisited with the new contractors and mains works are due to commence in early 2024.

1.3.10 Gosberton House Academy

Feasibility and design have commenced to provide a special school which can meet a wider range of needs. As with St Francis, there has been a delay to this scheme due to the need to change preferred contractor during the design process. The original contractor submitted costings beyond budget viability, so the scheme was retendered, and a new contract awarded. The design has been revisited with the new contractors and mains works are due to commence in early 2024.

1.4 Budget Position

Budget realignment undertaken in 2022 saw an increase in the financial envelope for the programme to £101.835m, to address inflationary increases due to global economic instability. This increase was funded through the DfE High Needs Capital Allocations for 2022/23 and 2023/24, which enabled the Council to commit to completing the programme and honouring their commitment to the strategy.

This budget remains under regular review through the programme governance structure, and, at present, the allocated budget remains sufficient to complete the programme.

As the programme nears completion and only two schemes are still to enter main works contract, financial risks decrease though it should still be noted that inflation remains high and costs within the construction industry have not fully stabilised.

1.5 SEND Support Structures

1.5.1 Reorganisation Policy and Expenditure

A SEND School Reorganisation Policy is in place to ensure all special schools, subject to reorganisation, receive equitable and fair funding to meet all reasonable additional costs. It provides a formalised approach to the funding of special school reorganisations to support the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for the children of Lincolnshire. It addresses situations when, as part of its strategic planning of school places, the Council asks a school / academy to expand and take in additional pupils above their agreed capacity temporarily or expands permanently.

Through the development and implementation of this policy, it has been possible to provide a fair and standardised level of funding during this transition period to those schools that the Council wishes to expand permanently and this applies to both maintained and academy special schools.

Through support received by the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum, the Council earmarked £2.000m from the Dedicated Schools Grant reserves underspend to fund the school reorganisation policy during the transition phase. Additional place funding will be supported through the earmarked funding and the High Needs block.

The £2.000m commitment supports the following:

- Fixtures and fittings for the fifty-five new classroom spaces in accordance with the special school's reorganisation policy.
- New building space / loose furniture through the SEND capital programme, such as installation of new sensory and soft playrooms, medical intervention spaces and specialist teaching facilities.
- Additional recruitment costs.
- Ad hoc Decant costs.
- A commitment to support workforce development for the sector that is to be rolled out to mainstream schools also.
- The remainder will fund the increase in banded funding to support the intakes of additional pupils. This requirement will be met through a blended approach of remaining monies from the reserve and High Needs block funding.

All schools have either received their full allocation or have been informed of their initial allocation if their building work is not yet complete.

Committed School Reorganisation Expenditure to date

	Total Costs (all schools to date)
Classrooms	£523,875
Loose Furniture	£603,311
Recruitment	£118,190
Relocation / Decant	£85,955
Pupils Numbers	£178,909
Legal	£6,243
Workforce Development	£168,575
Total to date	£1,685,058

1.6 Workforce Development

The workforce development learning platform was commissioned on 10 February 2022 via a Public-to-Public Collaboration Agreement, under Regulation 12(7) Public Contracts Regulations 2015 between Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Wolds Federation as lead agency for the SEND Alliance. Service Specifications have been approved and signed and contract management governance established.

In June 2022, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee received a detailed report on the implementation of the Workforce Development Strategy, providing Members with information on the learning platform and activity levels to date. A further update was included as part of the annual review of the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy in October 2022.

Since this report, Tier 1 of the SEND Learning Platform has been launched to all special schools. Tier 1 modules have also been launched to all mainstream schools, though this has been staggered over a number of weeks to generate interest from schools and to ensure each module receives sufficient publicity in its own right.

Since the launch of the platform, 4,099 modules (3,301 Induction, 798 Tier 1) have been completed across 214 Lincolnshire schools. There has been a rise in both SEND and mainstream schools using the modules to form part of their Inset Day training which is a positive outcome, as this promotes inclusivity across the whole school. Modules have consistently been rated 84% Very Good or Good (15% Average, 1% Poor).

By the end of October 2023, the SEND Learning Platform will be available to parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. With the support of the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF), parents, carers and families will be able to register with LPCF where they will be provided with a log in for the learning platform. This exciting initiative will enable those who care for children and young people with SEND to access Induction Tier resources and training on a range of SEND issues and conditions.

1.7 Health Offer

The work of the Health Workstream, tasked with ensuring all special schools can meet the needs of children and young people with complex medical needs, remains ongoing. The capital programme has ensured that all completed schools have the facilities to meet complex medical needs and space for medical and therapy professionals to provide interventions in these settings, thereby reducing the need for pupils to attend appointments outside of the school settings.

The completed special schools work collaboratively with professionals from a range of specialisms, in their settings, offering regular clinical interventions and reviews for pupils and their families.

Medical and Therapeutic Professionals offering interventions in completed special schools include:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Specialist Teachers for Sensory Impairments
- Children and Young People's Nursing Team
- Rapid Response Respiratory Service

Once the programme is completed, it is expected that this provision will be extended beyond the existing professionals and will incorporate a number of other clinical services.

This provision is supported by a collaboratively developed Memorandum of Understanding.

The workstream is also responsible for developing a system whereby all special schools have the capabilities and confidence to meet the needs of children and young people with the most complex medical needs and those who are long-term ventilated. Senior Officers from the Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and Health Provider Trusts have agreed, in principle, that all children in Lincolnshire should be able to attend a special school as close to home as possible, if required, once it is safe to do so. This workstream is currently developing an infrastructure and guidance framework which will ensure this is possible, in a clinically safe manner.

1.8 Specialist Equipment

In order to ensure the most cost-effective use of specialist medical and therapy equipment, special schools have been invited to join the existing contractual arrangements held by the Council with specialist equipment providers.

The existing providers (Nottingham Rehab Supplies (NRS)) have maintained the community equipment provision for the special schools across Lincolnshire since April 2020, taking over from Arjo Huntleigh.

Between the period of April 2022 – March 2023, a total of 11 special schools (Aegir Community School, Boston Endeavour Academy, Eresby School, Tulip Academy, St Lawrence School, Sandon School, St Bernard's School, St Christopher's School, St Francis School and The Willoughby School) have utilised the equipment service spending a total of just over £41k. This breaks down to £7.4k spent on scheduled servicing and repairs, along with a £33.8k net spend on equipment. In total, there were 688 scheduled services carried out by NRS, along with 165 equipment deliveries and 70 equipment collections during this period.

The financial impact of the centralised service is substantial, with schools saving from 30% to 70% on the maintenance of equipment against the previous provider, with further long-term savings in the form of new equipment at a much-reduced rate. As an example, Arjo Huntleigh were charging the schools £396.00 a year to service their hoists, whereas the NRS charge just £50.00 a year for the same service.

Over the next 12 months, the service will be expanded to incorporate all special schools. The service will also be promoting the availability of recycled non-contract specials to the schools which are available at no cost.

1.9 Specialist Community Led Panels

Specialist Community Led Panels were launched in summer 2021 in the Boston and South Holland localities and have subsequently been phased in across the other localities. Attendance at these panels is good, with representation from health and social care services, along with education, the Council and Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum at most meetings. The panels are chaired by special school head teachers and are proving effective in ensuring children and young people with SEND are placed in the right education setting for their needs.

Each locality has a number of examples of children and young people with SEND whose current setting expressed an inability to meet need and were at risk of requiring independent non-maintained special school placement who, with the support of those professionals involved, have been able to remain in their existing setting.

2. Conclusion

Children's Services strongly believes this capital infrastructure investment will not only achieve greater outcomes for Lincolnshire pupils, but also be an important financial decision in managing the pressures within the High Needs block by way of reducing expenditure relating to some expensive and unnecessary out of county specialist placements. On occasion, Lincolnshire families are presented with the difficult option of out of county placements due to the lack of capacity in local special schools. This is both unfair on children and families and expensive to the Council when needs could be met in a more local provision. It is important for Lincolnshire to continue securing value for money within these demand-led budgets and within the finite funding resource available. By enabling pupils requiring specialist support to go to their nearest suitable school, the LA will be able to

achieve operational efficiencies, improved pupils’ wellbeing and reduce expenditure through its delivery of home to school transport arrangements.

The financial impact of investing now at a capital level will have a positive impact on the Council's financial position long-term, both on the High Need's block and the Home to School Transport budget.

The strategy was collaboratively developed to ensuring a sufficient supply of special school places for children and young people with SEND, local special schools which can meet the needs of all pupils in their local community, a reduction in the travelling time for pupils with SEND by enabling them to attend a special school as close to home as possible and for our children and young people with SEND to be educated locally, bringing value and a sense of belonging to their local communities. Only by ensuring that the capital programme is fully completed can the Local Authority be confident it will achieve its strategic vision.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Capital Programme Timeline
Appendix B	SEND Strategy Update Images

5. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Building Communities of Specialist Support; Together in Lincolnshire Strategy	Building communities of specialist provision (lincolnshire.gov.uk)

This report was written by Eileen McMorro, who can be contacted via email at eileen.mcmorrow@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Appendix A: Special Schools Capital Programme – Timeline October 2023

SEND Schools - Outline Programme	V.17	Jan-23																		
	2021				2022				2023				2024				2025			
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Boston Endeavour	RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.																			
Bourne Willoughby	RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.																			
Spilsby Eresby	RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.															
Louth St Bernards	RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.	RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.			RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.															
Lincoln St Francis									RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.							
Spalding Priory	RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.											
Horncastle St Lawrence	RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.											
Lincoln St Christopher's (Primary)	RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.											
Lincoln St Christopher's (Secondary)	RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.							
Gosberton House									RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.							
Grantham Ambergate (Earl of Dysart site)			RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.		RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.							
Grantham Sandon (CIT)	RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.				RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.															
Grantham Ambergate (CIT) (Completed Sept 2020)																				
Spalding Garth (CIT) (Completed Dec 2020)																				

RIBA 1-4. Preparation, brief and design.

RIBA 5 & 6. Construction and hand over.

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Building Communities of Specialist Provision; Together in Lincolnshire

Capital Programme Update

Children and Young People
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October 2023

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Appendix B



Boston Endeavour Academy



Grantham Ambergate College & The Sandon School





Clr Mrs Pat Willoughby is shown by headteacher Matthew

In a class of our own

£86m investment will help provide a better start to life for Lincolnshire children

A multi-million pound project creating new and improved facilities for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is making good progress

One of the council's top priorities is ensuring all local children get a great start in life, and a good education is vital to that. That's why the authority is investing around £86m in improving and expanding 13 special school sites across Lincolnshire over the next few years.

Work has recently been completed on a new £13.2m special school – the Boston Endeavour Academy – which has space for 140 pupils. Serving as a new home for the former The John Fielding School, this new facility includes 16 classrooms, specialist teaching spaces for science, technology, ICT and art, and a hall.

Pupils also benefit from a hydrotherapy pool, sensory and soft play rooms and dedicated therapy spaces. Outside, there are hard and soft-surfaced play areas, as well as a sensory garden and wildlife areas.

Meanwhile, new classrooms and remodeling have been completed at Ambergate Sports College in Grantham and The Garth School in Spalding, providing a better learning experience for pupils. And construction is also underway at Bourne Willoughby Academy, the



countynews/winter/spring 2021-22 • www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news

Eresby School in Spilsby and St Bernard's School in Louth. These will create new classroom blocks and will also see extensive remediation of the existing buildings.

Not only will these improvements mean more places are available at the schools, but they will also mean that existing pupils can enjoy better facilities.

Clr Mrs Patricia Bradwell OBE, executive member for children's services, said: "We want to ensure that all children can access high-quality education as near to their family and local community as possible."

"So the council is investing £86m to improve the support for children with SEND, which will see an additional 500 special school places over the next five years."

"These improvements will mean more pupils with SEND can attend their local school rather than having to travel large distances for their education, which will be of great benefit to both the children and their families." "Despite the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this work has continued to move forward, thanks to the hard work of all our staff. I look forward to seeing further improvements completed over the next few years."

Improvements are also planned for the following schools over the next few years:

- St Francis Special School, Lincoln
- St Christopher's School, Lincoln
- St Lawrence School, Horncastle
- The Sandon School, Grimsby
- The Priory School, Spalding
- Gosberton House Academy, Lincoln



Bourne Willoughby Academy



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Spilsby The Eresby School





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Louth St Bernard's School

Spalding Tulip Academy



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- [Priory School Spalding Timelapse.mp4](#) | Powered by Box



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Lincoln St Christopher's Primary School

Live Schemes

Lincoln St Christopher's
Secondary, Horncastle St
Lawrence and Lincoln St
Francis car park

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Pre- Construction Projects

- St Francis School Internal Works
- Gosberton House Academy

Agenda Item 11

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Agenda Item 12

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