

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 September 2016

Housing Provision for Care Leavers Recommendations of the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

2.1. That the committee recommends to Cabinet that:

- 1) The recommendations set out in the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report in respect of housing for care leavers be endorsed, and
- 2) This Council's response to the recommendations be approved and conveyed to the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Steering Group.

3. Background

- 3.1. As part of its commitment to undertake joint scrutiny in West Sussex the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Group agreed to set up a Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of the current policy of housing provision for care leavers in West Sussex.
- 3.2. Each Council in West Sussex was represented by a Councillor with Chichester District Council's representative being Councillor Norma Graves.
- 3.3. The Task and Finish Group considered information from a number of sources including service users and has made twelve recommendations. Each district and borough council has been requested to endorse the recommendations.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the recommendations of the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish and endorses them.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. The report of the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group is attached at Appendix 1 and the recommendations are set out in Appendix 2 along with a narrative indicating how the Council's current policies and procedures meet the requirements of the recommendations. The report that forms Appendix 1 and the narrative in Appendix 2 have been discussed with and agreed by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning.
- 5.2. It is considered that if the recommendations set out in the report of the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group are implemented they will lead to an improved level of service to care leavers when they are seeking settled accommodation.
- 5.3. The implementation of the recommendations will not require the Council to change any of its existing policies and procedures because they are compliant with the recommendations. The Council works to prevent homelessness and to provide clients with a wide range of options. The implementation of the Joint Protocol for Housing Provision for Care Leavers should ensure that we can work with them from an earlier stage and thus increase the available housing options.

6. Resource and legal implications

- 6.1. There are no financial or legal implications because there are no changes necessary to existing policies and procedures as a result of endorsing the recommendations.

7. Community impact and corporate risks

- 7.1. There is a positive community impact because the housing needs of care leavers will better met county wide if the recommendations are fully implemented.
- 7.2. There are no corporate risks associated with endorsing the recommendations of the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

8. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder:		✓
Climate Change:		✓
Human Rights and Equality Impact:		✓
Safeguarding:		✓

9. Appendices

- 9.1. Appendix 1 - Housing Provision for Care Leavers Scrutiny Review - Report by the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group
- 9.2. Appendix 2 - Recommendations of the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group with comments on current policy at Chichester District Council