

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

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

Summary:

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

Recommendation(s):

That the Strategy be approved and adopted.

Alternatives Considered:

Reasons for Recommendation:

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

1. Background

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

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

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

2. Conclusion

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

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

3. Legal Comments:

No comments.

4. Resource Comments:

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

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

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

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

6. Appendices

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

7. Background Papers

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

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

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