

19 December 2016**Agenda Item: 05**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PLAN 2016-2020

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval of the Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan 2016-2020, attached as **Appendix 1**.

Information and Advice

2. The Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan follows on from the Council's first strategy on youth homelessness entitled 'Strategy to Prevent and Tackle Youth Homelessness in Nottinghamshire 2012-2015', and builds on the work delivered during the lifespan of that strategy. It seeks to identify current and emerging challenges and plan solutions for three key priority areas:
 - the prevention of youth homelessness
 - the supported accommodation pathway
 - longer term housing options.
3. This plan has been developed in consultation with, Children's Social Care (including the Leaving Care Team), Supported Accommodation providers, young people and the seven District and Borough Homelessness Teams.
4. Young people living in 16+ supported accommodation were invited to take part in a survey designed to gather their views about: accessing supported accommodation; prevention work that was offered to them; the support service they receive and changes to the welfare system; and implications for longer term housing options. Their feedback has been incorporated into this plan and will help to shape services in the future.
5. An action plan has been drawn together to address the challenges and drive service improvements. The delivery of this action plan will be overseen by the Youth Homelessness Forum which meets on a quarterly basis and has representation from local authority homeless services managers from across the County, the Service Manager for Homelessness and Commissioning, Children's Social Care, Leaving Care and the Supported Accommodation providers.

Other Options Considered

6. The plan has been the subject of consultation with partners to consider all options for successfully meeting the needs of this group.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. The plan provides an agreed basis for the work of officers and partners to continue to improve services for homeless young people over the coming years.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

9. There are no planned savings linked to the delivery of the Prevention of Youth Homelessness Plan. Analysis of data regarding the use of emergency accommodation and establishing sufficient emergency accommodation will reduce the need for more costly spot purchased placements.

Human Resources Implications

10. There are no immediate staffing implications as a result of this change.

Implications for Service Users

11. Service users' views have been captured as part of the development of this plan and will help to shape and develop services in the future. The plan is not proposing to significantly change the existing supported accommodation pathway or commissioned services, and as such there will not be a detrimental effect on those using the service. It is hoped that, during the life of the plan, a peer support programme can be developed where young people will share their experiences of leaving home early and homelessness, with the aim of keeping young people living in the family network for longer and transitioning to more independent accommodation in a planned way.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Youth Homelessness Prevention Plan 2016-2020, attached as **Appendix 1**, is approved.

Derek Higton
Service Director

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Beth Downing
Service Manager – Homelessness and Commissioning
T: 0115 8041811
E: beth.cundy@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 23/11/16)

12. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (CDS 23/11/16)

13. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Youth Homelessness Strategy – report to Policy Committee on 18 July 2012.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0911