

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	26 July 2013
Subject:	Youth Housing Strategy

Summary:

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

Actions Required:

That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee consider the document as part of the consultation process and feed back any comments and recommendations. Subsequent to any suggested changes being included, the Strategy will then be brought back to the next Scrutiny Committee in September for final ratification.

1. Background

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

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

The Strategy builds on Lincolnshire's long history of good partnership working and will bring partners together in a strategic and coordinated way to create efficiencies

across our teams and make best use of our collective resources as well as improving services for young people.

The consultation for this Strategy began on 10th June 2013 and is due to conclude on 26th July 2013. The Strategy has been sent out to key partners, stakeholders and to young people. We have tried to reach as wide an audience as possible by using other strategy groups and their members including the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership, the Lincolnshire Homeless Strategy Group, the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board, the District Housing Network and Public Health's network of Support Providers. The Strategy was sent with a covering letter sent jointly by Debbie Barnes and Rachel North, Director of Communities at West Lindsey District Council. The Strategy has also been published on Local Authority websites.

Consultation events providing an overview and workshops on the Strategy which have been delivered to Young People and Supported Accommodation Providers as well as some of the groups mentioned above.

2. Conclusion

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

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

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire Youth Housing Strategy

5. Background Papers

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

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