

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 42

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Housing for Vulnerable Young People
Date of Meeting: 18th April 2012
Report of: Terry Parkin Strategic Director People
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides an update on one of the service commissions in the City Commissioning Work Plan agreed by Cabinet. The final strategy will set out plans and priorities for the commissioning of housing and housing support for young people aged 16-25.
- 1.2 The review was initiated following recommendations from both the Adult and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Although the city's Youth Homelessness Strategy (2007-10) was recognised as good practice nationally, youth homelessness remains a key issue for the city.
- 1.3 The review and final strategy will take account of Cabinet approval on March 15th 2012 to revisions to the council's Housing Allocations policy and its operation to reflect a stronger consideration of the Council's role as corporate parent to young people leaving care.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That CYPOSC note progress on the service commission review of housing for vulnerable young people.
- 2.2 That CYPOSC provide comment and feedback to officers as part of developing the council's commissioning strategy.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 This review is concerned with:
 - Referral and assessment pathways and services provided to meet the council's statutory responsibilities

- Housing and Support provision for young people aged 16-25 (including young people who are looked after by the local authority, who are care leavers, who are unaccompanied asylum seekers or who are teenage parents).
 - Prevention of homelessness among young people
- 3.2 The needs assessment takes account of the city wide and service commissions set out in the City's Commissioning Work Plan and pays particular attention to:
- Transition planning for young people with a disability
 - Evaluation of the Single Homeless and Integrated Support Pathway and related services
 - Review of local homelessness strategies to create one overarching strategy from the existing Single Homeless, Youth Homeless and Homelessness strategies
 - Changes to the Housing Allocation Policy
 - Publication of local guidance following changes to Homelessness Duty in the private rented sector as part of the Localism Bill
 - Implementation of the Commissioning Strategy for services, assessments and placements for looked after children and children and the Children's Services Value for Money programme
 - Implementation of the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Services to Young People
- 3.3 Dates for the final stages of the project are being identified. It is anticipated that a final strategy will be ready for agreement by the relevant committee before the end of July 2012.
- 3.4. Activity to date includes:
- Scope of the commission (see above): agreed with officers from across the council and with relevant external stakeholders
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): in final draft at the time of writing following:
 - National and local policy review, analysis of data and benchmarking of good practice
 - Meeting with local providers and a joint consultation event with West Sussex County Council for providers and other stakeholders
 - A Challenge Meeting with relevant officers from across the council
 - Consultation with young people
- 3.5. Next steps: a commissioning strategy, based on the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the JSNA, will be drafted for:
- Further discussion with key stakeholders
 - Public consultation, including with young people
 - Presentation to relevant committee for agreement by end of July 2012

- 3.5 At the time of writing the conclusions and recommendations of the JSNA have not been finalised and therefore a verbal report will be made to the Committee. Key issues for consideration by commissioners are expected to include:
- Creation of a dedicated referral and assessment pathway for 16-18 year olds
 - Consolidation of the council's commissioning and budget arrangements
 - Addressing key gaps in service and/or opportunities to improve outcomes through different models of provision e.g. supported accommodation and/or lodgings for 16-18 year olds

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 See paragraph 3.3. above. The review meets the requirements of council's commissioning framework which includes engagement of stakeholders including service users.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations of this report. Pending the outcome of this review and any resultant restructuring of current services a detailed budgeting exercise would need to be undertaken to ensure that any new provision agreed as part of the proposal is fully funded from existing resources. The current Children's Services budgets that would fall within any restructuring remit are circa £2.5m and the report author has been fully briefed on the detailed make up of this figure. Any potential impact on Housing resources would also need to be identified and taken into account in any future proposals.

Finance Officer Consulted: Brian Mcgonigle

Date: 10 April 2012

5.2 Legal Implications:

The Local Authority has duties to children in need in its area, which can include providing accommodation. A child with a disability is by definition a child in need. Further, there are continuing duties to young people formerly "looked after" by the Local Authority under the Leaving Care legislation, which can also include housing. In some circumstances a "former relevant child" aged between 18 and 21 may be owed a duty by the Local Authority to provide accommodation. The Council therefore needs to ensure that its' Allocations policy properly reflects these duties to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach by both Children's Services and Housing. This in turn will need to be reflected in the final Youth Homelessness Strategy.

Lawyer Consulted: Hilary Priestley

Date: 10 April 2012

5.3 Equalities Implications:

This report provides an update on the service commission, Housing for Vulnerable Young People and does not have immediate equalities implications. The completed JSNA and commissioning strategy will address equalities implications.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:
See above.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:
See above.

5.6 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:
See above.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:
See above.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None