Chichester District Council

THE CABINET   **4 October 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. The Cabinet is requested to:

1) Endorse the recommendations set out in the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report, which forms Appendix 1, in respect of housing for care leavers, and

2) Approve this Council's response to the recommendations, as set out in Appendix 2, so that they may be 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 Steering Group (WSJSSG) agreed to set up a Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group (TFG) 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 TFG 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 Cabinet considers the recommendations of the TFG and endorses them. If the recommendations of the TFG are implemented the housing provision for people leaving care will improve significantly.

5. Proposal

5.1. The report of the TFG 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 TFG 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 TFG.

8. Consultation

8.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2016 considered this report and have made recommendations to Cabinet at 2.1. It is a requirement of the Terms of Reference of the WSJSSG that recommendations from joint district/borough task and finish groups should be approved by each council's executive.

9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder		✔
Climate Change		✔
Human Rights and Equality Impact		✔
Safeguarding		✔
Other (please specify) eg biodiversity		✔

10. Appendices

10.1. Appendix 1 - Housing Provision for Care Leavers Scrutiny Review - Report by the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

10.2. Appendix 2 - Recommendations of the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group with comments on current policy at Chichester District Council