



LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open Report on behalf of Councillor Mrs Wendy Bowkett
Chairman of the Housing Health and Care Delivery Group

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	1 December 2020
Subject:	Lincolnshire Homes for Independence Blueprint

Summary:

Lincolnshire Homes for Independence is the blueprint of the Housing Health Care Delivery Group (HHCDG) and seeks to provide a high level vision for the provision of a greater range of housing options for those who need additional support, and better integrated services to promote and sustain independent living. The foreword is endorsed by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in addition to the Chairmen of the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and HHCDG.

There is a focus on independent living throughout life (all ages) and giving people choices or housing options. One option is for people to remain living in their current home and so the concept of housing for life is important. Whilst older people are the largest cohort of people with needs, there are others with particular needs highlighted in the blueprint, whose ability to live independently is currently limited by a lack of appropriate housing and/or well integrated services which are easy to navigate.

The majority of the homes that people live in now may not be suitable for their needs, particularly as these needs change over time. In terms of existing housing and service provision to enable people to remain living in their current home, more can be done to ensure that adaptations and equipment are provided through more integrated services which centre on the needs of the person. A business case is being developed to propose a review of existing services to secure better outcomes and use of resources, to support the delivery of this blueprint. The blueprint aims to help people to remain living in their current home, across all tenures, where appropriate. There is a focus on private sector housing including supporting low-income, owner-occupied households living in poor conditions or unsuitable homes to improve and/ or adapt them.

The blueprint also looks at helping people to find and move to a different home for life.

New-build housing design, quality and accessibility standards are included, linking to the work of the Housing Infrastructure Group (HIG) on a Lincolnshire Design Guide/ design review panel. Government is at present consulting on Planning for the Future (a White Paper on proposals for reform of the planning system in England) and accessibility standards in building regulations for new homes. Should a standard similar to Lifetime Homes be enshrined in building regulations it would embed the principle of housing for life. National planning policy identifies core requirements and much good practice guidance exists to support the development of new homes that are appropriate for those with additional needs. That said, most housing development is undertaken by businesses whose aim is to make a profit. This can lead to new housing being pared back to meet minimum requirements, particularly in areas where land values are low. Developing this blueprint is a first step in agreeing across local government, social housing providers and communities, the standards we wish to see achieved in Lincolnshire.

The outline HHCDG Delivery Plan identifies actions completed and potential new actions to achieve the Delivery objectives set out in the blueprint; and will be maintained as an up-to-date work plan.

Actions Required:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Endorse the Lincolnshire Homes for Independence blueprint
2. Recommend that relevant partners adopt the blueprint through the appropriate decision-making process for their organisation.

1. Background

Work to complete these documents slowed during the Coronavirus pandemic but has progressed more quickly through the last two Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group (HHCDG) meetings in August and October.

The Homes for Independence blueprint is a high level statement and call to action to partners to identify and strive to meet the housing and related support needs of those in Lincolnshire who need something other than mainstream market housing. It is not intended to be public facing. By agreeing the blueprint, organisations are buying in to a journey and there is an implied willingness to own the HHCDG Delivery Plan actions. The HHCDG Delivery Plan sets out the detail and actions. Decisions on the 'outcomes' from these actions might require partners to take things through individual decision-making processes.

The audience for the blueprint in those partner organisations is senior managers and 'board' members who are less familiar with the housing and health agenda than those working in the field – who will nevertheless be making decisions (be it commissioning, funding or whatever). Those working in the field can use it for their project planning and as justification in their decision-making processes. It aims to focus the efforts of the HHCDG members on actions to secure greater provision of a wider range of housing choices, and to further integrate services designed to support independent living and housing for life.

Comments from HHCDG members have been incorporated into this final document. The HWB as a collective has not seen previous versions of the blueprint but most individual members or their representatives have been engaged throughout its development and comments that each of them has made have been incorporated. There is now broad, in principle support for the blueprint.

There have been a number of national and local changes that have taken place in recent years which are relevant to the Lincolnshire Homes for Independence blueprint:

- The One Public Estate (OPE) programme has begun to review public sector land-holding to ensure that best use is made of this to meet local needs and ensure that communities can live, work and access the services they need, in some cases releasing public estate for housing.
- The Greater Lincolnshire Housing Delivery Group has created a Housing Development Programme to meet rising demand for new homes.
- LCC has developed an Extra Care Strategy supported by a capital programme to deliver up to 600 units of accommodation across the county, predominantly for older people. The aim was to provide an alternative to residential care, in places where this did not exist in sufficient number to meet evidenced need. Accommodation was to be designed to adapt as a person's needs change, increasing independence for older people and reducing the cost to LCC of long-term care.
- The Greater Lincolnshire local authorities (including North and North East Lincolnshire) have jointly commissioned research from Housing LIN, the national advisory body on housing. Phase 1 (2018) was funded through the Local Government Association (LGA) Advisers Programme and reviews current provision and future needs for housing for older people. Phase 2 (2019), funded directly by the ten authorities, explores the appetite and aspirations of older people for options to meet their needs.
- Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) have become part of the Better Care Fund (BCF); the district councils have developed policies and protocols for working together more closely, but to date have kept separate services and budgets.
- The Lincolnshire Wellbeing Service has been commissioned for a potential ten year period, helping people stay connected within local communities and supporting access to minor adaptations and equipment. This is now operated by the seven District Councils working in partnership.
- National legislation has introduced new duties for local authorities in relation to Care Leavers and for Transforming Care for those with more complex needs.
- National legislation has enhanced and extended the duties of district councils through the Homelessness Reduction Act (2018)
- Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) has re-commissioned Housing Related Support services for young people and adults, and Domestic Abuse Refuge accommodation; district councils have secured significant but short-term funds to support rough sleepers.
- LCC colleagues with other partners have developed a Hoarding Protocol sitting within the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board policies and procedures.

The national and local context for the Homes for Independence agenda continues to change:

- The outcome of the Local Government Funding Review is confirmed for one year with a further review expected.
- Integrated Care Systems are developing, seeking to align and integrate health and care services.
- Personalisation continues to be a priority.
- New technologies are emerging to support independent living for people with a wide range of needs.
- Further funding has been announced for housing related support and other remedies to end rough sleeping.
- Upper tier authorities will shortly receive new statutory duties to provide suitable domestic refuge accommodation and services.
- Issues to be tackled that have been highlighted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Lincolnshire is also now the rural strategic partner for the Centre for Ageing Better (AB). Their housing lead now attends HHCDG meetings and this alliance will ensure LCC, local partners and AB (plus other wider national partners such as Care and Repair England) offer mutual support to opportunities to influence national policy and locally, to increase housing choices for people preparing for later life, including both remaining where they are and moving. For example, the AB housing lead is contributing to HHCDG responses to government consultations on reform of the planning system and accessibility standards for new homes as well as developing a work programme around redesign of aids, adaptations (DFGs) and improvements to existing homes.

2. Conclusion

The Lincolnshire Homes for Independence blueprint and revised Delivery Plan will be owned and delivery overseen by the HHCDG, reporting annually on progress to the HWB.

The draft HHCDG Delivery Plan (Appendix B) details collaborative actions requiring multiple organisations to tackle the objectives outlined in the blueprint.

3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The HWB created the HHCDG and adopted Housing as one of seven priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) for Lincolnshire, underpinned by two Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) topics on housing. The HHCDG members have adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agreeing to work together across the housing, health and care sectors to support residents. Lincolnshire Homes for Independence builds on the MOU and underpins the HHCDG Delivery Plan.

Delivery Objectives in the blueprint have been derived, in part, from the JSNA topics on 'Housing Standards' and 'Insecure Homes and Homelessness'. The blueprint itself does not provide the numbers of homes needed but the Delivery Objective on maintaining accurate data and intelligence will strengthen the JSNA evidence base.

4. Consultation

There has been extensive consultation with the Chairman and members of the HHCDG during the development of the blueprint. In LCC the emerging document has been considered by the Executive Member for Adult Care and Children's Services and the Corporate Leadership Team on a number of occasions in addition to being taken to Adult Care and Community Wellbeing's Divisional Leadership Team (DLT) and Executive DLT.

The blueprint is not aimed at the public and so a formal, external consultation exercise has not been undertaken.

5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire Homes for Independence blueprint
Appendix B	Draft Housing Health and Care Delivery Group Delivery Plan

6. Background Papers

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

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