

Guildhall Gainsborough
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA
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AGENDA

This meeting will be webcast live and the video archive published on our website

**Prosperous Communities Committee
Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber - The Guildhall**

Members:

- Councillor Owen Bierley (Chairman)
- Councillor John McNeill (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Stephen Bunney
- Councillor Liz Clews
- Councillor Christopher Darcel
- Councillor Michael Devine
- Councillor Jane Ellis
- Councillor Mrs Cordelia McCartney
- Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne
- Councillor Jaime Oliver
- Councillor Roger Patterson
- Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings
- Councillor Jim Snee
- Councillor Trevor Young

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Public Participation

Up to 15 minutes are allowed for public participation. Participants are restricted to 3 minutes each.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(TO FOLLOW)

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on Tuesday 1 November, 2022.

4. **Matters Arising Schedule** (PAGES 3 - 4)
Setting out current position of previously agreed actions as at 28 November 2022
5. **Members' Declarations of Interest**
Members may make any declarations at this point but may also make them at any time during the course of the meeting.
6. **Public Reports**
- i) Response to Motion - Street Lighting in West Lindsey (PAGES 5 - 11)
 - ii) Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 (PAGES 12 - 69)
 - iii) Voluntary & Community Sector Grants (PAGES 70 - 89)
 - iv) Community Grants Programme (PAGES 90 - 98)
 - v) Workplan (PAGES 99 - 100)

Ian Knowles
Head of Paid Service
The Guildhall
Gainsborough

Monday, 28 November 2022

Prosperous Communities Matters Arising Schedule

Purpose:

To consider progress on the matters arising from previous Prosperous Communities Committee meetings.

Recommendation: That members note progress on the matters arising and request corrective action if necessary.

Matters Arising Schedule

Status	Title	Action Required	Comments	Due Date	Allocated To
Black	Managing Flood Risk in West Lindsey - twice yearly reporting to OS Cttee	Extract from Mins of Mtg 19/7/22 Reassurance in the area would be provided to the wider Member cohort through a twice-yearly report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Please ensure these reports are programmed into the O and S Forward Plan at appropriate times Clerk to ensure these become annual items for inclusion in O and S Workplan ES 14/11/22: plotted into O&S workplan for March 2022 and September / March meetings thereon	31/10/22	Ady Selby
Black	Additional Info re DFGs	To send info to Members as to whether the withdrawal of discretionary grants has impacted timescales.	Email sent with relevant details 8 November 2022	30/11/22	Claire Bailey
Black	Additional info re empty houses	To send info to Members re numbers of empty houses as figures in addition to percentages in the report	Email sent with relevant details 8 Nov 2022	30/11/22	Claire Bailey
Black	Member Flood and Drainage Working Group - Confirmed Membership	Extract from Mins of Mtg held on 19/7/22 the establishment of a Member Flood and Drainage Working Group be approved, and delegated authority be granted to the Director of Commercial and Operational Services, in consultation with the Chairman of Prosperous Communities and the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to determine the membership thereof;	Please advise democratic services in due course of the confirmed membership in order that records can be maintained and cllrs pages updated accordingly. Membership informed / updated	31/10/22	Ady Selby
Black	Selective Licensing Workshop to inform report due in November 22	Extract from mins of mtg 19/7/22 workshops to be held in September/October 2022 in line with the content of the report approved at PC Cttee on 19 July	Please arrange and deliver workshops as agreed in order to report back to PC Cttee in November - again as agreed. AG 13/9/22: Workshops scheduled for 27/9/22 and have been postponed due to councillor commitments and resource pressures. Revised timetable to be produced for this. Report likely to be scheduled for December PCC meeting. AG 1/11/22: Workshops scheduled for 7/12/22. Report moved to January Prosperous Communities Committee.	08/12/22	Andy Gray
Green	Further Education Task Force - future reporting	Extract from mins of mtg 19/7/22 (b) a quarterly update report from the Further Education	Please ensure these reports are added to the Work Plan for PC Cttee	31/12/22	Grant White

		Taskforce be received by the Prosperous Communities Committee on a quarterly basis;			
Green	Further Education Taskforce-Membership	Extract from mins of mtg 19/7/22 the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities, in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee seek nominations for representatives to serve on the Further Education Taskforce, in line with the agreed terms of reference, including the appointment of Councillor Mrs L Rollings made during the meeting.	Please let democratic services know in due course the confirmed membership of this Taskforce in order that records and cllrs pages can be kept up to-date. Please note the amendments that were agreed to the terms of ref (detailed in mins and shared via e-mail)	31/12/22	Sally Grindrod-Smith
Green	Parking Strategy - Future considerations	Extract from mins of meeting 19/7/22 "the Parking Strategy be refreshed within 3 years and to include detailed proposals on opportunities to "green" the Strategy". and "the Council considers opportunities to "green" its Car Parks during the next three years, and proposals be brought forward to the appropriate committee where necessary."	These are much longer term proposals - logged here so not lost -	01/07/25	David Kirkup
Green	Parking Strategy - Future Considerations	Extract from mins of meeting 19/7/22 Motor Home and Coach Parking did not appear within the Action Plan and it was suggested that this should possibly be reconsidered, at some point in the future. Having formal coach parking, it was considered, would strengthen and encourage the Visitor Economy aspirations and again better align the offer with the future aspirations for the District. Many Members spoke in support of including Motorhome and Coach Parking provision as part of the District offer, being of the strong belief this was a fundamental part of any Visitor Economy, particularly given the rural nature of the District.	Much longer term action but logged here so not lost - can be removed if more appropriate	01/07/25	Sally Grindrod-Smith



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday, 6 December 2022

Subject: Response to Motion - Street Lighting in West Lindsey

Report by:

Leader of the Council

Contact Officer:

Ady Selby
Director of Commercial & Operational Services

ady.selby@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

A response to a Motion to Council on 28 June 2021 regarding street lighting in West Lindsey

RECOMMENDATION(S): Prosperous Communities Committee notes the response to the Motion to Council made on 28 June 2021 regarding street lighting in West Lindsey

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: No implications from this report

Financial : No implications from this report

Staffing : No implications from this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : As there is no proposal for any change, there will be no implications from this report

Data Protection Implications : No implications from this report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: As there is no proposal for any change, there will be no implications from this report. Lincolnshire County Council report that to date, the policy of part-night operation of street lights has saved around 6,200 tonnes of CO2.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: The LCC Scrutiny Review referred to in the report identifies that turning off the street lights for night time periods may have impacted on the fear of crime rather than actual rates of recorded crime. They have therefore introduced a protocol for Town and Parish Councils to apply to pay to have lights turned back on. To date, only four lights in Lincolnshire have been turned back on with no other outstanding applications.

Health Implications: As there is no proposal for any change, there will be no implications from this report

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

x

1 Introduction

1.1 On 28 June 2021 a Motion was made to Council proposing that;

(a) The Leader of the Council to commence robust discussions with leading Members of the County Council with a view to seeking the re-introduction of street lighting in parts of West Lindsey, particularly into those communities we ourselves have deemed to be vulnerable;

and

(b) the Leader feed back to this Council, by way of reporting to Prosperous Communities the outcome of these discussions, potential options which could be investigated and their associated costs.

2. Update

2.1 A written approach was made to the Leader and relevant portfolio holder of LCC requesting further discussion on this matter in August 2021. This was followed up with further requests in July and August 2022.

2.2 A written response was received from Councillor Davies on 25 August 2022.

2.3 The response started by reiterating the financial and environmental reasons for turning off lights during the early hours of each morning.

2.4 It went on to state that Lincolnshire County Council had worked with the Police and found no demonstrable increase in crime across the county and that, despite a couple of specific requests from Police, there was no general request from them to turn lights back on.

2.5 The response then referred to a scrutiny review which included consultation with police, the general public and other stakeholders. This review concluded that there was no demonstrable link with changes in crime levels; in some areas, crime had reduced.

2.6 The Scrutiny Review also found that the introduction of part-night lighting impacted the fear of crime, as opposed to actual crime. In response, LCC have introduced a protocol by which Parish and Town Councils can pay for the conversion of lights to all-night operation. The protocol can be found at Appendix 1.

2.7 LCC state that this demonstrates that they have re-considered the position. However, to date, only four lights in the county have been converted to all-night lighting at the expense of other authorities, and no other requests are pending.

2.8 In conclusion, it is not the role of West Lindsey to decide on street lighting provision in its area. Town and Parish Councils should decide whether they wish to reintroduce all-night street lighting and if so, they should apply through the agreed Lincolnshire County Council protocol.

LCC STREET LIGHTING POLICY – ANNEX 1 January 2019

PROTOCOL FOR REVERSAL OF PART NIGHT LIGHTING

Stage 1 – Request

- 1.1 Requests shall be made by email to streetlighting@lincolnshire.gov.uk and copied to the local County Councillor.
Requests shall only be considered direct from Parish Councils or, where there is no Parish Council, the equivalent precept-issuing authority.
- 1.2 Requests received from any other source will be returned to the requester, who will be directed to the Parish Council or equivalent precept-issuing authority.
- 1.3 Requests shall only be considered for reversal of part-night lighting for all lights on the complete length of any named street.
- 1.4 Requests shall be accompanied by:
 - A plan (map) showing the location and number of part-night lights to which the request applies (NB this shall be for all lights on the complete length of any named street)
 - A list of the column numbers on the complete length of the named street(s)
 - A clear statement as to whether the reversal is requested to be done:
 - as part of LCC's routine maintenance programme (published on the County Council's website), in which case a complete and correct request must be received at least three months in advance of the programmed routine maintenance
 - or outside the routine maintenance programme, in which case a complete and correct request must be received with at least eight weeks' notice to the preferred completion date of works (NB see below regarding cost implications)
 - A statement that the requesting authority:
 - has taken into account the views of all residents, businesses etc. affected by the request
 - will respond to all future enquiries in relation to the reversal
 - has funding in place and available for the reversal
 - An Equality Impact Assessment , demonstrating that the request has taken into consideration the impact on persons with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

Stage 2 – Validation and Consideration of Request

- 2.1 The Street Lighting team will validate that the request is complete with all correct accompaniments, from the appropriate authority, meets the requirements of this Protocol and in particular paragraph 1.3 and evidences appropriate consideration of the impacts on people with a protected characteristics.
- 2.2 Where the request is complete and meets the requirements of paragraph 2.1 above , the Street Lighting team will consider whether the required notice periods have been met by the requester:
 - At least three months in advance of routine maintenance or
 - At least eight weeks for reversals requested to be done outside of routine maintenance
- 2.3 Where the request is not complete or does not meet any of the requirements of paragraph 2.1 above, or where the notice periods have not been met, then the request will be returned to the requester, highlighting where it is deficient, and copied to the local County Councillor. Otherwise the request will proceed to implementation, subject to paragraph 3.4.

Stage 3 – Costs and Payment

- 3.1 The one-off cost per light for reversal as part of routine maintenance is £150, irrespective of the existing equipment in place.
- 3.2 The one-off cost per light for reversal outside of routine maintenance is £300, irrespective of the existing equipment in place.
- 3.3 The requesting authority will be invoiced by the County Council with sufficient time for the payment to be made in advance of the reversal taking place.
- 3.4 Where payment is not received in advance of the reversal taking place, the reversal may be cancelled and the requesting authority additionally invoiced for any abortive costs.

Stage 4 – Implementation

- 4.1 The Street Lighting team will place an order through its term maintenance contractor to either:
 - Include the reversal as part of the routine maintenance programme
 - Carry out the reversal outside of routine maintenance, as additional work outside of normal workload, so as not to interrupt the routine maintenance programme
- 4.2 On completion of the reversal, the requesting authority will be notified by the Street Lighting team.

Agenda Item 6b



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

**Tuesday, 6th December
2022**

Subject: Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027

Report by:

Assistant Director Homes and Communities

Contact Officer:

Sarah Elvin
Homes, Health and Wellbeing Team Manager
sarah.elvin@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

Adoption of the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. Members recognise and note the achievements Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2021 detailed within the review**
- 2. Members adopt the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 and note the mechanism for monitoring of the Strategy**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all local authorities to complete a homelessness review and have a Homelessness Strategy.

[Chapter 2: Homelessness strategies and reviews - Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-strategies-and-reviews)

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/105/23/SJB

None arising from this report.

The authority has received a ring-fenced Homelessness Prevention Grant of £179,542 in 2022/23 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

(N.B.) All committee reports **MUST** have a Fin Ref

Staffing : None

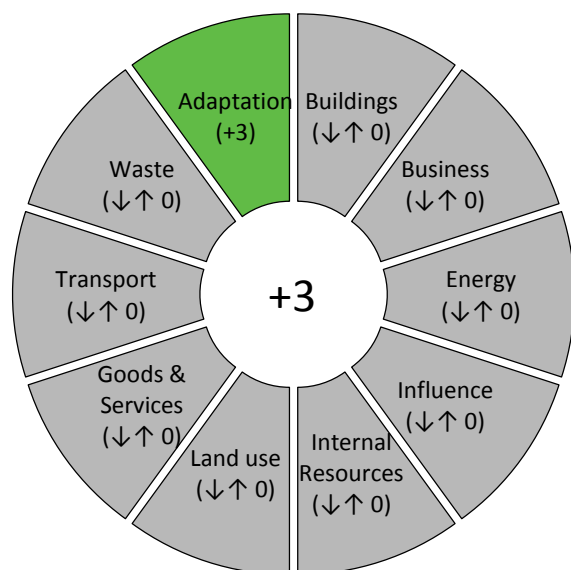
(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Equality Impact assessment attached at appendix 4

Data Protection Implications : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :



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West Lindsey District Council will be net zero by 2050 (27 years and 2 months away).

Homelessness services and in turn the way in which these services are planned for through the strategy will need to take account of the risks around increased flooding on the councils duty to accommodate people who cannot remain in their homes due to flooding.

The strategy advocates the use of SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) which extends homelessness duties to accommodate when enacted. SWEP is enacted in West Lindsey when people who would be sleeping rough are even more vulnerable due to extreme weather conditions.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations : None

Health Implications:

The right home environment is essential to good health and wellbeing throughout life. Our homes are the foundations upon which we can build happy, successful and prosperous lives. Warm, safe and secure homes enable us to lead healthy, independent lives and to recover from illness.

Having adequate support in place for people when they are homeless, which is often their most vulnerable time in their lives, is critical to ensuring that good health and wellbeing can be maintained. Through evidenced research, the strategy aims to ensure any gaps in provision to support people who are homeless is in place which will then give people the opportunity to thrive in their lives.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2021
<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/housing-homelessness/homelessness/lincolnshire-homelessness-strategy>

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

x

No

1. Background

- 1.1. The Homelessness Act 2002 requires that all Local Authorities carry out a review of homelessness in their areas, formulate and publish a strategy based on the findings of this review, keep the strategy under review and consult with other local or public authorities and voluntary organisations before modifying or adopting a strategy.
- 1.2. The strategy should:
 - Assess the levels of homelessness now, and the factors likely to impact on future levels of homelessness
 - Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available for people who are, or may become, homeless
 - Provide services that help to prevent people becoming homeless
 - Ensure that through effective partnerships, support services can be accessed for those people who are, or who may become, homeless – or to prevent them from becoming homeless again
 - Promote a cultural change so that homelessness is viewed in a wider context than just lack of accommodation
- 1.3. To allow us to form a collective and robust approach to homelessness, we have incorporated our Rough Sleeper Strategy into this this document as opposed to having a separate document.
- 1.4. The districts across Lincolnshire have a successful history of working collaboratively to address homelessness. This strategy builds on the previous countywide strategy and informs of the current position and challenges for homelessness across the County. It sets out the priorities and actions that together aim to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping across Lincolnshire.

2. Developing the strategy

- 2.1 A consultation was completed throughout the development of the strategy which involved a wide range of stakeholders including, LCC, third sector organisations and DLUHC. A review of the previous strategy provided a basis on which the new strategy could be formulated along with stakeholder comments from the consultation. The review document can be found at appendix 1
- 2.2 A series of focus groups and one-to-one meetings ensured the views of our stakeholders were captured into order to highlight the challenges we face together and ideas to resolve them.
- 2.3 Lead homelessness officers for each district were consulted on the final draft before going out to public consultation. A total of 22 responses were received to the consultation and a collective response from Lincolnshire County Council. The comments shaped the final version and further details can be found in the summary document at appendix 2.

3. Priorities

- 3.1 The strategy demonstrates that we are committed to the Governments vision that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring.
- 3.2 Building on the successes of the last strategy and taking account of new challenges the new priorities for the next 5 years will be:
1. **Prevent** – identify those that are at risk of becoming homeless as early as possible and through the Duty to Refer work with them to prevent homelessness or rough sleeping
 2. **Protect** – identifying the most vulnerable and ensuring individuals are safe from harm, and have access to the support and services to maintain their health and wellbeing
 3. **Partnerships** – strengthen and maintain relationships to bring together resources and knowledge to prevent and relieve homelessness
 4. **Place** – ensure accommodation is both available and suitable for those that need it and explore opportunities to increase the supply of accommodation
 5. **Plan** – take a proactive and joined up approach to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness and explore funding opportunities to ensure we meet the needs of all client groups
- 3.3 These priorities have been chosen to reflect the issues highlighted through the consultation process with our stakeholders and the challenges we face going forward. A full version of the final strategy document can be found at appendix 3

4. Pathways

- 4.1 There are many people that can experience or be threatened with homelessness in their lifetime all of which will have different reasons and situations. Whilst each person approaching the council as homeless – or at risk of homelessness receives a personal housing plan specific to their needs, the strategy identifies the main groups of people that seek our help and support;
- Single people
 - Families
 - Rough sleepers
 - Those with complex and/or specific needs
 - Priority groups at risk
- 4.2 Identifying the main barriers that these groups are facing in accessing housing allows us to develop approaches that ensure our services offer a tailored and consistent approach across the county. These pathways

are detailed in the strategy.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 The strategy will be reviewed annually by both the Strategic Homelessness Group represented by all district's councils and the Lincs Housing Partnerships Manager.
- 5.2 Each priority will have an action group responsible for the delivery of the ambitions and each will create a detailed implementation plan.
- 5.3 Representatives of the action groups will include the District Councils, Lincolnshire County Council, housing providers, voluntary sector and health professionals who will work collaboratively.
- 5.4 The action groups will be coordinated by the Lincolnshire Homelessness Partnership group made up of all representatives, organisations and individuals involved in the delivery of homelessness services across the County.
- 5.5 Progress on the actions from the implementation plans will be reported to and monitored through the Lincolnshire Housing and Health Network which in turn reports on progress to the Housing Health and Care Delivery Group. West Lindsey is represented on this group, which is a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, by the Assistant Director for Homes and Communities and the Leader of the Council.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. Members recognise and note the achievements Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2021 detailed within the review**
- 6.2. Members adopt the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 and note the mechanism for monitoring of the Strategy**

Review of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021



Introduction

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires that all Local Authorities carry out a review of homelessness in their areas, formulate and publish a strategy based on the findings of this review, keep this strategy under review and consult with other local or public authorities and voluntary organisations before modifying or adopting a strategy.

Under section 2(1) of the 2002 Homelessness Act a homelessness review means a assessment by the local housing authority of:

- a) The levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness in their district;
- b) The activities which are carried out for any of the following purposes (or which contribute to achieving any of them):
 - i) Preventing homelessness in the housing authority's district;
 - ii) Securing accommodation that is or will be available for people in the district who are or may become homeless; and
 - iii) Providing support for people in the district: – who are or may become homeless; or – who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.
- c) The resources available to the housing authority, the social services authority for the district, other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for the activities outlined in (b) above.

The Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy published in November 2017 is a joint strategy across the seven district councils (Boston, East Lindsey, Lincoln, North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven and West Lindsey.) The strategy was endorsed by Lincolnshire County Council as a commitment to join working. By having a joint strategy, we could work in partnership to achieve our priorities and pool resources for countywide projects.

This Homelessness Strategy Review provides a snapshot of the people who have approached us for help during the lifespan of the Strategy. It considers what we have achieved, the pathways and partnerships that we have in place, and feedback from our stakeholders. This will inform our priorities and objectives for the new Homelessness Strategy.

We can evidence progress statistically using H-CLiC return data, but we also have qualitative data that was collated through a stakeholder survey. In partnership there have been many achievements over the last 5 years including:

- The countywide introduction of the Duty to Refer including the production of the Lincolnshire Prison protocol.
- The response to Covid-19 Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate government initiatives to ensure rough sleepers were protected across the county, a total of 215 individuals were accommodated.
- A decrease in rough sleeping by over 50% over the last 2 years.
- A successful bid for government funding for 3 Rough Sleeper Initiative Projects that are working well across the county.

- Implemented the Housing Reduction Act preventing over 14,000 households becoming homeless over the last 5 years across the county.
- Delivered the ACTion Lincs project to provide long term life changing support for an identified group of vulnerable and complex need rough sleepers, across the county using Housing First principles.

National picture

Over the last six years we have seen the introduction of new government policy and initiatives for rough sleepers throughout the pandemic.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) was the first major piece of homelessness legislation that was introduced in 15 years. The Act places new duties on local authorities to help prevent and relieve homelessness. It is designed to provide support for anyone threatened with homelessness.

Key measures include:

- Extending the period during which an authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days.
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.
- A new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants, regardless of priority need. This help could be, for example, the provision of a rent deposit or debt advice.

- A new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The “Everyone In” initiative prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic accommodated over 37,000 individuals experiencing or at risk of rough sleeping between March 2020 and January 2021 across the UK. This early response is calculated to have prevented substantial numbers of COVID-19 infections, hospitalisations, and deaths among the target cohort. Substantial reductions in rough sleeping of 37% and radically reduced reliance on the use of night shelters were also achieved as a result.

The pandemic response also improved joint working between the homelessness and health sectors. The Protect and Vaccinate initiative prompted by the Plan B restrictions gave £24.9m to support all local authorities across England to find appropriate accommodation for people sleeping rough and boosting vaccination rates across this vulnerable population.

A further £3.2m was made available to encourage the uptake of vaccination amongst people sleeping rough and others at risk in the single homeless cohort.

Partnerships

District councils along with the county council, housing providers, Probation Service, voluntary and community sector and health professionals work together across the sector. Through the network and strategy group many successful initiatives have been implemented. Many partnerships underpin this wider network ensuring a robust approach to tackling the challenges the county faces together. The district councils are committed to ensuring partnerships are effective through attendance of many groups as detailed below:

Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary sector plays a vital role in supporting rough sleepers across the county as well as supporting those that could be at risk of homelessness through the provision of support, accommodation in some areas, day centers, food and clothing provisions, showers and food banks. In severe weather the sector provides accommodation in some areas and provisions, to ensure rough sleepers are not at risk of harm during the inclement days.

Many charitable organisations across the county provide specific support for those experiencing a crisis or mental health issues, that could be related to their housing situation or could lead to them being threatened with homelessness. The district councils work closely with the sector to refer individuals to access support and respond to those signposted to them for advice on their housing situation.

Housing Related Support (HRS)

Housing Related Support is commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council and delivered by the Lincolnshire Housing Related Support Partnership led by Framework Housing.

The Partnership delivers short term Housing Related Support interventions to vulnerable people who are either homeless or threatened with homelessness, with the aim of improving their health and wellbeing, and enabling them to sustain their own tenancy and live independently.

The service is targeted at the most vulnerable and eligibility is assessed through a triage form with a minimum threshold to access support. The triage form includes questions regarding physical health, mental health, risk to self and others, substance misuse and support network.

Support is tailored to individual needs and delivered by either floating support or accommodation-based support depending on the service user's housing circumstances and needs. Accommodation-based support is supplied by the provider and includes self-contained units in hostel accommodation and dispersed 2 and 3 bed houses.

Only district council housing teams can make referrals to Housing Related Support. Other agencies wishing to refer an individual to Housing Related Support must notify the relevant district council that they are aware of someone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness (this may be part of their Duty to Refer) and the housing team will refer as appropriate.

Rough Sleepers Initiatives (RSI's)

There are 3 Rough Sleeping Initiatives covering all of Lincolnshire mainly funded by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), working to relieve and prevent rough sleeping. One RSI covers Lincoln, the second East Lindsey and Boston and the third, Change 4 Lincs, covers West Lindsey, South Kesteven, North Kesteven and South Holland hosted by South Kesteven. All have a designated team that works closely within their district council areas, but also across the county as often rough sleeper migrate to other districts.

The service targets those not in priority need that may not have qualified for assistance before the introduction of the initiative. The aim is to identify and help new and existing rough sleepers to access suitable accommodation as soon as possible, as well as helping people who are at risk of sleeping rough.

Outreach services provide help and advice to those who are rough sleeping and homeless and to those who may be at risk of becoming homeless through:

- Referrals to partner agencies or support groups
- Providing details of faith groups and charities
- Help completing housing applications
- Help and advice to find accommodation
- Wellbeing and physical health support
- Help with life skills

Through the creation of person-centered holistic support plans to address barriers and build skills individuals can work towards independent living.

Care Leavers and Young People

Under a contract agreement Nacro Lincolnshire provide supported accommodation that can be accessed by homeless young people aged 16-17 and for care leavers up to 21 years. The service supports around 70 young people at any one time helping to prevent homelessness and supporting the councils with more complex care leaver cases. They offer long term support to young people who the district councils may struggle to support and to aid a smooth transition into accommodation.

The Youth Homelessness and Care Leavers Protocol sets out the working arrangements for Nacro, the district councils and children's services to support young people and care leavers who need advice and assistance. The aim being to support these young people to live semi- independently.

Prison Leavers

The Lincolnshire Prison Release Protocol is an agreement between all Lincolnshire Housing Authorities, the prison and the probation service.

The aims of the protocol are to contribute towards the government's aims of ensuring that at least 90% of people are in accommodation upon release from prison and that at least 80% of people are in settled accommodation either three months after their release or upon receipt of a community sentence. Prison leavers who will be homeless upon release are referred to a district council up to 56 days before release, to enable a personal housing plan to be agreed to try and prevent them from becoming homeless.

Domestic Abuse

In partnership with Lincolnshire County Council support and accommodation is available for all those impacted by domestic abuse. Refuge accommodation and dispersed units are available for those fleeing domestic abuse. Providing refuge accommodation has recently become statutory responsibility with funding made available, however, this provision has already been available in Boston, East Lindsey and Lincoln. The dispersed units can be accessed by males experience domestic abuse and also those with larger families and families with older male children who could not previously be supported by the refuge accommodation. Each council attends the MARAC meetings (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) to put plans in place to protect victims and including target hardening on the victims home.

Vulnerable Adults Panel

Multi-agency panels and neighbourhood teams have been established across each district. They enable a joint approach to addressing the needs and risks of vulnerable and/or complex individuals that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The panel/team consider housing options in conjunction with identifying and managing risks.

The Panels/teams are represented by a range of service providers and teams including housing providers, mental health, substance misuse, Prison Service, Fire and Rescue Service, housing benefit, Lincs Police and Lincolnshire Adult Social Care. The model has been successfully providing more holistic and sustainable housing solutions for vulnerable customers, but further improvement is still required.

Team Around the Adult (TAA)

The Team Around the Adult pilot launched in February 2021 and supports the approach offered through the Vulnerable Adults Panel and Neighborhood Teams and work with the particularly complex cases. Usually this is where a more creative approach is required to reach out to people in the community and 'go to them', particularly if they do not wish to engage with services.

The TAA process is overseen by an appointed coordinator, it will involve the appointment of a Lead Professional who will usually be the key worker, to engage with the individual, promote multi-agency working and utilise a shared IT system.

By having a creative multi agency approach towards working with complex cases, the aim is to achieve change where more traditional engagement and intervention methods have not been as successful as anticipated, or change may not have been maintained.

Non-commissioned accommodation

Each council needs to have access to a number of accommodation options to utilise for those that are eligible. Partnerships have been created to enable councils to have their own temporary accommodation either through homeless units owned by the council or a contracted provider.

Move-on accommodation can also be accessed through Framework and its contracted providers in some areas. Private landlords also play a vital role in facilitating access to accommodation and Private Sector Leasing is used in some areas to supplement the supply of

temporary and move on accommodation.

Funded schemes such as Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme and Next Steps Accommodation Programme, has provided the ability to increase the provision of supported accommodation across the county, reducing the need for B&B use. However B&B's are still used regularly as the need for suitable accommodation outweighs the supply.

There are hostels in Lincoln, Boston and Mablethorpe providing provision and services for rough sleepers and other charitable organisations that offer accommodation for specific groups.

Drug and Alcohol Substance Misuse Service

Lincolnshire County Council has a drug and alcohol substance misuse service, and it is widely known that many rough sleepers are substance users. As part of the government's bid to end rough sleeping for good, a Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) has been awarded to Lincolnshire County Council.

The grant will be used to deliver substance misuse treatment services for people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough through an assertive outreach model. This will be delivered by the county's treatment and recovery providers in collaboration with housing, the voluntary sector and district councils.

In addition to evidence-based drug and alcohol treatment, vital wraparound support will be provided to improve access to and engagement with treatment.

HHH

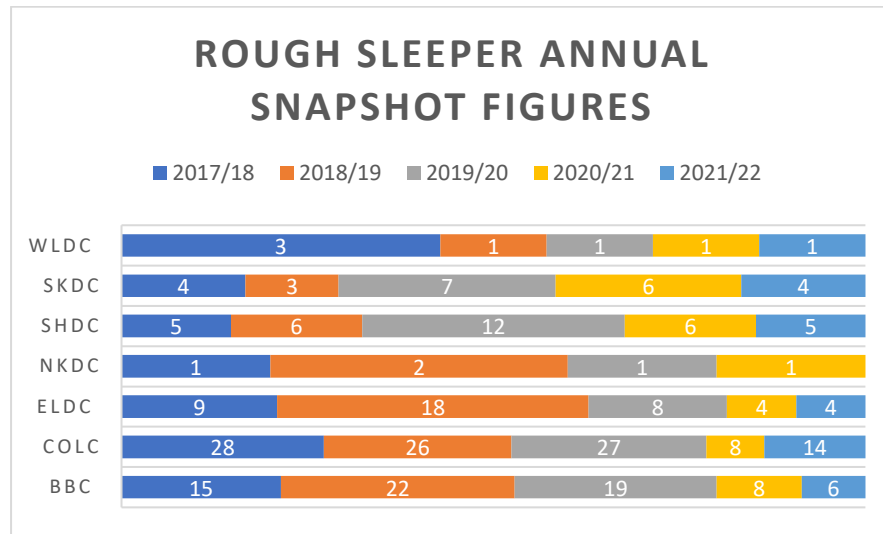
The Holistic Health for Homeless team in Lincoln works with individuals to conduct holistic reviews, and best support individuals with both physical and mental health. The team work alongside other clinicians and practitioners locally to ensure smooth transitions when accessing services. By having this multi-disciplinary team approach both within the small team but also linking to wider stakeholders, has ensured swift and timely responses for the individuals seeking care, reducing buffering between services and disengagement.

The team has evolved and developed since in introduction, reflective to the needs, trends, and themes they have been presented with. There are a range of clinical staff including Mental and Physical Health Practitioners, junior team members, psychiatry and GP support, administration function and a social worker too within the team.

County snapshot of Statistics

Rough sleeping

The number of rough sleepers is always fluctuating and cannot be predicted accurately due to the nature of homelessness and the variety of causes.



Numbers have decreased by over 50% since 2019 showing the success of initiatives to engage with individuals and to access more permanent accommodation and support. Lincoln and Boston have the highest rough sleeper numbers as they are the largest urban areas and have the most services available.

Rough sleeper numbers may be lower in Lincolnshire compared to other counties but still presents a challenge locally, particularly given the rural nature of the county in terms of provision and accessibility of services. The issue, no matter how great needs to be addressed,

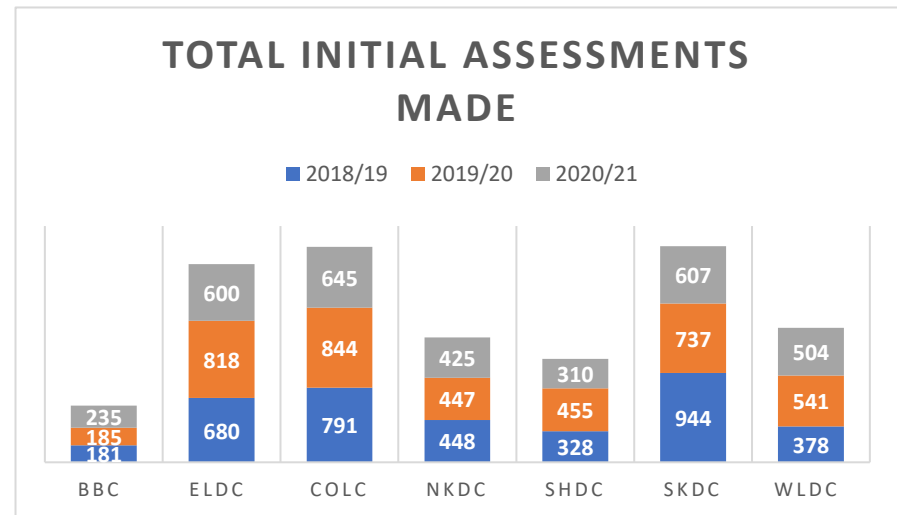
and Lincolnshire has tackled this head on with three rough sleeper initiatives operating across the county.

Rough sleeper projections

Predicting the number of rough sleepers based on reported Rough Sleeper Autumn Count figures is difficult due to data being affected by the pandemic. Based on recent reported figures around 35-40 individuals are expected to be rough sleeping at any one time in Lincolnshire. It is worth noting that if any funding for Rough Sleeper Initiatives and/or partner organisations was reduced or unavailable then rough sleeping numbers would increase.

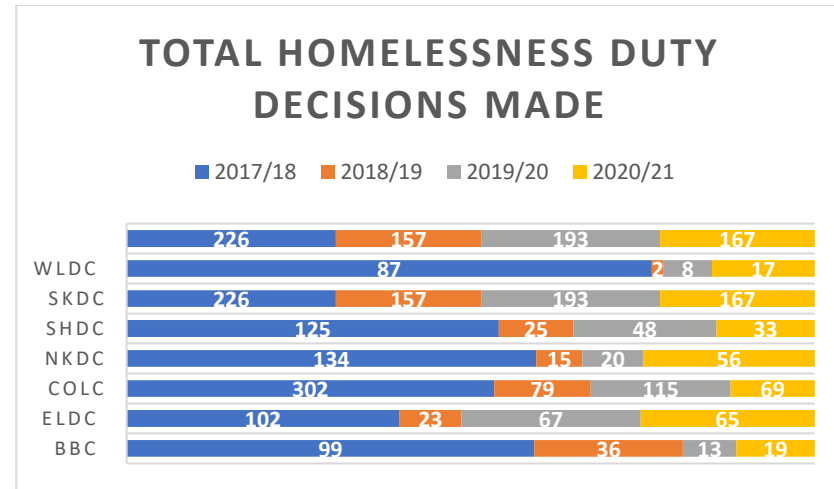
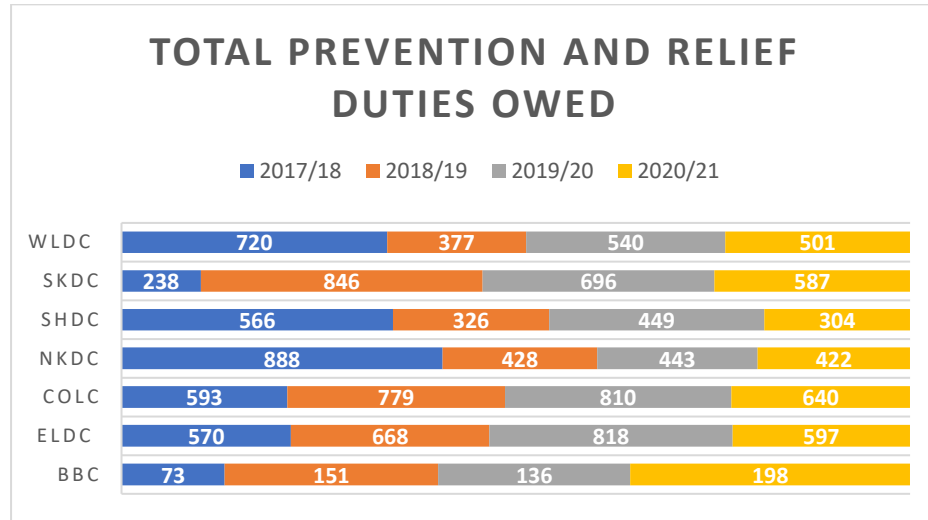
Initial assessments

A total of 11,103 initial assessments were completed between 2018 and 2021 to determine if a duty was owed to those presenting as homeless or threatened with homelessness.



Prevention and Relief of Homelessness

Following those initial assessments 14,364 cases were owed a prevention or relief duty to try and resolve their housing issue.

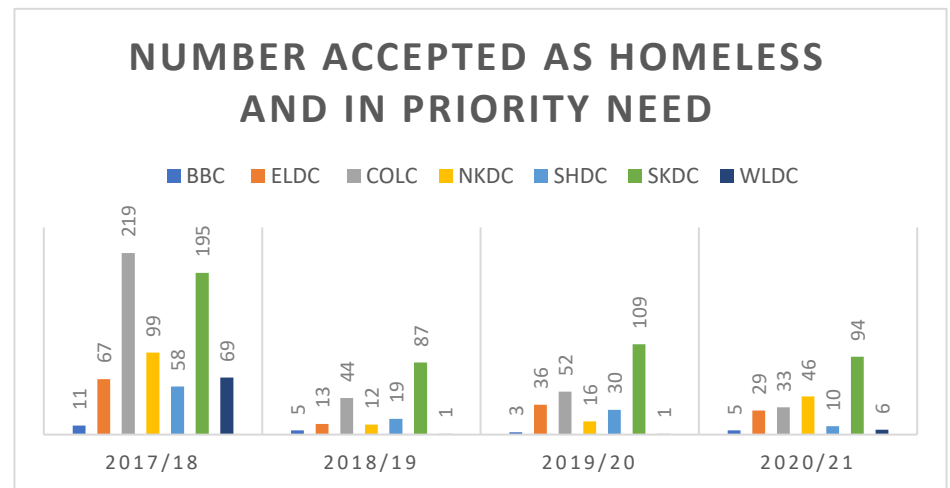


Priority Need

Of those 2,301 cases presenting of homeless 1,369 were accepted as being homeless and in priority need and owed a duty. The number of those accepted as homeless and in priority need has decreased by 31% since 2017 showing the impact of homelessness prevention.

Homelessness Duty Decisions

For those whose housing situation could not be resolved by prevention or relief duties, 2,301 cases were assessed to determine an acceptance of homelessness. This shows the impact prevention duties are making as only 16% of cases did not have their housing issue resolved by a prevention or relief duty, resulting in them presenting as homeless. The number of duty decisions made have also reduced by a quarter over the 4 year period further demonstrating the impact of prevention and relief duties.



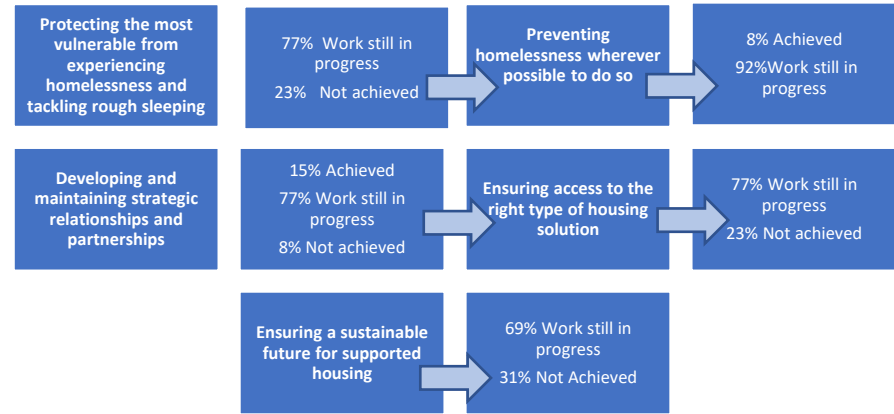
Strategy Priorities

The strategy had five main priorities to focus on:

Priority One: Protect	Protecting the most vulnerable from experiencing homelessness including tackling rough sleeping.
Priority Two: Prevent	Preventing homelessness wherever possible to do so.
Priority Three: Partnership	Developing and maintaining strategic relationships and partnerships.
Priority Four: Place	Ensuring access to the right type of housing solution.
Priority Five: Possibility	Ensuring a sustainable future for supported housing.

Achievements over the last 5 years on the priorities

We asked stakeholders to rate the progress on the five priorities, the graphic overleaf shows the results. It needs to be noted that due to the nature of homelessness and rough sleeping the priorities above will never be 100% achieved. However, it is useful to gauge the progress that has been made and highlight areas to focus on going forward.



The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017 came into effect on 3rd April 2018 changing the way services are provided to homeless people by imposing a duty to prevent and relieve homelessness. This is reflected by the feedback as being the priority that has been rated as having the most progress on.

Developing partnerships is another factor rated highly but the pandemic halted some groups meeting which could account for the not achieved responses. Protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring access to housing received the same ratings showing that there is still work to be completed. Increasing the provision and longevity of supported housing remains a challenge across the county, so it is expected that this priority has been rated as having the most progress still to achieve.

In terms of projects and actions that have been achieved over the last 5 years under each of the priorities there have been many successes including:

Protect

- ✓ A decrease in rough sleeping by over 50% over the last 2 years
- ✓ Successful bid for government funding for 3 Rough Sleeper Initiative Projects that are working well across the county.
- ✓ Introduced a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol to provide emergency assistance for rough sleepers when weather conditions pose a risk to health.
- ✓ Increased the provision of single persons accommodation to improve housing options.
- ✓ During the pandemic a total of 215 rough sleepers were accommodated through the Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate schemes
- ✓ Partners across the county system, went to great lengths to maximise take up of the Covid-19 vaccine amongst the homeless cohort. HRS staff helped facilitate, promote, and encourage their service users to attend drop-ins too.
- ✓ Enabled all rough sleepers to have a postcode so that they can access post and the ability to setup a bank account
- ✓ Introduction of the Lincs Prison Protocol to ensure prison leavers have safe and suitable accommodation on release.
- ✓ Provision of Hospital and Housing Link Workers.
- ✓ Referring the most vulnerable to multi agency groups to ensure they can access the support they need.

Prevent

- ✓ Over 10,000 households prevented from becoming homeless over the last five years across Lincolnshire.
- ✓ Published a countywide Rough Sleeper Guide to demonstrate how accessible information contributes to homelessness prevention.
- ✓ Implemented the Controlling Migration Fund to allow EEA nationals access to work, who have no recourse to public funds and employed a countywide resettlement worker.
- ✓ Worked with private sector landlords to prevent households become homeless through a range of initiatives.
- ✓ Committed to Team Around the Adult to facilitate a partnership safety net approach for complex adults

✓

Partnership

- ✓ In partnership with LCC and providers implemented the Housing Related Support Service for supported accommodation and floating support for those either homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- ✓ Formed the Homelessness Strategy Partnership to work with housing providers, voluntary and community sector organisations, health professionals and Lincolnshire County Council to deliver together the actions of the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- ✓ Fully engaged an effective Homelessness Cell working group to respond together to Covid-19 Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate government initiatives.
- ✓ Raising awareness of the needs of people who are entrenched in rough sleeping and developing health services to meet their needs through the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Place

- ✓ Implemented countywide processes and protocols to meet Duty to Refer requirements, enabling timely intervention and preventing homelessness.
- ✓ Provided additional units of accommodation through - Housing First, Next Steps Accommodation Programme and the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme.
- ✓ Engaged with rough sleepers whilst being accommodated during the pandemic, supporting them into service provision and more settled housing.

Possibility

- ✓ Submitted a countywide bid for rough sleepers Accommodation Programme funding to provide accommodation for those with complex needs with dedicated support.
- ✓ Delivered the ACTion Lincs project to provide long term life changing support for an identified group of vulnerable and complex need rough sleepers, across the county using Housing First principles.

Looking ahead our challenges

The pandemic took services approach from proactive to reactive focussing on accommodating and protecting rough sleepers and has highlighted the ambition all partners have across the County to work together on the emerging challenges.

Through the consultation process with stakeholders the key challenges the new strategy will need to address include:

- The need to accommodate all rough sleepers across the county has highlighted the shortage of accommodation for single people and those with high support needs who struggle in a hostel environment.
- In offering everyone accommodation the Rough Sleeper Teams have engaged with more individuals and been able to offer support and understand their needs better so service provision can be changed to reflect this.
- An expected increase in both homelessness and rough sleeping as the cost of living continues to increase and people are not able to afford their rent or mortgage.
- Homes for Ukraine scheme may lead to increases in homelessness at the end of the scheme or if relationship with host breaks down.
- Tackling rogue landlords and conditions in the private rented sector.
- More support and provision for prison leavers on release.
- Improve pathways for sofa surfers.
- Ensuring consistency across the councils and open access to those all that present as homelessness especially those with language barriers.

- Getting the right support for people and for the long term not time bound.
- Gaining access to affordable Private Sector Housing.
- Enough provision for those not in priority need.
- Increased access to mental health and substance misuse services.
- Supported accommodation will have little throughput as service users are unable to move to suitable and affordable accommodation.
- Identifying the extent of hidden homelessness to enable access to accommodation and support.

The county is committed to working together on the next joint strategy 2022-2026 which will include the Rough Sleeping Strategy as a separate chapter to ensure workstreams are co-ordinated. Together with other agencies as part of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategic Partnership a new delivery plan will be implemented to further reduce rough sleeping, prevent homelessness and provide accommodation and support to meet the needs across the county. The latest version of the delivery plan from the current strategy can be found on the next page, and remaining actions will be taken forward into the new strategy.

Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy Delivery Plan 2021 - 2022

Priority Number	Title Activity	Activity Summary	Outcome
P1	Implement a county wide process to meet the new requirements of the Duty to Refer under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Develop an action plan that includes communication, information, training needs, protocols, and processes for a county wide approach.	Completed - through Homelessness Strategic Partnership (HSP) and Lincs Prison Release Protocol is in place
P2	Develop online information on how to get help or give help for Homelessness in Lincolnshire	Explore online platform options and implement, providing clear and accessible information on websites.	Completed - information on individual websites
P2	Reduce evictions in social housing/private rented sector.	Collate data, identify issues, and current challenges. Identify existing good practice and make recommendations to the HSP.	Superseded- Embargo on evictions implemented in 2020/21
P3	Reduce rough sleeping	Develop a clear action plan and review pathways to ensure adequate provision and support is available, across the county.	Completed - 3 Rough Sleeper Initiatives have been implemented covering the county.
P3	Deliver the Social Impact Bond project ACTION Lincs	To deliver long term life changing support for an identified group of vulnerable and complex need rough sleepers across the county using Housing First principles.	Completed - project concluded and evaluation report received by University of Lincoln.
P3	Review and improve SWEP provision across the county	Complete a review of existing provision and implement agreed recommendations to improve the co-ordination and provision of severe weather accommodation.	Completed - SWEP protocol published and agreed by all local authorities.
P3	Improve access to health and substance misuse treatment to prevent evictions.	Identify appropriate representation from LPFT for the HSP, liaise with Safeguarding Adult Board to discuss their prevention and early intervention strategy.	Completed - implemented Team Around the Adult (TAA)
P3	Identify opportunities to work with EEA Nationals with no recourse to public funds	Submit a bid to the Controlling Migration Fund for a 'Safe routes to reconnection' service	Completed - bid was successful and project has now concluded
P4	Improved access to private rented accommodation for those on benefits or low incomes	Consider and implement new initiatives that would secure engagement from private sector landlords.	A range of assistance is already in place, but no new initiatives have been implemented.
P4	Understand the need for supported accommodation in the county	Develop a clear evidence base that demonstrates the need for numbers and type of supported housing across the county.	In progress - evidence base to be provided by Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Chapter on Homelessness to be included.



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South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2027

Consultation Summary

Consultation was undertaken between 29/7/2022 - 9/9/2022, with feedback sought from a range of stakeholders, statutory partners, voluntary sector, service users, advocates, etc.

A summary of the responses are detailed below. These comments have been used to shape the final draft of our Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy.

In total 21 responses were received including a collective response from all departments at Lincolnshire County Council involved in the homelessness remit.

Contributors:

- members of the public
- Councillors
- Charity or voluntary organisations
- housing providers
- support providers
- local authorities
- health authority
- government agency
- Advisory Non-departmental Public Body – EM Veterans & Pensions Committee
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary of responses

1. Do you agree with the strategies aim that if homelessness cannot be prevented it should be rare, brief and non-recurring?
 - Agree 19 responses
 - Disagree 2 responses

Respondents that disagreed felt that homelessness can always be prevented and that there are people rough sleeping that don't wished to be housed.

Outcome – wording changed to reflect these observations.

2. The strategy has 5 priorities: Prevent, Protect , Partnerships, Place, Plan

Do you feel that these priorities will contribute to achieving our aim for homelessness to be rare, brief and non-recurring?

- Agree 20 responses

- Disagree 1 response

Respondents that disagreed felt that the priorities needed to be backed up by remedies and clear actions, the priorities prevent and protect needed refining and there is a need to join up resources across the county in respect of joint commissioning.

Outcome – priority descriptions changed to reflect comments and implementation plan will include clear actions and a focus on joint commissioning.

3. Do you agree that the pathways detailed in the strategy in section 10, will ensure each group receives support and assistance tailored to their needs?

- Agree 10 responses
- Disagree 11 responses

Respondents that disagreed, have their feedback included in the outcome table below

4. Do you agree that the actions in the action plan will achieve the 5 priorities as detailed in question 2?

- Agree 8 responses
- Disagree 13 responses

Respondents that disagreed, have their feedback included in the outcome table below

Summary of Feedback received	Action taken
Whole person approach	See Pathways below
Building social housing	It is recognised nationally there is a housing shortage particularly in social housing sector. Local authorities and housing providers have separate but clearly linked housing delivery strategies
Caravan parks on the coast	Including in hidden homelessness section
Reference to Lincolnshire Homes for Independence and the Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group	Agree and reflected in latest version
Strengthen the importance of partnership and collaborative working throughout	Agree and reflected in latest version
Homelessness not just housing but multiple issues	Agree, section on complex and multiple needs recognises this and commitment to reflect it in operational delivery
Include reference to work undertaken during Covid 19 vaccinations and health inequalities	Agree and reflected in latest version, it is also included in the Strategy review document
More information on Team Around the adult pilots and Outcomes	Included in partnership section and will be monitored and reported through the action groups
Include more on successes of the voluntary and community sectors	Including in partnerships section

Addressing those with no recourse to public funds	Included in challenges
Data analysis as an opportunity to understand causes and effects	Added to ambitions plan
To demonstrate clear accountability	Will include a chart showing accountability structure for Lincolnshire
Actions to be more measurable	The strategy includes over arching ambitions, to ensure the document is relevant over its lifespan. Detailed implementation actions plans will be SMART
More mention of mental health	Included throughout the document
Change ex-Armed forces to Armed Forces Community including veteran cohort	Agree and reflected in latest version
Include desire to improve a healthy life expectancy	Agree and reflected in latest version
Pathways, to include more detail on what will happen when, need individualised approach not standard pathways	The strategy includes over arching ambitions, to ensure the document is relevant over its lifespan. Detailed implementation actions plans will be SMART We aim for our pathways to be a clear access with desired outcomes, we recognise the journey will always be an individual one and services will reflect that
Need to include that prison leavers are not all released into the county where they have been residing	Agree, this is addressed in the operational delivery of the prison leavers protocol

Next Steps:

We really appreciate the time taken to review our draft strategy and the feedback given. It is really valuable to ensure the document is not only accessible to all but that our plans are realistic and will make a difference to those in Lincolnshire.

All feedback has been considered and where appropriate incorporated into the latest version of the Strategy. Each local authority will now seek approval of the Strategy through its own individual administration.

Those individuals and organisations who expressed interest in being further involved in the delivery of our strategy will be invited to participate in our working groups.

Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2027



served by One Team

South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership



SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Contents

Welcome

1 Developing the Strategy

2 Legal Framework

3 National Picture

4 Introduction to Lincolnshire

5 Our Data

6 Strategic Context

7 Partnerships

8 Rough Sleeping

9 Review of Current Homeless Strategy – Our Successes

10 Looking Ahead – Our Challenges

11 Our Priorities

12 Pathways

13 Review and Implementation Plan

14 Ambitions

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy developed by all Lincolnshire Housing Authorities, in partnership with our stakeholders.

This strategy informs of the current position and challenges across the county and identifies the priorities and actions that together aim to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping across the county.

Homeless is not just a term for someone that is rough sleeping, but covers those that are in temporary accommodation, are at risk of losing their home, are in unsuitable accommodation or cannot afford to remain in their current home.

Page 39

Tackling rough sleeping and preventing homelessness is a challenge for all local authorities as homeless covers a wider range of factors and many caused by no fault of their own. Many of those rough sleeping or that are homeless are vulnerable due to having mental health issues, complex needs or substance misuse. These vulnerabilities need to be considered when planning to accommodate their needs. Additionally the impact of many economic and social factors including availability of accommodation, cost of living, housing affordability and individual circumstances which change over time add to these challenges.

Across Lincolnshire, there are many common challenges in tackling homelessness but also some more specific issues that only affect pockets of the county. As homelessness is not just about the provision of accommodation and is caused by many other factors, partnership working is key to responding to these challenges.

Having worked together as seven district councils along with Lincolnshire County Council, Housing Providers, Probation service, Voluntary and Community sector organisations and health professionals, there have been huge improvements to homeless services and many initiatives have been successfully implemented which have resulted in:

- A significant number of homelessness preventions
- Joint development of commissioned services
- Increase in access to funding opportunities
- An increase in the provision of specialist accommodation and support for those sleeping rough or at risk of becoming homeless
- More support to help individuals sustain their tenancies

Government policy focuses on the prevention of homelessness and the increasing funding available drives and enables services to be more proactive rather than reactive at point of homeless crisis. The specialist funding opportunities for rough sleepers has also contributed to reducing numbers of those on the streets.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the rise in the cost of living is now presenting new challenges especially around sustainment and availability of accommodation. The county recognises the need to continue to work together to maximise the impact of limited resources. This strategy aims to tackle these issues in a practical and effective way, recognising our roles and opportunities in working together.

We believe this strategy demonstrates that we are committed to the government's vision that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring

Homelessness in Lincolnshire will be:

Rare

Brief

Non-recurring

1 Developing the Strategy

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires that all Local Authorities carry out a review of homelessness in their areas and formulate and publish a strategy based on the findings of this review. It is also required that the strategy is kept under review and consultation occurs with other local or public authorities and voluntary organisations before modifying or adopting a strategy.

The strategy should:

- Assess the levels of homelessness now, and the factors likely to impact on future levels of homelessness
- Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available for people who are, or may become, homeless
- Provide services that help to prevent people becoming homeless
- Ensure that through effective partnerships, support services can be accessed for those people who are, or who may become, homeless – or to prevent them from becoming homeless again
- Promote a cultural change so that homelessness is viewed in a wider context than just lack of accommodation

This strategy has been formulated following the strategy review, with particular emphasis on the consultation with stakeholders on the achievements of the last strategy, and input into the strategic direction of this new strategy. A series of focus groups, one-to-one meetings and a survey collated vital feedback, which will enable this strategy to meet the aims of not only the seven district councils but also our partners. This strategy will be supported by a more detailed action plan that can evolve to reflect local and changing factors.

To allow us to form a collective and robust approach to homelessness, we will incorporate our Rough Sleeper Strategy into this this document instead of having a separate document.

2 Legal Framework

As already stated homelessness is not something that can be tackled in isolation, this is reflected further in the key legislation for tackling homelessness:

- **Housing Act 1996 (as amended) Part 7.**

The overarching piece of legislation used by councils in determining the way in which they respond to homelessness. The Act has been amended by:

- **The Homelessness Act 2002.**

Included notable changes in the way Councils use temporary accommodation, with greater emphasis on the role of prevention.

- **The Homelessness Reduction Act 2018**

Brought new legal duties to Councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to support, irrespective of their priority need status, as long as they are eligible for assistance.

- **The Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

Introduced to address the needs of people experiencing domestic abuse, the act imposes a duty on local authorities to provide support in safe accommodation.

- **The Care Act 2014**

Sets out a wider framework with the expectation that agencies would work together to protect children, young adults and people with care and support needs

- **The Armed Forces Bill 2021**

Places a new Duty of Due Regard on statutory authorities to recognise the Armed Forces Covenant in their policies as well as the delivery of front line services

3 National picture

Over the last six years we have seen the introduction of new government policy and initiatives for rough sleepers throughout the pandemic.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) was the first major piece of homelessness legislation that was introduced in 15 years. The Act places new duties on local authorities to help prevent and relieve homelessness. It is designed to provide support for anyone threatened with homelessness.

Key measures include:

- Extending the period during which an authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days.
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.
- A new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants, regardless of priority need. This help could be, for example, the provision of a rent deposit or debt advice.
- A new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The “Everyone In” initiative prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic accommodated over 37,000 individuals experiencing or at risk of rough sleeping between March 2020 and January 2021 across the UK. This early response is calculated to have prevented substantial numbers of COVID-19 infections, hospitalisations, and deaths among the target cohort.

Substantial reductions in rough sleeping of 37% and radically reduced reliance on the use of night shelters were also achieved as a result.

The pandemic response also improved joint working between the homelessness and health sectors.

The Protect and Vaccinate initiative prompted by the Plan B restrictions gave £24.9m to support all local authorities across England to find appropriate accommodation for people sleeping rough and boosting vaccination rates across this vulnerable population.

A further £3.2m was made available to encourage the uptake of vaccination amongst people sleeping rough and others at risk in the single homeless cohort.

4 Introduction to Lincolnshire



Lincolnshire is made up of 7 Councils all of which have unique characteristics and includes urban, rural and coastal areas. Due to the diverse nature of the county there are a number of challenges that all the councils face and some that are exclusive to one or two areas.

Lincoln being the city has a large University that impacts on the availability of accommodation and has high house prices due to the historic nature of the uphill cathedral area. There are many services and accommodation provisions available and many rough sleepers

migrate here to access them. This however adds pressures onto services creating supply issues.

Boston as a borough, has a high level of migrant and Eastern European workers creating a diverse population of cultures. The area has significant agricultural employment attracting seasonal workers and high levels of poor-quality housing but with disproportionately high rents. The borough has seen an increase in individuals who have no recourse to public funds, causing additional issues.

East Lindsey has coastal and rural areas presenting differing challenges of seasonal employment and access to services. The coastal towns of Skegness and Mablethorpe see an increase of rough sleepers over the summer months. The area is an appealing location for people to retire to which presents challenges in finding suitable adapted accommodation.

North Kesteven has one of the lowest rates of rough sleeping and has seen an increase in economic activity over recent years. North Hykeham which borders Lincoln is popular with developers and businesses for new housing and business parks which, has an impact on the affordability of housing. Sleaford in stark contrast has lower house prices but not many accessible services.

South Holland shares many characteristics with Boston with a high proportion of agricultural employment and migrant workers. Wages are low which presents affordability challenges. There are many employment opportunities in neighbouring Peterborough. Having seen an increase in housing development accommodation is still unaffordable to those in need which has led to an increase in rough sleeping.

South Kesteven has two main towns Grantham and Stamford which have very different housing markets and issues. Grantham has a higher level of deprivation and high numbers of rough sleepers with a variety of housing options. Stamford in contrast has very high house prices creating affordability issues.

West Lindsey also has one of the lowest levels of rough sleeping across Lincolnshire but with high levels of deprivation in some parts of the largest town of Gainsborough. House prices are lower in Gainsborough compared with the other market towns in the district but the villages on the Lincoln border present housing affordability challenges. Low turnover of social housing and lack of private rented housing presents issues with availability of suitable housing to rent.

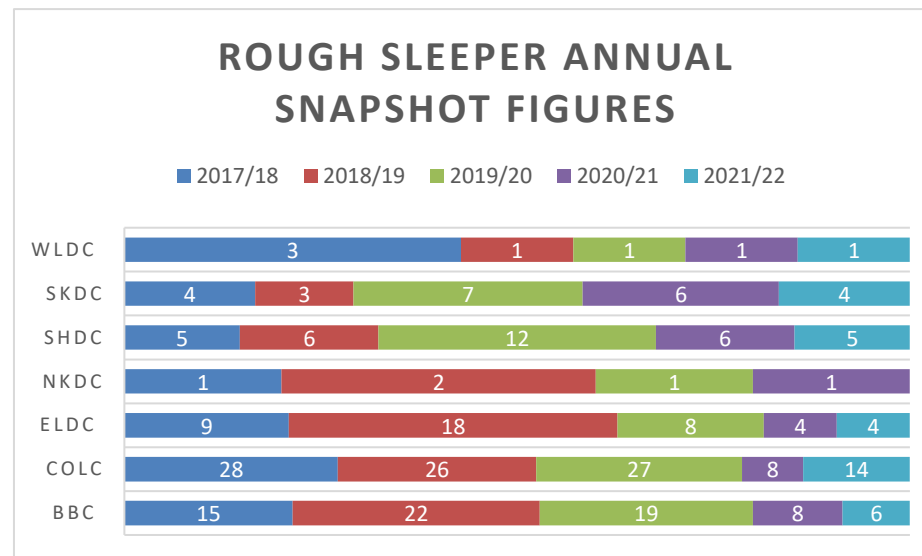
Adding to the unique challenges around access to housing and differences in housing markets, only four of the Councils still hold their own housing stock. West Lindsey, East Lindsey and Boston transferred their stock to registered providers. Despite this, all districts councils have secured new social housing including units specifically for rough sleepers and homelessness people. However, housing demand is still high and there is an ever-increasing reliance on the private rented sector for accommodation.

5 Our Data

This section provides key data to demonstrate the local position with homelessness. Reviewing the dataset of what Lincolnshire has achieved is important to identify our current position and what actions the strategy may need to address.

Rough sleeping

The number of rough sleepers is always fluctuating and cannot be predicted accurately due to the nature of homelessness and the variety of causes.



Numbers have decreased by over 50% since 2019 showing the success of initiatives to engage with individuals and to access more permanent accommodation and support. Lincoln and Boston have the highest rough sleeper numbers as they are the largest urban areas and have the most services available.

Rough sleeper numbers may be lower in Lincolnshire compared to other counties but still presents a challenge locally, particularly given the rural nature of the county in terms of provision and accessibility of services.

The issue, no matter how great needs to be addressed, and Lincolnshire has tackled this head on with three rough sleeper initiatives operating across the county.

Rough sleeper projections

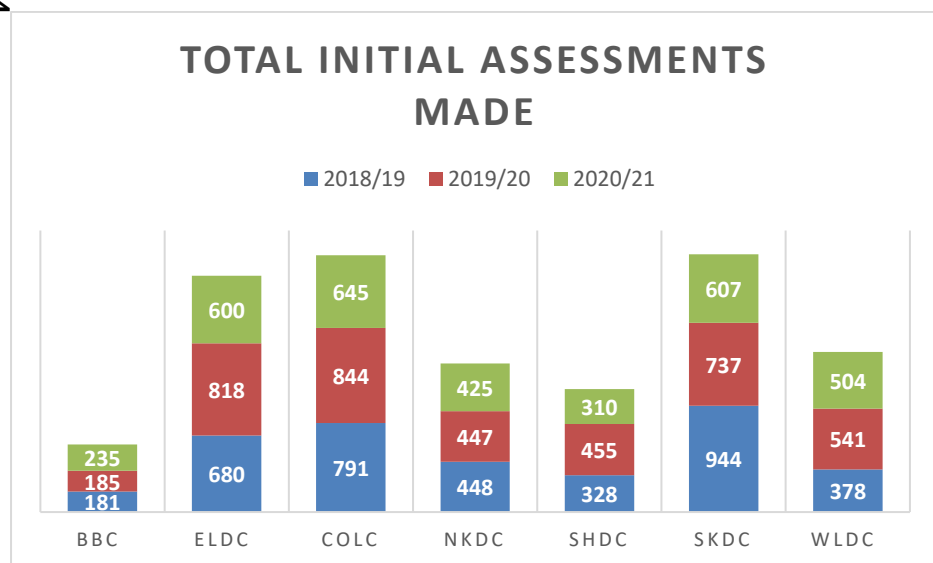
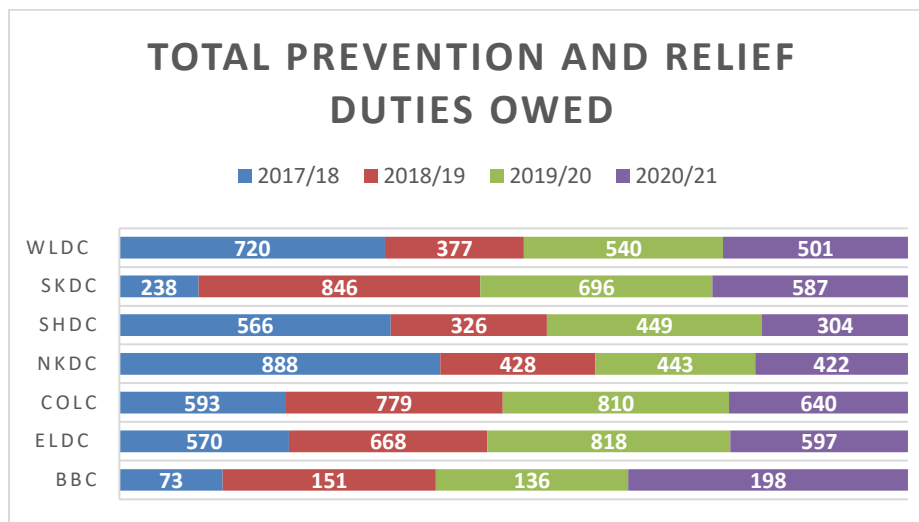
Predicting the number of rough sleepers based on reported Rough Sleeper Autumn Count figures is difficult due to data being affected by the pandemic. Based on recent reported figures around 35-40 individuals are expected to be rough sleeping at any one time in Lincolnshire. It is worth noting that if any funding for Rough Sleeper Initiatives and/or partner organisations was reduced or unavailable then rough sleeping numbers would increase.

Initial assessments

A total of 11,103 initial assessments were completed between 2018 and 2021 to determine if a duty was owed to those presenting as homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Prevention and Relief of Homelessness

Following those initial assessments 14,364 cases were owed a prevention or relief duty to try and resolve their housing issue.



Homelessness Duty Decisions

For those whose housing situation could not be resolved by prevention or relief duties, 2,301 cases were assessed to determine an acceptance of homelessness. This shows the impact prevention duties are making as only 16% of cases did not have their housing issue resolved by a prevention or relief duty, resulting in them presenting as homeless. The number of duty decisions made have also reduced by a quarter over the 4 year period further demonstrating the impact of prevention and relief duties.

6 Strategic Context

To ensure this strategy is embedded into the local strategic context its themes and priorities will complement other strategies and workstreams within Lincolnshire including:

Housing Health Care Delivery Group (HHCDG)

A commitment to working together, across local government, housing, health, care, and voluntary and community sectors to understand and respond to current and future needs in Lincolnshire. A Delivery Plan has a number of collaborative actions that are supported by each subgroup relating to each theme including homelessness.

Lincolnshire Homes for Independence Blueprint

A call for organisations to work together with the vision for people to live independently, stay connected and have greater choice in where and how they live. Aiming to address the need for a safe and warm home, enabling independent living and addressing health inequalities that make it difficult for some people to maintain a home than others.

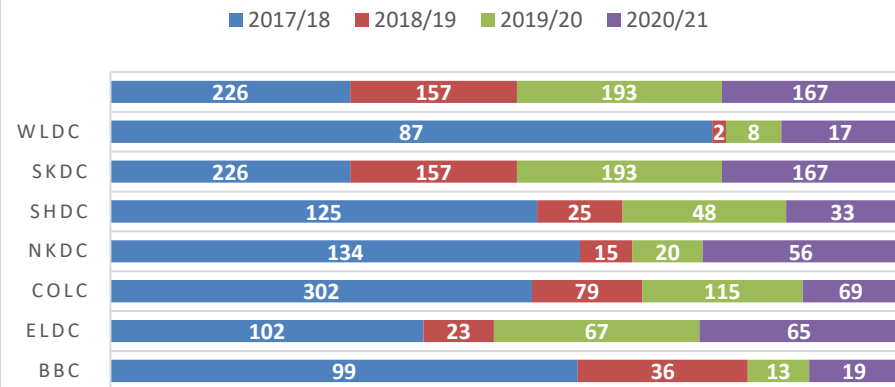
Lincolnshire Housing Health Co-ordination Group (LHHN)

A forum supporting HHCDG for the strategic co-ordination of housing activity across the county, to drive the delivery of the housing and health priority and objectives identified in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, HHCDG Delivery Plan and Homes for Independence Blueprint.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Lincolnshire District Councils are committed to developing an ambitious agenda for improving health and wellbeing in Lincolnshire. To achieve this, they are focusing on a strategic, long-term approach to improving outcomes, a sense of opportunity and ambition, district collaboration, a holistic view based on social determinants, and developing system leadership.

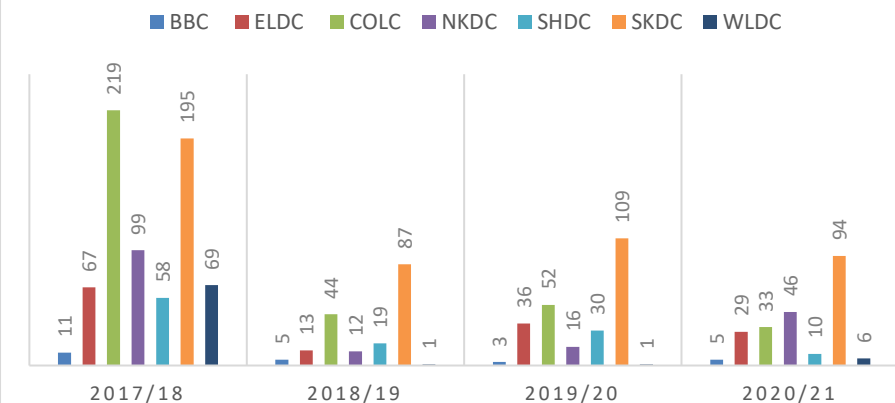
TOTAL HOMELESSNESS DUTY DECISIONS MADE



Priority Need

Of those 2,301 cases presenting of homeless 1,369 were accepted as being homeless and in priority need and owed a duty. The number of those accepted as homeless and in priority need has decreased by 31% since 2017 showing the impact of homelessness prevention.

NUMBER ACCEPTED AS HOMELESS AND IN PRIORITY NEED



7 Partnerships

The prevention of homelessness can only be achieved through a partnership approach due to so many causes and complexities. More than one organisation often needs to work together to highlight and resolve an individual's housing situation. Often there are health issues that lead to an individual being at risk of or experiencing homelessness which needs a multi-agency approach. Prevention includes both preventing homelessness in the first instance and also preventing recurring homelessness, which need different approaches.

District councils along with Lincolnshire County Council, housing providers, Probation Service, voluntary and community sector and health professionals work together across the sector. Through the network and strategy group many successful initiatives have been implemented, detailed in section 8. Many partnerships underpin this wider network ensuring a robust approach to tackling the challenges the county faces together. The district councils are committed to ensuring partnerships are effective through attendance of many groups as detailed below:

Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary sector plays a vital role in supporting rough sleepers across the county as well as supporting those that could be at risk of homelessness through the provision of support, accommodation in some areas, day centers, food and clothing provisions, showers and food banks. In severe weather the sector provides accommodation in some areas and provisions, to ensure rough sleepers are not at risk of harm during the inclement days.

Many charitable organisations across the county provide specific support for those experiencing a crisis or mental health issues, that could be related to their housing situation or could lead to them being threatened with homelessness. The district councils work closely with the sector to refer individuals to access support and respond to those signposted to them for advice on their housing situation.

Housing Related Support (HRS)

Housing Related Support is commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council and delivered by the Lincolnshire Housing Related Support Partnership led by Framework Housing.

The Partnership delivers short term Housing Related Support interventions to vulnerable people who are either homeless or threatened with homelessness, with the aim of improving their health and wellbeing, and enabling them to sustain their own tenancy and live independently.

The service is targeted at the most vulnerable and eligibility is assessed through a triage form with a minimum threshold to access support. The triage form includes questions regarding physical health, mental health, risk to self and others, substance misuse and support network.

Support is tailored to individual needs and delivered by either floating support or accommodation-based support depending on the service user's housing circumstances and needs. Accommodation-based support is supplied by the provider and includes self-contained units in hostel accommodation and dispersed 2 and 3 bed houses.

Only district council housing teams can make referrals to Housing Related Support. Other agencies wishing to refer an individual to Housing Related Support must notify the relevant district council that they are aware of someone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness (this may be part of their Duty to Refer) and the housing team will refer as appropriate.

The Operational Effectiveness Operational Group meets regularly to review capacity, voids, referrals, share information and to discuss issues relating to the partnership.

Rough Sleepers Initiatives (RSI's)

There are 3 Rough Sleeping Initiatives covering all of Lincolnshire mainly funded by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), working to relieve and prevent rough sleeping. One RSI covers Lincoln, the second East Lindsey and Boston and the third, Change 4 Lincs, covers West Lindsey, South Kesteven, North Kesteven and South Holland hosted by South Kesteven. All have a designated team that works closely within their district council areas, but also across the county as often rough sleeper migrate to other districts.

The service targets those not in priority need that may not have qualified for assistance before the introduction of the initiative. The aim is to identify and help new and existing rough sleepers to access suitable accommodation as soon as possible, as well as helping people who are at risk of sleeping rough.

Outreach services provide help and advice to those who are rough sleeping and homeless and to those who may be at risk of becoming homeless through:

- Referrals to partner agencies or support groups
- Providing details of faith groups and charities
- Help completing housing applications
- Help and advice to find accommodation
- Wellbeing and physical health support
- Help with life skills

Through the creation of person-centered holistic support plans to address barriers and build skills individuals can work towards independent living.

Care Leavers and Young People

Under a contract agreement Nacro Lincolnshire provide supported accommodation that can be accessed by homeless young people aged 16-17 and for care leavers up to 21 years. The service supports around 70 young people at any one time helping to prevent homelessness, and supporting the councils with more complex care leaver cases. They offer long term support to young people who the district councils may struggle to support and to aid a smooth transition into accommodation.

The Youth Homelessness and Care Leavers Protocol sets out the working arrangements for Nacro, the district councils and children's services to support young people and care leavers who need advice and assistance. The aim being to support these young people to live semi-independently.

The transitions panel which meets regularly to review outcomes, discuss challenges, share information and ensure appropriate move on plans are in place for complex cases.

Prison Leavers

The Lincolnshire Prison Release Protocol is an agreement between all Lincolnshire housing authorities, the prison and the probation service. The aims of the protocol are to contribute towards the government's aims of ensuring that at least 90% of people are in accommodation upon release from prison and that at least 80% of people are in settled accommodation either three months after their release or upon receipt of a community sentence. Prison leavers who will be homeless upon release are referred to a district council up to 56 days before release, to enable a personal housing plan to be agreed to try and prevent them from becoming homeless.

A task and finish group are monitoring the implementation and success of the protocol, through performance data and research from service users, to learn from experience and further improve.

Domestic Abuse

In partnership with Lincolnshire County Council support and accommodation is available for those impacted by domestic abuse. Refuge accommodation and dispersed units are available for those fleeing domestic abuse. Providing refuge accommodation has recently become statutory responsibility with funding made available, however, this provision has already been available in Boston, East Lindsey and Lincoln. The dispersed units can be accessed by males experiencing domestic abuse and also those with larger families and families with older male children who could not previously be supported by the refuge accommodation. Each council attends the MARAC meetings (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) to put plans in place to protect victims and including target hardening on the victims home.

Vulnerable Adults Panel

Multi-agency panels and neighbourhood teams have been established across each district. They enable a joint approach to addressing the needs and risks of vulnerable and/or complex individuals that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The panel/team consider housing options in conjunction with identifying and managing risks.

The Panels/teams are represented by a range of service providers and teams including housing providers, mental health, substance misuse, Prison Service, Fire and Rescue Service, housing benefit, Lincs Police and Adult Social Care. The model has been successfully providing more holistic and sustainable housing solutions for vulnerable customers, but further improvement is still required.

Team Around the Adult (TAA)

The Team Around the Adult pilot launched in February 2021 and supports the approach offered through the Vulnerable Adults Panel and Neighborhood Teams and work with the particularly complex cases. Usually this is where a more creative approach is required to reach out to people in the community and 'go to them', particularly if they do not wish to engage with services.

The TAA process is overseen by an appointed coordinator, it will involve the appointment of a Lead Professional who will usually be the key worker, to engage with the individual, promote multi-agency working and utilise a shared IT system.

By having a creative multi agency approach towards working with complex cases, the aim is to achieve change where more traditional engagement and intervention methods have not been as successful as anticipated, or change may not have been maintained.

A task and finish group are monitoring the pilots progress and outcomes including an in-depth analysis of cases to better understand the presentation and referral pathways across the partner organisations services.

Non-commissioned accommodation

Each council needs to have access to a number of accommodation options to utilise for those that are eligible. Partnerships have been created to enable councils to have their own temporary accommodation either through homeless units owned by the council or a contracted provider.

Move-on accommodation can also be accessed through Framework and its contracted providers in some areas. Private landlords also play a vital role in facilitating access to accommodation and Private Sector Leasing is used in some areas to supplement the supply of temporary and move on accommodation.

Funded schemes such as Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme and Next Steps Accommodation Programme, has provided the ability to increase the provision of supported accommodation across the county, reducing the need for B&B use. However B&B's are still used regularly as the need for suitable accommodation outweighs the supply.

There are non-commissioned hostels in Lincoln, Boston and Mablethorpe providing provision and services for rough sleepers and other charitable organisations that offer accommodation for specific groups.

Drug and Alcohol Substance Misuse Service

Lincolnshire County Council has a drug and alcohol substance misuse service, and it is widely known that many rough sleepers are substance users. As part of the government's bid to end rough sleeping for good, a Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) has been awarded to Lincolnshire County Council.

The grant will be used to deliver substance misuse treatment services for people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough through an assertive outreach model. This will be delivered by the county's treatment and recovery providers in collaboration with housing, the voluntary sector and district councils. In addition to evidence-based drug and alcohol treatment, vital wraparound support will be provided to improve access to and engagement with treatment.

2020-2021
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025

The Holistic Health for Homeless team in Lincoln works with individuals to conduct holistic reviews, and best support individuals with both physical and mental health. The team work alongside other clinicians and practitioners locally to ensure smooth transitions when accessing services. By having this multi-disciplinary team approach both within the small team but also linking to wider stakeholders, has ensured swift and timely responses for the individuals seeking care, reducing buffering between services and disengagement.

The team has evolved and developed since in introduction, reflective to the needs, trends, and themes they have been presented with. There are a range of clinical staff including Mental and Physical Health Practitioners, junior team members, psychiatry and GP support, administration function and a social worker too within the team.

8 Rough Sleeping

The government published a new national Rough Sleeping Strategy in 2022 setting out its vision of 'Ending Rough Sleeping for good.' The priorities in the strategy focus on four main themes-

- Prevent
- Intervene
- Recovery and transparency
- and a more joined up system.

The strategy calls for a whole system approach, recognising that rough sleepers interact with a range of different services, that need to work together to provide holistic support and collaborate across organisational boundaries.

Better prevention is needed through providing earlier support across the system aiming to ensure that nobody leaves a public institution to the streets. Lincolnshire's Prison Protocol will ensure Duty to Refer are made to secure accommodation before release.

Intervention should be swift and effective, so that people can report if they see a person sleeping rough and connect them to help to receive a tailored offer of support which meets their needs. Promotion of our RSI services and outreach model is working successfully to verify and create support plans for rough sleepers.

To aid recovery for those that need it, services need to continue to work together to deliver the help people need, to get off the streets and stay off the streets for good. The Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant will provide much needed support to break this cycle.

An increase in government funding for rough sleepers accommodation and support will be launched as part of the strategy, and recognises that provisions need to include tailored mental health and substance misuse support. This builds on the county's successful projects funded through the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) and

Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP). The NSAP programme aimed to provide move on accommodation for rough sleepers that were accommodated throughout the pandemic. The RSAP scheme followed in its success to further increase provision. The need for support for rough sleepers to enable them to move on to sustain tenancies was recognised and formed part of both these programmes.

A joint county bid to secure accommodation through the RSAP to provide supported accommodation for those with complex needs was successful and will be implemented in 2023. This project alongside funding for substance misuse, should go a long way to stopping the cycle of rough sleeping across the county.

Working together there has been significant progress towards ending rough sleeping. Collective efforts at the height of the pandemic saw tens of thousands of people helped off the streets in the UK with two thirds moved into long-term housing. This highlights that a problem as intractable as rough sleeping can be solved with a shared commitment to succeed.

The county will continue to create a more transparent and joined-up system by ensuring effective and honest communication happens by everyone involved. Partners should be clear on their commitment and hold each other to account whilst sharing knowledge and exploring opportunities for joint funding and commissioning.

The challenge of rough sleeping is not an easy one and is not just about accommodation but requires a long-term solution to stop the recurrence. We know that many people rough sleeping suffer from poor mental health and substance misuse and others are caught in a vicious cycle between prison and a life on the streets. We need to identify the underlying causes that have led to rough sleeping, ensure individuals know they have other options and support them throughout their journey.

9 Review of current Homelessness Strategy

The last Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021, extended to December 2022, focused on five main priorities:

Priority One: Protect	Protecting the most vulnerable from experiencing homelessness including tackling rough sleeping.
Priority Two: Prevent	Preventing homelessness wherever possible to do so.
Priority Three: Partnership	Developing and maintaining strategic relationships and partnerships.
Priority Four: Place	Ensuring access to the right type of housing solution.
Priority Five: Possibility	Ensuring a sustainable future for supported housing.

We will use this section to reflect on these and our key achievements against these identified priorities:

Protect

- ✓ A decrease in rough sleeping by over 50% over the last 2 years
- ✓ Successful bid for government funding for 3 Rough Sleeper Initiative Projects that are working well across the county.
- ✓ Introduced a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol to provide emergency assistance for rough sleepers when weather conditions pose a risk to health.
- ✓ Increased the provision of single persons accommodation to improve housing options.
- ✓ During the pandemic a total of 215 rough sleepers were accommodated through the Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate schemes
- ✓ Partners across the county system, went to great lengths to maximise take up of the Covid-19 vaccine amongst the homeless

cohort. HRS staff helped facilitate, promote, and encourage their service users to attend drop-ins too.

- ✓ Enabled all rough sleepers to have a postcode so that they can access post and the ability to setup a bank account
- ✓ Introduction of the Lincs Prison Protocol to ensure prison leavers have safe and suitable accommodation on release.
- ✓ Provision of Hospital and Housing Link Workers.
- ✓ Referring the most vulnerable to multi agency groups to ensure they can access the support they need.

Prevent

- ✓ Over 10,000 households prevented from becoming homeless over the last five years across Lincolnshire.
- ✓ Published a countywide Rough Sleeper Guide to demonstrate how accessible information contributes to homelessness prevention.
- ✓ Implemented the Controlling Migration Fund to allow EEA nationals access to work, who have no recourse to public funds and employed a countywide resettlement worker.
- ✓ Worked with private sector landlords to prevent households become homeless through a range of initiatives.
- ✓ Committed to Team Around the Adult to facilitate a partnership safety net approach for complex adults
- ✓

Partnership

- ✓ In partnership with LCC and providers implemented the Housing Related Support Service for supported accommodation and floating support for those either homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- ✓ Formed the Homelessness Strategy Partnership to work with housing providers, voluntary and community sector organisations, health professionals and Lincolnshire County Council to deliver together the actions of the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- ✓ Fully engaged an effective Homelessness Cell working group to respond together to Covid-19 Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate government initiatives.

- ✓ Raising awareness of the needs of people who are entrenched in rough sleeping and developing health services to meet their needs through the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Place

- ✓ Implemented countywide processes and protocols to meet Duty to Refer requirements, enabling timely intervention and preventing homelessness.
- ✓ Provided additional units of accommodation through - Housing First, Next Steps Accommodation Programme and the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme.
- ✓ Engaged with rough sleepers whilst being accommodated during the pandemic, supporting them into service provision and more settled housing.

Possibility

- ✓ Submitted a countywide bid for Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme funding to provide accommodation for those with complex needs with dedicated support.
- ✓ Delivered the ACTion Lincs project to provide long term life changing support for an identified group of vulnerable and complex need rough sleepers, across the county using Housing First principles.

10 Looking ahead, our challenges

Looking forward our aim is aligned with central government that homelessness should be **rare, brief and non-reoccurring**. The landscape of homelessness including government policy, funding initiatives and the social and economic positions means that within a five-year strategy period, much can and will change. This presents challenges to successfully delivering this strategy, however Lincolnshire has positioned itself to be able to respond to those challenges and adapt its approach as and when the landscapes change.

The nature of homelessness

Preventing and reducing homelessness and rough sleeping is a difficult issue to address due to the many factors that can cause people to become homeless. Every individual has different circumstances and needs which prevents a one size fits all approach, and it could take a period of time to understand a person's circumstances in order to assist them in the right way. Predictability of homelessness is also an issue as numbers fluctuate but do not follow any particular trends due to a number of factors that contribute to someone becoming homeless.

The main reasons people become homeless in Lincolnshire are:

- Friends or family unable to accommodate
- Relationship breakdown
- Debt, particularly rent or mortgage arrears
- Problems with a landlord, being threatened with eviction or served notice to leave including no fault evictions
- Domestic abuse, or other forms of violence, threats or intimidation
- Loss of accommodation due to addictions, mental health issues or having complex needs.
- Discharge from hospital, care, armed forces or release from custody, with no suitable accommodation available to them.
-

Prevention

With the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2017 there is a focus on earlier intervention and duties to prevent and alleviate homelessness. Key partners have a Duty to Refer individuals for assistance. This change has allowed many households to resolve their housing issues before they become homeless and not need temporary accommodation.

With public authorities referring individuals within a 56-day period of potential homelessness this gives time for partners to work together to find suitable housing options. This has led to closer working between agencies and a commitment to assisting individuals. Lincolnshire has a protocol for both prison leavers and young people and care leavers demonstrating the willingness to work together.

Whilst the focus remains on preventing homelessness there are instances where it cannot be prevented, and a crisis situation arises. An assessment would then take place to access appropriate accommodation and support. However, there are some rough sleepers that do not wish to be rehoused and some that have become entrenched. In these instances, the RSI team and district council work together to continue to offer assistance and welfare checks.

Covid-19

The pandemic put more emphasis on service delivery to be more reactive. The key focus on accommodating and protecting rough sleepers brought together local authorities, housing providers, voluntary sector organisations and health professionals across the county to create a multi-agency approach.

Whilst many of the rough sleepers were accommodated this allowed engagement with services in a way that has not previously been available and has led to many of this cohort remaining in accommodation and not returning to the streets.

Availability of accommodation

The need to accommodate all rough sleepers across the county during the pandemic further highlighted the shortage of accommodation for single people, especially those with high support needs who struggle in a hostel environment. Without the assistance of hotels and B&Bs who weren't able to use their accommodation because of Covid-19 for normal use, councils wouldn't have been able to get everyone off the streets.

As well as an anticipated increase in homelessness there are competing demands for affordable accommodation from the government's various resettlement and refugee schemes for instance those presenting as homeless due to host relationship breakdowns from the Homes for Ukraine scheme. A dispersed scheme is also due to be introduced for Asylum Seekers which will further impact availability of private sector housing.

House prices and rents increasing but the Local Housing Allowance rates are not rising in line with these increases leaving more people being unable to afford housing. Government funding for newbuild affordable housing and accommodation for rough sleepers has been utilised but the demand for this accommodation far outweighs the supply.

Need for a joined up approach

Resources are limited and with demand increasing for accommodation and support services there is a need to consider ways we can take a joint approach. Service provision is time-bound to its funding duration and planning for future provision needs to be considered. Taking a partnership approach and considering joint commissioning can result in provision that is better value for money, whilst improving access and outcomes for all.

Our partners have expertise and knowledge that is needed to successfully attract and utilise funding for the benefit of those that

need it most. There are inequalities across the county in terms of access and outcomes, so working together to evaluate what works well and what needs to change will result in better efficiency of our services and meeting needs of our client groups.

Cost of Living

The cost of living is increasing and is set to increase further, this will see more people unable to afford their current housing and add pressure to the demand for social housing. A multi-agency approach is needed to identify those struggling at an early stage and signpost to financial advice and assistance where appropriate. Demand for private rented accommodation will increase but with competing demands and affordability issues, households could resort to unsuitable, poor standard and overcrowded housing.

Holistic identification of needs

Homelessness is not just a housing issue, and to successfully prevent and ensure instances do not reoccur there is a need to look beyond the individual's housing situation, and consider the underlying causes. It is widely known that there is a direct link between housing and health. The aim is not just to ensure someone has a roof over their head but to ensure their physical and mental wellbeing is taken into account.

When assessing individuals needs it is important to consider all factors and be flexible in the approach as some information may not be available at the first point of contact. Whilst we have pathways for each group, we need to highlight that these are not prescriptive and are only paths to access. Whilst many people fit into each group, a tailored approach is given following assessment of their needs. The provision of support and service will adapt to the individual's health and wellbeing.

Hidden homelessness

Whilst we are able to monitor the number of those that present as homeless and are rough sleeping, the extent of those 'hidden' is often unknown. This includes individuals who are:

- Rough sleepers that we are not aware of
- Those staying with family or friends
- Sofa surfers
- Squatters
- Those living in tents/caravans
- Those living in unsuitable housing
- Those released from prison, care or hospital with no suitable secured accommodation
- Paying guests in B&B's/hotels which could be funded through illegal means

Often these individuals do not know what services they can access and what starts out as a temporary measure can result in a long-term cycle often resulting in declining health and wellbeing. The challenge is to identify these people so they can be referred to appropriate partners and services including the RSI's to access suitable accommodation and healthcare.

Many individuals with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) are sleeping rough, squatting or in unsuitable housing as there are no immediate solutions within current government policy to resolve their housing issues. Council's will encourage those that are eligible to apply for EU settled status in order to access benefits and assist individuals to find work to resolve their financial and housing issues.

11 Our Priorities

Building on the successes of the last strategy and taking account of new challenges the priorities for the next five years are:

1. **Prevent** – identify those that are at risk of becoming homeless as early as possible and through the Duty to Refer to prevent homelessness or rough sleeping
2. **Protect** – identifying the most vulnerable and ensuring individuals are safe from harm, and have access to the support and services to maintain their health and wellbeing
3. **Partnerships** – strengthen and maintain relationships to bring together resources and knowledge to prevent and relieve homelessness
4. **Place** – ensure accommodation is both available and suitable for those that need it and explore opportunities to increase the supply of accommodation
5. **Plan** – take a proactive, joined up and flexible approach to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness and explore funding opportunities to ensure we meet the needs of all client groups

These priorities have been chosen to reflect the issues highlighted through the consultation process with our stakeholders and the challenges we face going forward.

12 Pathways

There are many people that can experience or be threatened with homelessness in their lifetime, all of which will have different reasons and circumstances. Whilst each person receives a personal housing plan specific to their needs, we can identify the main groups of people that this strategy aims to help and support;

- Single people
- Families
- Rough sleepers
- Those with complex and/or specific needs
- Care leavers and young people
- Prison Leavers
- Those experiencing Domestic Abuse
- Armed Forces Community
- Those with No Recourse to Public Funds

Identifying the main barriers that these groups are facing allows us to produce tailored approaches to ensure our services offer a personalised and consistent approach across the county.

Single people

There is a shortage of suitable longer-term financially affordable accommodation for single people across the county which will be one reason as to why single people end up rough sleeping. Many become homeless due to friends or family being no longer able to accommodate them or they are sofa surfing and many are not in priority need. Some will have accommodation but can't manage without appropriate support which is often required long term. Others are elderly with care and support needs.

Providing access to appropriate accommodation is crucial to break the cycle of homelessness that many experience. Many single people have vulnerabilities including mental health issues, complex or specific needs, substance misuse and/or chaotic behavior. This can lead to

them being vulnerable living alone and at risk of cuckooing or harm as they need support. For others, shared accommodation is not suitable due to their behavior caused by their vulnerabilities all of which can lead to loss of accommodation.

The Rough Sleeper Initiatives and Homelessness Reduction Act have increased options for those not in priority need allowing many single people to be accommodated. However, some have become entrenched rough sleepers and do not wish to be rehoused or find the transition difficult. Finding temporary accommodation is difficult for this group but long term stays in hostels and B&B's can lead to isolation and mental health issues which in turn result in loss of accommodation.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Work with individuals to assess options before they become homeless and discuss assistance RSI's can offer for those not in priority need. All efforts for the individual to remain in any settled accommodation will be prioritised over offering temporary accommodation.
- **Protect**
We will assess everyone to identify any support needs and refer/signpost to appropriate agencies for personal and tenancy related support. We will utilise multi-agency groups where required to access additional support.
- **Place**
Work with housing providers and private landlords to identify suitable accommodation options to meet individual needs. Opportunities will be explored to increase accommodation through government funding.
- **Partnership**
Work together to access funding to increase accommodation options for single people.
- **Plan**
Review this pathway to ensure accommodation and services can be accessed by this group.

Families

Many families are threatened with homelessness due to affordability issues, changes in circumstances or loss of secure accommodation, often through no fault of their own. Whilst this group fall into the priority need group, options for temporary accommodation are more limited in some areas. Whilst there is a shortage of social housing for all household types and waiting times can vary, the use of private sector housing is imperative for this group.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Work with households to prevent loss of accommodation through liaison with landlords, signposting and financial advice and promoting awareness to seek advice as soon as homelessness is threatened.
- **Protect**
Ensure access to financial advice and creation of personal housing plans that meet the needs of the household. Make referrals for tenancy and floating support where appropriate to sustain tenancies.
- **Place**
Identify all housing options and support for families to make informed and realistic decisions based on their needs. Work with private landlords and provide assistance where appropriate. Increase the supply of family temporary accommodation to minimise the use of B&B's.
- **Partnership**
Work with housing providers and the voluntary sector to ensure access not just to accommodation but food, furniture and support for all members of the household.
- **Plan**
Review and implement initiatives to assist with the rising cost of living and landlord issues.

Rough sleepers

Due to the issues already detailed many single people and some couples inevitably end up on the streets and often in a vicious circle of rough sleeping. Rough sleeping has many health and wellbeing impacts and efforts to prevent rough sleeping should be maximised. The Rough Sleeper Initiatives along with partners including the Voluntary and Community Sector have been successful in reducing numbers and many rough sleepers that were accommodated during the pandemic have been able to access more permanent accommodation.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Exhaust all options to prevent individuals ending up on the streets by encouraging early notification and promoting awareness of options to assist. Ensure Duty to Refers are responded to effectively and do not result in homelessness.
- **Protect**
Respond to all reports of rough sleeping through proactive street outreach and promotion of a single number for the general public to report sightings and concerns. Make offers of temporary accommodation or hostel placements and complete regular wellbeing checks on those that do not wish to be accommodated or are ineligible.
- **Place**
Identify suitable accommodation options and work with individuals to seek the support services they require to address health, wellbeing and tenancy needs. Investigate options for additional hostel and temporary accommodation alongside single person move on accommodation.
- **Partnership**
Work with partners to increase long term accommodation options for rough sleepers and housing related support to enable cycles of rough sleeping to be broken.
- **Plan**
Pool resources and share knowledge across the county to tackle rough sleeping. Explore future funding phases and joint working opportunities.

Complex/Specific Needs

Many individuals need specific housing or support through a tailored support plan which is identified through an initial assessment. A triage is completed to determine the level of an individual's need. There is a shortage of adapted and supported accommodation across the county so utilisation of Disabled Facilities Grants and floating support is key to meeting the needs of this group. There is a need to access suitable accommodation and appropriate support for those with complex and specific needs and those discharged from hospital and mental health inpatients.

What we will do to help this group

- **Prevent**
Identify needs that are contributing to an individual's risk of homelessness, put support in place to sustain their current housing. Understand why cases become complex and put measures in place to stop cases becoming complex and leading to homelessness. Ensure those discharged from hospital and inpatients do not end up homeless through early planning. Improve education for agencies to understand the needs of people with complex needs
- **Protect**
Work with support and housing providers to ensure individual's needs are identified and diagnosed at an early stage and first contact with LCC, CCG, LPFT and TAA, in order to access suitable support. Improve access to adaptations so that people can remain in their own homes and improve their physical and mental wellbeing.
- **Place**
Work with LCC to increase the provision of supported accommodation specifically for those with learning difficulties, autism and mental health issues.
- **Partnership**
Form a multi-agency approach to learn from previous experiences to ensure individuals can access support and accommodation that is

suitable for their needs and stop future episodes of homelessness. Progress the need for dual-diagnosis for those with mental health and substance misuse forming a joint approach from services.

- **Plan**
We will map services and accommodation across the county to identify areas needing an increase in provision, especially for unsupported or low-level support options, to ensure clients can move on successfully after supported accommodation.

Care Leavers and young people

Young people who are threatened with or become homeless for a variety of reasons will be vulnerable and are likely to have no support. Ensuring their welfare through the provision of appropriate support that is centered on the young person is essential to resolving their housing issues.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Respond to Duty to Refers in a timely manner working with LCC, Nacro and other agencies in line with our agreed protocols.
- **Protect**
Ensure adequate and appropriate support is available from the outset by checking their leaving care status (if under 25) and utilise early help and leaving care services.
- **Place**
Provide suitable accommodation to meet the young person's needs and offer flexibility regarding local connections and individual preferences with the aim of safeguarding their welfare.
- **Partnership**
Work with LCC and Nacro to identify the best approach to meet the young person's needs.
- **Plan**
Monitor and review protocols to streamline referrals and resolve issues through the Transitions Panel, to ensure all young people and care leavers are accommodated and supported

Prison Leavers

Prison leavers should have access to appropriate and settled accommodation on release. Not all of those seeking accommodation will be released from prisons within the county, so support plans should reflect the vulnerability of this group, and a proactive multi-agency approach is needed.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Ensure the Duty to Refer is made and responded to in advance of the release date in line with the agreed protocol. Use escalation points to ensure no one is released to the streets.
- **Protect**
Ensure access to housing support is available on release to give individuals the best chance to settle and sustain their tenancy, recognising that support needs can change over time as individuals settle back into the community.
- **Place**
Provide access to suitable accommodation avoiding the need for temporary accommodation where possible by forward planning. Work with Probation Service to explore joint working opportunities.
- **Partnership**
Work with Probation Service and partners to tailor our approach to suit individual needs referring to services when needed.
- **Plan**
Monitor the protocols to streamline referrals and resolve any barriers in accommodating and supporting these individuals.

Domestic Abuse

All those impacted by domestic abuse need access to support and suitable accommodation. Local connection rules are extended to those fleeing abuse so good partnership working is required to secure appropriate accommodation for those that need to move in or out of the county.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Respond to referrals in a timely manner ensuring appropriate advice, support, target hardening or accommodation is provided, working with the referring partner and other agencies in line with the Domestic Abuse Act.
- **Protect**
Make existing accommodation safe and secure where appropriate and ensure support is available. Consider vulnerabilities, risk and safeguarding making referrals made where appropriate. Refer perpetrators to programmes that can help them change
- **Place**
Provide appropriate accommodation which is safe and avoid temporary accommodation in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- **Partnership**
Engage with partners to form a multi-agency approach to support both those experiencing domestic abuse and perpetrators utilising funding available.
- **Plan**
Monitor any issues with referrals and plan to ensure adequate support and accommodation is available in line with demand.

Armed forces Community

Members of the Armed Forces community can also fall into multiple group descriptors and can become homeless due to relationship breakdowns during the transition to civilian life, domestic abuse, having complex needs due to mental health issues as well as those who leave the military at short notice.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Respond to all referrals in a timely manner working with the referring partner and other agencies in line with protocols.
- **Protect**
Ensure appropriate support is available to assist in the transition to civilian life and for those experiencing Domestic Abuse.
- **Place**
Identify those that are eligible using the 'think veteran' approach and avoid temporary accommodation where possible.
- **Partnership**
Engage with partners to form a multi-agency approach to meet individual needs and promote assistance we can offer.

- **Plan**
introduce protocols to streamline referrals and monitor any barriers in accommodating and supporting these individuals

Those with No recourse to public funds (NRPF)

There are individuals in some parts of the county with restricted eligibility who do not have access to public funding, they are unable to access housing and often end up rough sleeping. Some that are employed have access to accommodation, but this is often unsuitable. Many in this group were accommodated during the pandemic but are now not eligible for assistance, unless there is a risk to life.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Engage with individuals as early as possible to assess options to prevent them from rough sleeping.
- **Protect**
Ascertain immigration status and eligibility to apply for EUSS and assist with applications where needed. Explore options to enable individuals access to employment.

- **Place**
Provide temporary accommodation where individuals are eligible or if there is a 'risk to life.' Engage and encourage non publicly funded organisations to provide accommodation short term.
- **Partnership**
Liaise with supporting agencies and partners to assist with accommodation and support – NHS & GP Surgeries, faith groups, addiction support, and food banks.
- **Plan**
Implement a joint agency protocol for housing and support for no recourse to public funds.

13 Review and implementation plan

The strategy will be reviewed by both the Strategic Leads group represented by all district's councils, Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincs Housing Partnerships Manager.

An ambitions table in the next section has been produced using the feedback from the consultation, and review of the last strategy to inform on the outcomes we wish to achieve through this strategy. To ensure this document remains relevant throughout its lifespan, an implementation plan has not been included. Instead, a series of action groups for each priority will be responsible for the delivery of the ambitions, through more detailed implementation plans.

The groups will involve representation from a range of organisations including the seven district councils, Lincolnshire County Council, housing providers, voluntary sector and health professionals who together will achieve the aims of this strategy as we face the challenges set out in this document together.

Progress from the actions on the implementation plan will be monitored through the Lincolnshire Strategy Homelessness Partnership group and reported up to Lincolnshire Housing Health Co-ordination Group and

Housing Health Care Delivery Group.

14 Ambitions

Priority	Activity Summary	What success will look like
Prevent	<p>Ensure Duty to Refers are effective</p> <p>Ensure pathways to housing advice and prevention assistance are well promoted</p> <p>Offer access to a range of tools to prevent homelessness</p> <p>Enable access to support to sustain accommodation and avoid recurrence</p>	<p>Homelessness prevention continues to overshadow crisis situations</p> <p>County wide service delivery that focuses on prevention of homelessness through a range of activities</p>
Protect	<p>Target assistance to those most at risk</p> <p>Continue to develop existing RSI partnerships</p> <p>Ensure rough sleepers can access primary and secondary care services</p> <p>Progress a dual-diagnosis service for substance misuse and mental health.</p>	<p>Vulnerability is identified at the earliest opportunity with appropriate safeguarding in place to minimise risk of harm or detriment to wellbeing</p> <p>All relevant services react quickly to prevent homelessness.</p>
Partnership	<p>Recognise homelessness as a multi-faceted issue and not just a housing problem, working together to address the underlying causes</p> <p>Strengthen existing relationships</p> <p>Review and adapt the partnership structure to reflect needs and ensure progress with a Strategy implementation plan</p>	<p>A Partnership structure with a clear purpose that achieves effective outcomes</p> <p>Homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring in Lincolnshire</p>
Place	<p>Map, review effectiveness and where appropriate remodel accommodation provision to meet changing needs</p> <p>Ensure there are a range of tools available to support households' access to suitable reasonable accommodation options</p> <p>Increase the provision of suitable accommodation across the county to meet identified needs</p>	<p>Suitable accommodation options available for all, with appropriate support to access and sustain that accommodation where required</p>

<p>Plan</p>	<p>Prepare and maintain datasets to readily support funding opportunities</p> <p>Actively seek funding opportunities to improve/increase service provision and/or resources in Lincolnshire</p> <p>Use of appropriate political structures to ensure awareness to local issues and access to funding opportunities</p> <p>Develop our understanding of the causes and effects of homelessness and/or sleeping rough through further research and data analysis</p> <p>Keep abreast of policy and guidance changes alongside examples of good practice across the county to ensure services can respond to change</p>	<p>Service delivery that is flexible to change in the future and meets the needs of those that need it</p> <p>A local political environment that is informed and supportive to maximise opportunities to the benefit of Lincolnshire residents</p> <p>Better understanding of needs and impacts so that service provision can be matched to demands</p>
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Part 1: Equality Impact Screening/Pre-Assessment*

Name of Policy/Function/Strategy to be assessed: Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027	Section/Directorate: Homes and Communities
Name of person responsible for assessment: Sarah Elvin	Date of Screening: 20th October 2022

Policy Aims

What is the purpose of the policy/function/strategy? What are its intended outcomes?

The strategy aims to reduce and prevent homelessness and rough sleeper and ensure any incidences are rare, brief and non-recurring

Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy/function/strategy?
District Councils, LCC, RP's, third sector providers,

Do the identified stakeholders stand to be positively or negatively affected by the policy/function/strategy?

Neither positive or negatively affected, we will be working with them to improve services those who are homeless or a risk of homelessness

Does this policy/function/strategy support the Council's stated equality objectives? (see overleaf.) Does it serve to impede them? Please explain.

It does support those and it does not stand to impede them.

Preliminary Impact Assessment

	Yes	No	Unsure
1. Will this policy or function have an impact on:			
a. How services are delivered to the public?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Human Resources Policies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have any aspects of your policy/strategy already been covered by other EIAs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. If yes, please indicate which ones and the dates. Also indicate which new/additional aspects would be covered under this EIA.			

If you answered Yes or Unsure for question1 please proceed to Part 2 of the EIA, which is to be completed with a small team of people.

Otherwise, if you are satisfied that there would be no additional benefit to completing a full impact assessment (noting that many issues with no apparent relevance may have hidden impacts) then please have your Service Manager sign and date this sheet to indicate that the EIA has been fully completed at this stage.

* Part 1 should be completed by the Lead Officer and signed by the Service Manager. Refer to the [Internal EIA Guidance](#) for more information on what EIAs are, why they are important, when they should be completed, who should be involved, and how they should be done.

Manager's Signature:		This document may be published on the website <input type="checkbox"/>
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Equality Objectives

1. Review Corporate Plan and Equality objectives to ensure links are clear and objectives are evidence based
2. Ensure that all our staff, elected members and volunteers are aware of our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty
3. Engage our communities to participate in the determination of our priorities and decision making
4. Ensure we are transparent in decision making

Part 2: Equality Impact Assessment†

Identifying Potential Equality Issues

Use the information in Part 1, any other supporting documents, and the questions below to aid the group's discussion on the presence of potential equality issues.

- What do you know already about equality impact or need?
- Is there any indication that particular features of this policy/function will create problems for specific groups?
- Is there any indication that particular features of this policy/function will benefit specific groups or advance equality between different groups of people?

Evidence‡

It is difficult to achieve an effective EIA without good evidence. Answer the questions below about the evidence relating to the project/policy/function.

What are the existing sources of evidence and mechanisms for gathering data?

Data is gathered via our government returns regarding homelessness in the County. Public and stakeholder consultation was undertaken to inform priorities and shape the strategy

Action groups will be formed to take forward highlighted challenges and improve ways of working as part of an implementation plan.

Is there any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy or function?

There are many factors that can be involved in individuals becoming homeless and rough sleeping. These are widely documented within the strategy and mechanisms are required to ensure each cohort of people are dealt with in a tailored and measured approach.

Is there any evidence, or other reason to believe, that there is a higher or lower level of participation or uptake among different groups?

Becoming homeless is not a choice, but it does have different impacts on different people. These are all highlighted and addressed within the strategy to ensure a tailored and measured approach can be actioned.

All groups will be able to access support and provision tailored to their needs but in line with homelessness law. Those not in priority need still have options to be accommodated. There is no blanket process or option, each individual receives an assessment of their needs as everyone had different circumstances.

† Part 2 should be completed by the Policy/Project Lead with the help of a team of people invited to assist.

‡ See the "Evidence Collection and Data Use" section of the [Internal EIA Guidance](#).

Does this policy/project impact a particular area of the District? Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally?

The strategy does not aim to tackle homelessness in just one part of the district, there is a tailored approach no matter what area of the district you are from. However, we see higher levels of homelessness within the town centres and this is not just a West Lindsey trend but a national picture and reflects the delivery of services within those centres.

Services are accessible regardless of location including telephone contact and face to face visits including outreach services.

Is there any informal feedback from managers, staff or voluntary organisations?

Consultation has been undertaken for the strategy which has been positively received by stakeholders.

Are there gaps in the data or our knowledge? What further evidence is needed to understand the impact upon equality?

Statutory Homelessness legislation alongside guidance dictates how Homelessness services are delivered.

This strategy looks at data both quantitative and qualitative to determine where there are gaps in services but also where changes can be made to improve services. The sector has to be responsive to changes in the National position, for example, covid-19 had a huge impact on homelessness when the government brought in the campaign to ensure no one spent nights on the streets during lockdown.

Evidence is continuously being gathered to ensure that Countywide services can be responsive to the latest national issues facing the sector and these will be reflected in the ways in which services are both managed and developed locally.

Based on the identification of potential equality issues and the supporting evidence, the team can try to determine the impact of the policy/project/service/function on different groups.

Does the data show different impact upon different groups?

Yes No

If yes, which groups are affected?


Group	May particularly benefit	May adversely impact	No impact anticipated
People from different ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maternity/pregnancy impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People from different faith groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older or younger people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People in rural locations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Married people or people in civil partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group cont'd	May particularly benefit	May adversely impact	No impact anticipated
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain the potential benefits or adverse impacts listed above.

Everyone is able to access support with their housing situation regardless of their protected characteristics. Eligibility is set in homelessness law but options are available for those not in priority need through Rough Sleeper Initiatives. Pathways are set for certain groups including single people, families, those with complex or specific needs, prison leavers, care leavers and of the armed forces community. However, these pathways are only identified to allow access to services specific to the needs of these groups but any provision and support to tailored to individual needs regardless of any group or protected characteristics that they may fall into.

Recommendations

Please select a recommended course of action and, where appropriate, explain your choice.

No major change needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjust the policy <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse impact but continue <input type="checkbox"/> Stop and remove the policy <input type="checkbox"/>
Future actions: None required at this time
Lead Signature:  Date§: 20 th October 2022

§ What happens next? – See the “Understanding the EIA process” section of the [Internal EIA Guidance](#).

Agenda Item 6c



Prosperous Communities

Tuesday, 6 December 2022

Subject: Voluntary & Community Sector Grants

Report by:

Assistant Director Homes and Communities

Contact Officer:

Grant White
Communities Manager

grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To approve Core Voluntary and Community Sector Grants for 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. Committee approve Core Voluntary and Community Sector Grants for 2023/24 as follows:

- **Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln) - £60,000**
- **Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association - £15,000**
- **Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride - £13,000**
- **The Conservation Volunteers - £30,000**
- **Voluntary Centre Services - £25,000**
- **West Lindsey Churches Festival - £8,000**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Grant funding agreements used meet legal requirements and have been approved for use by Legal Services. All grants awarded will comply with necessary legal regulations and same requirements will be placed on projects and organisations funded.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/115/23/SL

There is ongoing budget provision within the MTFP of £151,200 for Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) grants, to reflect the grant allocations proposed at section 8.1

Organisation	2023/24 Funding
Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln)	£60,200
Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)	£15,000
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	£13,000
The Conservation Volunteers	£30,000
Voluntary Centre Services	£25,000
West Lindsey Churches Festival	£8,000
TOTAL:	£151,200

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

The management of VCS Grants will be delivered using existing staff resources within the Council's Communities Team.

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Grant funding activity will be delivered in accordance with Council's equality and diversity policies. Organisations receiving funding will be required to meet the same standards and protections are included within grant funding agreements.

Data Protection Implications :

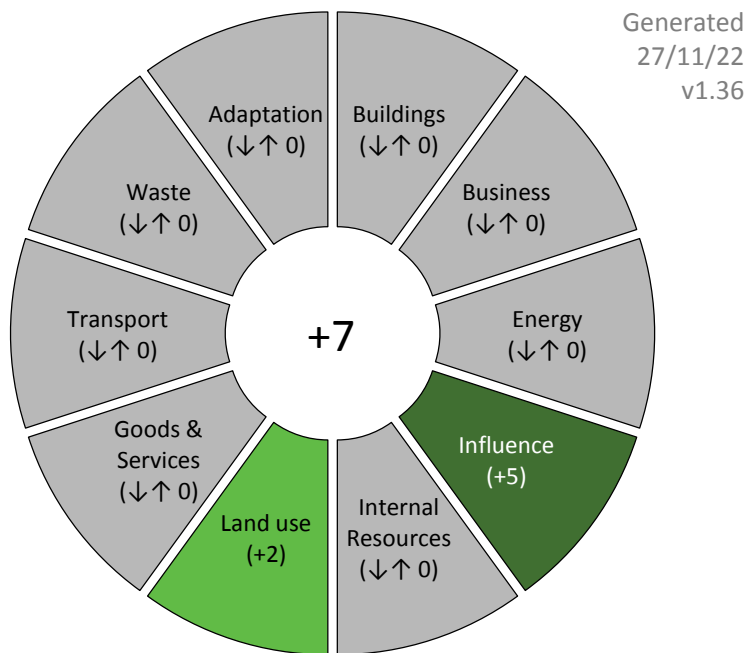
Grant funding activity will comply with all necessary data protection requirements. Data collected for grant awards will be stored securely including financial information for grant payments.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

The delivery of VCS Grants will utilise a digital first approach with use of electronic forms, documents and e-mail to avoid the need for printing.

The organisations receiving VCS Grants may have a direct impact on carbon reduction and environment through the work they deliver. As part of grant monitoring and evaluation any impacts on environment will be captured.

In particular the work delivered by The Conservation Volunteers will have a direct impact on environmental protection with council owned green spaces being maintained and enhanced.



West Lindsey District Council will be net zero by 2050 (27 years and 1 months away).

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

There are no considerations for this report however some organisations funded may have a direct or in-direct impact on helping to reduce the risk of crime and disorder. Where possible this will be captured in any monitoring and evaluation reporting.

Health Implications:

VCS Grants support targeted services across West Lindsey which all have a direct impact on health and wellbeing of service users. The impacts can be wide ranging and some cases are in-direct benefits as a result of a service being delivered.

Monitoring and evaluation helps capture details of the impact on health and wellbeing. This is also presented in the form of case studies to help demonstrate the impact on individuals by organisations we grant fund.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

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Risk Assessment :

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Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council provides a range of core Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Grants to support the delivery of projects and services for the benefit of our communities and residents. The delivery of these services contributes towards the Council's Corporate Plan priorities.
- 1.2 Current Core VCS grant agreements end on 31st March 2023. The current core funding VCS grants were approved by Prosperous Communities Committee on 7th December 2021 for a 1-year period beginning 1st April 2022. An additional recommendation at this meeting was to undertake a review of VCS Grants which has been completed.
- 1.3 Officers have conducted a review of VCS grants. The findings of the review have been shared with the Community Grants Panel (a Member Working Group) and they have endorsed the recommendations in this report. This report summarises the review and recommends continuation with 1-year grant agreements.
- 1.4 The proposed approach of 1-year grant agreements aligns to supporting delivery against the current Corporate Plan 2019-2023. Officers will then conduct further funding review work during 2023/24 and present recommendations to a future committee aligned to a new Corporate Plan.

2 Review Methodology

- 2.1 Officers completed a review of core VCS grants to ensure projects and services being delivered contributed to Corporate Plan priorities, addressed identified community needs and achieved value for money.
- 2.2 The review work included meetings with organisation leaders, surveys, site visits, data collection and case studies.
- 2.3 The key elements of the review work have been:
 - Desktop research and review of literature (August – November 2022)
 - Data received from organisations
 - Template form completed by organisations to provide key information for review
 - Semi-structure interviews with core-funded VCS organisations and identified officers (October 2022)
 - 121 interview meetings held with all organisations
 - Detailed discussion on organisational position, challenges, financial position and future opportunities
 - State of VCS questions incorporated into funding related site visits with VCS across the district (July – November 2022)

3 VCS Landscape Nationally

3.1 National research on the current status of the voluntary and community sector is highlighted in the Civil Society Almanac 2022:¹

- The number of voluntary organisations increased as did the sector's workforce and total income.
- The combined effects of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis are likely to impact the sector as a whole but leave smaller charities particularly vulnerable.
- For the first time in 20 years, income from the public contributed half (51%) of all voluntary sector income, while income from government continued to decline.
- Volunteer retention for older and socio-economically disadvantaged groups has become challenging.

3.2 The predicted impact on the sustainability of smaller VCS organisations nationally is also likely to be the case in West Lindsey. This is evidenced by increased applications to our Community Grant schemes as well as increased enquiries for funding and governance support.

3.3 Declines in government funding, grants and foundation funding are likely not to be made up in public donations and support due to the cost of living crisis. This leaves the sector, and the people they serve, vulnerable.

3.4 The UK government commissioned research (August 2022) looking at the growth potential and barriers for VCS organisations, in particular in relation to the delivery of public services and their participation in public procurement and commissioning processes.² The report recognised the importance of place-based action by VCS organisations with strong links to their locality. It highlighted that the public procurement and commissioning processes tended to favour larger VCS organisations with income over £10m. Barriers were identified for the vast majority of VCS from accessing public funding despite delivering significant social value. The report recognised the importance of grants as part of the VCS support process alongside public procurement was required processes as well as utilisation of the Social Value Model in procurement processes.³

¹ <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/uk-civil-society-almanac-2022/#/> NCVO – UK Civil Society Almanac 2022

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-role-of-voluntary-community-and-social-enterprise-vcse-organisations-in-public-procurement> (Accessed November 2022)

³ https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwinIKuF9qP7AhUUT8AKHalwD2UQFnoECAkQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F940826%2FSocial-Value-Model-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf&usq=AOvVaw3OkwiTu7Q75HMSIzKZMV-J (Accessed November 2022)

4 Core VCS Grants from West Lindsey District Council

4.1 The council has supported core funding for identified VCS organisations that are critical to achieving its corporate plan objectives for many years. The historic arrangements for these grants were based on identified need and shared objectives and these have been reviewed on a 3-yearly basis with annual monitoring.

4.2 The following core funding grants have been provided during 2022/23:

Organisation	2022/23 Funding
Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln)	£60,200
Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)	£15,000
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	£13,000
The Conservation Volunteers	£30,000
Voluntary Centre Services	£25,000
West Lindsey Churches Festival	£8,000

The total core funding value for all grants listed above is £151,200.

4.3 The core funding grants play a critical role in meeting our corporate plan objectives by:

- Providing critical advice and support to all our residents and in particular those who are most at-risk, in relation to debt and any other problems they face
- Supporting voluntary and community sector organisations to serve the most vulnerable and marginalised
- Facilitating volunteering in the community to build skills, experience and community engagement
- Supporting vulnerable and at-risk individuals in both town and rural areas to be independent and thrive
- Maintaining green spaces and supporting environmental development
- Maintaining identified community and heritage assets

5 Summary of Review Findings

5.1 The following key findings from the core VCS Grants review work have been identified:

- The current core funded VCS organisations are meeting significant needs and gaps relating to essential service provision for West Lindsey citizens, assets and spaces.
- The current core funding arrangement for VCS organisations are important contributors to the council's corporate plan.
- Any changes to the core funding arrangement in the short-term would have a major impact on the service delivery of the VCS organisations

- Changes to the existing core funding arrangement would likely have a significant impact on current council operations and outcomes.
- The impact of changes of funding streams including the end of European Social Fund and the potential UK Shared Prosperity Fund as well as current funding reviews by key regional funders all need to be monitored in relation to their impact on the VCS sector and the council's intended outcomes in 2023 and beyond.
- Other VCS organisations could benefit from core funding arrangements with the council but this would require alignment and analysis with any new corporate plan.

5.2 Impact and outcomes of VCS Grants

A table has been produced summarising the findings from the review work conducted by officers. This is included in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 – VCS Grants Impact & Outcomes

5.3 Case Studies

A series of case studies have been prepared as part of the review work conducted by officers. These are included in Appendix 2.

Appendix 2 – Case Studies

6 Financial Profile 2023/24

- 6.1 This report proposes continuing the core VCS Grants to existing organisations with a 1-year grant agreement. Based on this recommendation the following financial profile would be used:

Organisation	2023/24 Funding
Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln)	£60,200
Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)	£15,000
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	£13,000
The Conservation Volunteers	£30,000
Voluntary Centre Services	£25,000
West Lindsey Churches Festival	£8,000
TOTAL:	£151,200

- 6.2 The budget within the MTFP from 2023/24 onwards is a total of £151,200 for core VCS Grants.

7 Monitoring and Evaluation

- 7.1 All core VCS grants will be awarded with a grant funding agreement containing monitoring and evaluation requirements. Organisations receiving funding will

be required to provide regular monitoring information to demonstrate the impact of services and activities being delivered.

- 7.2 Monitoring information will be collected to help support future core VCS grant review work during 2023/2024. Regular updates will be shared with Members as appropriate and promoted through our Communications Team.

8 Core VCS Grants beyond 2023/24

- 8.1 Officers will utilise monitoring and evaluation information obtained during 2023/24 to help prepare future funding recommendations for Members. This will include engagement with the Community Grants Panel.
- 8.2 Future recommendations for core VCS grants beyond 2023/24 will be aligned to a new Corporate Plan and any relevant strategies at that time.

9 Recommendations

- 9.1 Committee approve Core Voluntary and Community Sector Grants for 2023/24 as follows:
- Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln) - £60,000
 - Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association - £15,000
 - Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride - £13,000
 - The Conservation Volunteers - £30,000
 - Voluntary Centre Services - £25,000
 - West Lindsey Churches Festival - £8,000

APPENDIX 1 - VCS Grants Impact and Outcomes

6.1 The following table summarises the findings from the review work conducted by officers:

Name	Evidence of identified need	Purpose of WLDC VCS core funded activity	Corporate plan 19-23	Social impact	Economic return on investment for
<p>Citizens Advice</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 79</p>	<p>West Lindsey residents need accessible advice and support for issues they face, including financial and related challenges.</p> <p>Nine of West Lindsey's 52 neighbourhoods are within the top 20% most income deprived neighbourhoods in England.</p> <p>A total of 11,854 people, or 12.3% of the district's population, are classed by the Office for National Statistics as income-deprived (classed as out of work or on low-earnings).</p> <p>In the most deprived neighbourhood (within Gainsborough South-West ward), this figure rises to 45.3%. ¹</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advice and support to residents in West Lindsey wishing to access advice and support commensurate with services offered through the Citizens Advice. 2. The provision of face-to-face services through existing premises. 3. The provision of telephone services accessible to West Lindsey residents. 4. To work in partnership with the Council to support joint projects and delivery such as surgery support in West Lindsey. 5. Funding to be split between Citizens Advice Lindsey and Citizens Advice Lincoln for services provided to West Lindsey residents at a percentage agreed between the two organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved health & wellbeing across the district's residents. - Greater quality of life and levels of independence among vulnerable residents. - Reduced levels of poverty and deprivation. 	<p>1,576 clients were supported with as many as 7,303 issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 41% of issues related to help with benefits, Tax Credits and Universal Credit ● 30% of issues related to help with debt and financial capability ● 50% of clients had a disability or long term health condition. <p>During January to March 2022, CA dealt with a 50% increase in calls compared to the same quarter the previous year, in part due to Household Support Fund queries.</p>	<p>For every £1 of local authority funding, £1.45 in fiscal benefit to the local authority² including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reducing homelessness ● maximising the income for those we help which prevents more costly intervention <p>In addition, the core services provided by CA means a reduction in calls to WLDC customer services, benefits or communities teams.</p>

¹ Index of Deprivation (2019)

² Calculated by Citizen's Advice

APPENDIX 1 - VCS Grants Impact and Outcomes

Name	Evidence of identified need	Purpose of WLDC VCS core funded activity	Corporate plan 19-23	Social impact	Economic return on investment for
<p>The Conservation Volunteers</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 80</p>	<p>Green space management WLDC owns 4 green spaces that require management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercer Wood • Pit Hills Plantation • Theaker Avenue Nature Area • Thonock Meadow <p>Mental health in West Lindsey. By 2035, 2,730 residents (8.3%) aged 65 and over are predicted to suffer from depression, with 897 (2.7%) of these predicted to suffer with severe depression.³</p> <p>In West Lindsey, the rate of hospital admissions as a result of self-harm is 157 (per 100,000 of the population). At 9.1 (per 100,000), the suicide rate is in line with the national average. Volunteering in nature addresses multiple needs and is evidence-based.⁴</p>	<p>1. Maintain Council owned woodlands and green spaces with volunteer led activity. Sites and work schedules to be agreed and maintained in the on-going delivery plan.</p> <p>2. Provide conservation volunteering opportunities for all sector of society with a particular focus on:</p> <p>2.1 People with health issues 2.2 The educationally disadvantaged 2.3 The unemployed 2.4 The isolated, vulnerable and/or disabled</p> <p>3. Promote local conservation and volunteering through relevant publicity, marketing activity and social media.</p> <p>4. Support the Council on other environmental projects as appropriate.</p>	<p>Improved health & wellbeing across the district's residents.</p>	<p>TCV maintain 4 sites for WLDC</p> <p>Over 18 months, TCV completed 650 volunteer days and 3900 volunteer hours.</p> <p>Volunteers report various outcomes including improved mental health, increased physical fitness and reduced isolation. The impact on well-being of TCV programmes is evidence-based.</p>	<p>It is estimated that the cost of providing core support to TCV including management of WLDC green spaces is at least 5 times less costly than standard green space contractors which would be required in the absence of TCV.⁵ Therefore for every £1 spent with TCV, there is an estimated fiscal saving of £4 on green space management.</p> <p>The estimated value of the volunteer hours contributed to West Lindsey by TCV over 18 months is £37,050.⁶</p>

³ State of the District 2020 <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/State%20of%20the%20District%20Report%202020.pdf> (Accessed November 2022)

⁴ Smyth N (2022) Increased Wellbeing following Engagement in a Group Nature-Based Programme: The Green Gym Programme Delivered by the Conservation Volunteers

⁵ Based on a quotation for Ashcroft Green Footpath. TCV quoted £5000. Other quotes ranged from £25,000-£35,000.

⁶ This is calculated utilising minimum wage at April 2022 – £9.50.

APPENDIX 1 - VCS Grants Impact and Outcomes

Name	Evidence of identified need	Purpose of WLDC VCS core funded activity	Corporate plan 19-23	Social impact	Economic return on investment for
<p>Lincoln Area Dial-a-ride</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 81</p>	<p>West Lindsey residents need accessible and affordable transport options, in particular those with chronic and long-term health conditions, people living with disabilities and older people.</p> <p>West Lindsey has an ageing population with an average age of 47.⁷</p> <p>Nationally, one-third of people living with a disability or long-term health condition do not access public, commercial and leisure goods or services and one-fifth experience regular difficulties accessing public transport, a problem that is particularly prevalent in rural areas.⁸</p> <p>By 2030, 4,274 adults in West Lindsey will have a moderate physical disability or sensory impairment; 1,319 adults will have a serious disability or sensory impairment, and 1,237 adults are predicted to have a learning disability.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the continued provision of the Dial-a-Ride service. 2. The Dial-a-Ride service provides an accessible and affordable door to door transport for people in Lincoln and the surrounding area who are not able to access public transport. Service users include the elderly and those with a physical or mental disability that prevents them from using public transport. 3. The main objectives of the Dial-a-Ride service are to improve the quality of life and promote the social inclusion and independence of those individuals in the coverage area that are disadvantaged through age and/or disability. 	<p>Improved health & wellbeing across the district's residents.</p>	<p>Dial-a-ride runs a fleet of 9 minivans – 8 of which are adapted for wheelchair use.</p> <p>Main measurement of impact are case studies as outlined case studies in this report.</p>	<p>The cost of utilising dial-a-ride by a service user is £9 when the equivalent taxi ride would be £28. This makes transport generally affordable.</p>

⁷ State of the district 2020

⁸ State of the district 2020

APPENDIX 1 - VCS Grants Impact and Outcomes

Name	Evidence of identified need	Purpose of WLDC VCS core funded activity	Corporate plan 19-23	Social impact	Economic return on investment for
<p>Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 82</p>	<p>Children need places to learn, play and thrive in particular in the most deprived parts of our district.</p> <p>Gainsborough East has the highest child poverty in West Lindsey at 30.1%.⁹</p> <p>Opportunities for play, learning and physical activity in green space are crucial for child development and the prevention of future youth and young adult behavioural issues.</p>	<p>To use funding for the following areas of work and delivery:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A safe environment for children of school age to undertake adventurous play 2. A structured play environment to assist child development, learning and experiences 3. Positive parenting experiences through family activities and events 4. Opportunities for children to make a positive contribution to their community 5. Pre-foundation stage learning and outreach activities 	<p>Improved health & wellbeing across the district's residents.</p> <p>Increased education and training opportunities for young people.</p> <p>Increased physical activity across the residents of the district.</p>	<p>500 children on the GAPA register</p> <p>During school holidays, GAPA are seeing up to 65 children per day</p> <p>The majority of children are between the ages of 5-11</p> <p>Critical early prevention for criminal behaviour and ASB in the Gainsborough East Ward.</p> <p>Site for training and development of Gainsborough Young people to get them into childcare work</p>	<p>A detailed SROI would need to be undertaken to calculate the long-term economic investment of child development in this ward.</p> <p>Any reduction of GAPA services is likely to result in increased expenditure on ASB, crime and disorder and other related issues.</p>

⁹ State of the District 2020

APPENDIX 1 - VCS Grants Impact and Outcomes

Name	Evidence of identified need	Purpose of WLDC VCS core funded activity	Corporate plan 19-23	Social impact	Economic return on investment for
<p>Voluntary Centre Services</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 83</p>	<p>There are thousands of charities and community groups (2517 registered charities) in West Lindsey that require funding support, volunteers and governance advice.</p> <p>Volunteering is recognised as an important contributor to physical and mental health and well-being.</p> <p>In the 12 months to December 2019, the unemployment rate in West Lindsey stood at 3.8% which equates to 1,800 adults.¹⁰</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volunteer Centre management and development 2. Provide support to the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) 	<p>Greater quality of life and levels of independence among vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Improved health & wellbeing across the district's residents.</p> <p>Increased education and training opportunities for young people.</p>	<p>During 2021-2022, VCS supported over 200 volunteers to volunteer in the district.</p> <p>During 2021-22, VCS supported around 130 local organisations to develop and deliver their services to West Lindsey residents</p> <p>The funding of core services enables VCS to access funding and deliver other services with critical social impact including:</p> <p>Facilitating 459 West Lindsey residents to benefit from social Prescribing support services</p>	<p>VCS reduces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for support by VCS organisations on the communities team. • Increases the sustainability of the voluntary sector, reducing pressure on public services.

¹⁰ State of the District 2020

APPENDIX 1 - VCS Grants Impact and Outcomes

Name	Evidence of identified need	Purpose of WLDC VCS core funded activity	Corporate plan 19-23	Social impact	Economic return on investment for
<p>West Lindsey Churches Festival</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 84</p>	<p>West Lindsey churches are an important part of the heritage and communities of West Lindsey.</p> <p>Churches across West Lindsey were closed during the pandemic and were unable to raise income.</p> <p>A reduction in congregations is seeing churches in West Lindsey struggle to maintain their buildings.</p> <p>The festival promotes people to visit, engage with and support their local churches as important community and heritage assets.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase awareness of Church and Heritage Tourism in West Lindsey 2. To encourage additional out of county visitors 3. To promote wider usage of all local tourism facilities during the festival dates and encourage repeat visitors to the area 4. To engage more people from the local community to enter and celebrate the history and significance of churches 5. To promote the festival as an example of good practice regionally and nationally 	<p>Improved health & wellbeing across the district's residents</p>	<p>In 2022, the Festival raised £24,000.</p> <p>There were 7642 visitors to our local churches and 656 volunteers.</p> <p>Over the 2 weeks of the festival, there were 754 visits to churches from people outside of West Lindsey postcodes. These included visitors from Greece, Switzerland, Canada and Australia.</p>	<p>WLDC receives grant funding requests from funding for church repairs and it is estimated that these will increase.</p> <p>Enabling churches to fundraise for themselves and build fundraising skills reduces requests to WLDC for financial support as well as fundraising support.</p>

Citizens Advice

Client Profile:

The client was single and living alone in a 2 bedroom privately rented property. The client was a reformed drug addict, suffering from Asthma, COPD, Lung Disease, Severe Manic depression and OCD. The client had no savings, assets or vehicles. The client was in receipt of Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit. The client was having deductions from her ESA for a Magistrates Court Fine, a Social Fund Loan and Council Tax.

The client was receiving help from a local mental health clinic and was waiting to see a psychiatrist. We discussed the Mental Health Breathing Space but as the client needed help with their energy supply they told us that they didn't require a referral for the Mental Health Breathing Space at present.

Summary of Issues:

The client initially telephoned our Adviceline for help as they had issues with their prepayment meter and was having to manage without electricity at times. The client also told our Adviceline advisers that they barely had any money for food some weeks. During our appointment they told us that they had been stealing food.

The client had rent arrears of approximately £1000 but the landlord had not threatened any action yet. As the client lived above a shop, their water bills were included with their rent.

Advice given:

The client had already made an application for Personal Independence Payments. We supported them with following up on the applications.

We arranged for the client to visit the foodbank.

We completed an application form for Discretionary Housing Payment. This was agreed and the landlord received £39 per week for 12 weeks.

Severe Mental Impairment reduction (Council Tax) – The client agreed to have the form completed by a health professional and return it to the council. We advised the client that it is possible that the application could be backdated which would reduce her arrears. We discussed that we could make a Section 13A application if there was any further debt outstanding.

Electric– We found that the client's supply had been transferred to British Gas, there was no debt and the client could continue using their existing card to top up the prepayment meter.

Gas – EON agreed to send the client a new payment card and the debt was set to be deducted from the prepayment meter at a rate of £3 per week

Action to be taken by the client:

The clients' family were able to help them apply for The Warm Home Discount.

We recommended that the client should start to pay towards the arrears and suggested £20 per month.

Social Fund Loan – We advised that the client could ask DWP to extend their payment period if it is not at the maximum repayment period of 104 weeks. This would reduce her monthly payment.

Outcome:

We completed an application form for Discretionary Housing Payment.

This was agreed and the landlord received £39 per week for 12 weeks.

Electricity - The client was able to manage their prepayment meters.

Gas – EON agreed to send the client a new payment card and the debt was set to be deducted from the prepayment meter at a rate of £3 per week.

The client made an application for a Housing Association property.

The Conservation Volunteers (Mercer Wood Case Study)

TCV volunteers carried out a major project in the spring of 2016 at Mercer wood in Gainsborough. The area at this time was very inaccessible and subject to a high level of anti-social behavior, restricting access to and use of the site by local residents.

Volunteer groups worked together to clear the and level the site, install over 400 metres of surfaced paths, steps and a slope to enable wheelchair access.

Seating areas were introduced with benches installed at locations around the site, a community orchard established, and wildflower meadows created.

The project brought together TCV volunteers, the Friends of Mercer Wood community group and adults with additional needs from the nearby Hastings Centre.

The project has continued with regular volunteer tasks run most days through the year, to maintain the site and make further improvements, including installing hand rails on the steps and slope and creating further wildflower and grassed areas.

TCV has continued to work with and help to link different community groups in the area.

The improvements to the appearance, accessibility and habitat diversity at Mercer Wood has led to the site experiencing increased use of the site from members of the local community.

Residents use the site to walk, experience wildlife and as an area to relax and reflect in.

TCV and the volunteers who work on the projects receive positive feedback and thanks from residents visiting the wood on a daily basis.

The work that has been carried out at the site has won several awards for the improvements carried out, the site is now a regular site on the Gainsborough in Bloom/Lincolnshire in Bloom route, where it has received praise for the improvements to access, biodiversity and community engagement.

The Friends of Mercer Wood were the winners of the 2019 Lincolnshire Environmental awards for their work in securing funding for the improvements to the area.

This year a Silver award was attained from Gainsborough in Bloom, and the Hastings group won the judges award for the work they carried out with TCV at the wood.

The site and activities carried out by both volunteer and community groups along with the increased use of the site by local residents has helped to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, has increased their levels of physical activity, and led to a greater quality of life and independence, by providing a safe and accessible area for all to experience and enjoy.

Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride

Client 1 – Angela (not real name)

Angela is a resident of Cherry Willingham but has been in a care home since breaking her leg and is confined to a wheelchair. Her husband is in a nursing home with Alzheimer's disease and because of the covid 19 pandemic and the fact that her daughter lives abroad, Angela had not seen her husband for nearly three years.

Angela's daughter Anne phoned the DialaRide office from abroad two weeks before visiting England, to ask if we could help get her mother out and about whilst she was here and especially so that she could visit her husband. With great cooperation from the drivers and flexible timing we managed to get Angela out and about in her wheelchair 12 times in a two-and-a-half-week period. Angela and Anne were so impressed with the service that they did write numerous feedback forms about DialaRide.

What does the service mean to you?

"Independence – the ability to get out"

"The freedom for mum and I to spend time together outside the home"

"It meant my mother could go out of the home- her well-being enhanced"

"This service means my mother was able to go out for the first time since becoming disabled in a wheelchair. She was able to see my father" (First time in three years)

"IT MEANT EVERYTHING"

Client 2 – Adam (not real name)

Adam is a young adult with learning difficulties who resides in Cherry Willingham. Four days a week he attends an educational day centre that focuses on living independence, work experience and basic education. He gets very anxious about most types of travel, so he relies on DialaRide to get there and back.

Since joining our scheme in May of 2021, we have provided transport for Adam 459 times. Not only have we saved Adam hundreds of pounds in comparison to a taxi service we also provide the extra care and comfort that Adam requires.

What does this service mean to you? (answered by Adam's mum)

"It means that Adam can attend his day centre 4 times a week. We looked around when looking for transport and this is the only means that Adam could use knowing that he is safe and guaranteed to be collected at our front door and dropped off at the front door of Diversity. Adam has built up a wonderful relationship with his drivers too"

Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association

Case Study 1 – “S”

S is 9 years old. She lives with her dad, step mum and two younger sisters. She has been coming to GAPA unaccompanied since she was 5, and attends most sessions. S has Autism and struggles to control her emotions and behaviour. She is not allowed to play out in the street with friends. GAPA is the only place she is able to meet them as her dad does not believe she will be safe anywhere else. Her Step- Mum says that S is very innocent and trusting, which makes her extremely vulnerable. S's Dad adds that she wouldn't feel comfortable letting S out where he can't guarantee people are thinking of her best interests.

When S first started coming to GAPA she found it difficult to interact with the other children appropriately. Her moods were quite unbalanced and she would often disrupt other children's play by throwing resources at others when they were making something in the playroom. This caused a lot of arguments between the children. S told us that when she first started coming to GAPA, she remembers feeling worried and not sure what to do. She used to get really distressed and irritated and she didn't know what to do about it. The playworkers realised that S had difficulties identifying and responding to social situations.

Staff spoke with her parents and worked out a plan to help her adjust and to settle in. S responded well with adults, so staff spent a lot of time with her; doing activities and encouraging positive behaviour within a group. Staff also worked with S, on methods to control her behaviour and expressing her emotions.

Overtime, Staff found S was more comfortable with children, S was able to respond to them and was more settled during activities. She began making clear friendships and joined in more with planned activities, even coming up with ideas for playschemes.

Since S started coming to GAPA there has been clear improvements in her confidence, behaviour and social interaction. Her Dad says that this has been the case at home too.

Dad says that thanks to the regular talks staff have had with her, he has been able to work with her at home. He continues that he would hate to think what S would be like if she hadn't had the support from GAPA. He doesn't know what he would've done if there was nowhere for S to go as sometimes, she just needed a break from home.

S loves coming to GAPA. She loves how there is always someone here for her, all her friends and the staff. She says that GAPA is the only place she can see everyone properly because her friends are in different schools. S said she doesn't know what she would be doing if she didn't come to GAPA, but she would probably be at home on her PlayStation.

Case Study 2 – “T”

T is a 13-year-old boy. He has been regularly attending GAPA for just over 3 years. When he first started coming to sessions, he would refuse to eat countless types of food. T really didn't like to exercise and didn't make friends very easily. His Mum described him as a 'difficult' child.

Playworkers here at GAPA, discovered that he didn't like things that were unfamiliar to him. Staff encouraged him to help us prepare meals for the other children. To start with T found this a huge challenge however, after a few months T became more willing to try new foods when he became more familiar with the ingredients and how they were prepared.

He has since attended several of our cooking workshops in the school holidays, and without fail, T is guaranteed to try new food before deciding whether he likes it or not.

Playworkers have also worked closely with his Mum by offering support with T's food journey. With reassurance, Mum now lets T help her plan and prepare meals at home. This has turned meal times into less of a battle and also help bond a relationship with Mother and Son.

When staff spoke to T about exercise, we found out that he found sport to be 'boring'. The Playworkers found T some different sporting activities to try an engage T partake in. T enjoys playing dodgeball in our free sport sessions with Wright Way Sports as T didn't realise that dodgeball was an actual sport! In the last year, T loves to rollerblade outside, he has become quite accomplished on a scooter, trying out trick shots on the mini ramps. T adores making Parkour assault courses out of tyres in the den building area.

These changed have led to an increase in T's confidence and purpose in life both at GAPA and at home. Whereas before T was very defensive and struggled to find common ground with the other people around T's age. He is now calmer and more relaxed and has a much wider circle of friends that enjoy similar sporting activities like T.

Voluntary Centre Services

Case Study 1 - Social Prescribing & Volunteering

Ms D was referred in to social prescribing by her job coach from DWP as she was struggling following the loss of her job due to a recent diagnosis that affected her mobility. She was struggling with the amount of Universal Credit that she was receiving and was getting herself in to substantial debt. Ms D's mental health had suffered as a result of her financial issues and as she lives alone, she was feeling very socially isolated.

After having a couple of telephone conversations with Ms D and following some encouragement, she decided to do some painting and decorating on a self-employed basis using social media to gain custom. This enabled her to get out of the house more often, have some social interaction whilst she was working and also alleviated some of her debt issues.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown prevented Ms D from entering other people's homes and therefore she was unable to continue with her self-employment. Following a telephone appointment with Ms D, I (Link Worker) signposted her to organisations that she could volunteer with during the lockdown period as she had expressed an interest in getting out of the house and giving back to the community.

Ms D gained a volunteering position with the NHS responders and was working to deliver food parcels to vulnerable people during the initial lockdown phase. She enjoyed doing this kind of work so much that she decided to apply for a caring role at one of the local care homes in the area after she saw they needed additional help.

Ms D secured a permanent position at the care home and is enjoying the work greatly. She says that she feels she has found her niche and even though the work is exhausting, every moment of exhaustion is worth it for the benefits that she feels from working with the elderly residents. She is making friends in the form of the other members of staff as well as gaining social interaction with residents. As she now has a permanent position, money is even less of a concern and she continues to do some self-employed decorating on her rest days. Ms D told me that her life has changed so much through the COVID pandemic that her mental health feels much improved and she even has found the confidence to go on the first date she has had in five years. She is audibly happier on the telephone and has a very bright outlook for the future.

Case Study 2 - Support for Disability Network CIC

We have supported Disability Network CIC for a number of years including representation on the board of directors. As part of our social prescribing programme we identified the need for a Befriending Scheme in Gainsborough with a large number of socially isolated clients. We connected them with established organisation "Assist" who shared information about their scheme and supported its development. We then proceeded to support their search for volunteers and provided support with governance, policies and procedures. The organisation has now successfully established a new scheme and is working closely with social prescribing to identify suitable clients.

Agenda Item 6d



Prosperous Communities

Tuesday, 6 December 2022

Subject: Community Grants Programme

Report by:

Assistant Director Homes and Communities

Contact Officer:

Grant White
Communities Manager

grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To approve the continuation of a Community Grants Programme from 2023/24 to 2026/27, linked to the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. Committee approve the continued delivery of the Councillor Initiative Fund from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2027.
2. Committee approve the continued delivery of the Flagship Community Grants Programme (previously agreed) from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2027.
3. Committee recommend to Corporate Policy & Resources Committee for financial approval.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Grant funding agreements used meet legal requirements and have been approved for use by Legal Services. All grants awarded will comply with necessary legal regulations and same requirements will be placed on projects and organisations funded.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/119/23/MT/SL

The Community Grant Scheme proposed within the report results in a total budget requirement of £344k over 4 years;

1. £144k for the Councillor Initiative Fund over 4 years (2023/24 to 2026/27), and
2. £200k for the Community Grant Programme for years 3 (2025/26) and 4 (2026/27). *Year 1 (2023/24) and 2 (2024/25) to be funded from UKSPF.*

The total budget requirement of £344k over 4 years to be met from General Fund Balances. This reduces the current forecast balance at the end of 2026/27 to £3.582m which is £1.082m above the minimum revenue balance of £2.5m.

There is £121k balance remaining on the Match Funding Grant allocation in 2022/23 (as of 28 November 2022). It is requested that any remaining balance at year end 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 be carried forward into 2025/26. This will reduce the requirement from GFB in 2025/26.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

The management of the Community Grants Programme will be delivered using existing staff resources within the Council's Communities Team.

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Grant funding activity will be delivered in accordance with Council's equality and diversity policies. Organisations receiving funding will be required to meet the same standards and protections are included within grant funding agreements.

Data Protection Implications :

Grant funding activity will comply with all necessary data protection requirements. Data collected for grant awards will be stored securely including financial information for grant payments.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

The delivery of the Community Grants Programme will utilise a digital first approach with use of electronic forms, documents and e-mail to avoid the need for printing.

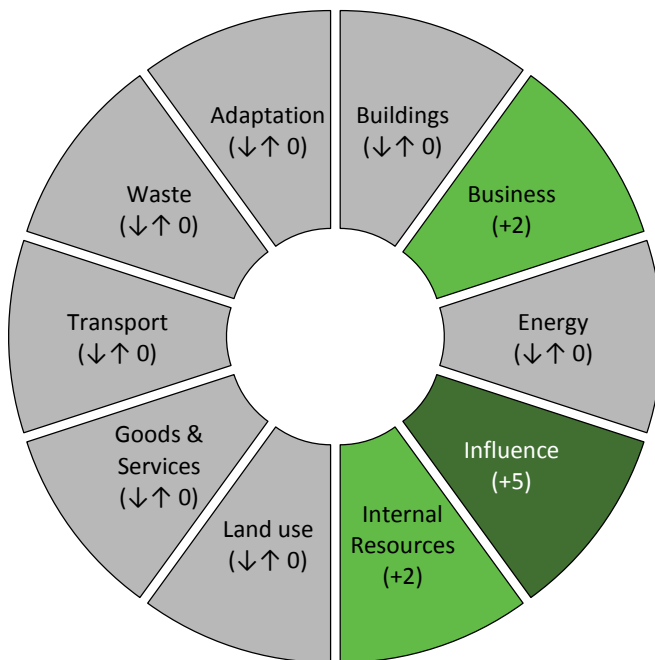
Providing a community grants programme enables the council to directly support a wide range of community led projects, some of which may have a direct or secondary impact on carbon reduction and/or environmental improvements.

Common examples include the creation or enhancement of green/blue spaces, improvements to community facility energy efficiency and projects that support increased active travel.

Where community grants are awarded to projects that have an impact on carbon reduction or the environment, part of the grant monitoring will include capturing relevant information. The scoring and review methods for deciding to award a community grant will take environmental impact into consideration.

Grant awards made to community organisations may help support increased business sustainability. A common example of this would be grant funding to a community facility to improve energy efficiency which also results in lower running costs.

Grants awarded from the council can play a significant role in helping community led projects to attract and secure external match funding. For projects that have a carbon reduction or environmental impact, our grant awards may directly secure match funding towards achieving such an impact within West Lindsey.



Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

There are no considerations for this report however some organisations funded may have a direct or in-direct impact on helping to reduce the risk of crime and disorder. Where possible this will be captured in any monitoring and evaluation reporting.

Health Implications:

The provision of a Community Grants Programme will provide direct funding to enable a range of projects across West Lindsey. Guidance issued to applicants will highlight and encourage the importance of health and wellbeing outcomes as a result of community projects delivered.

It is anticipated that projects funded through the community grants programme will have either direct or in-direct health and wellbeing benefits. The application process will try to identify planned health outcomes and post-project evaluation work will explore this further and capture outcomes achieved.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

Concurrent meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committee – Thursday 7th July 2022

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=274&MID=3298#AI18438>

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

1.1 On 30 January 2018 the Prosperous Communities Committee approved the delivery of a Community Grants Programme over a 5-year period running from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2023.

1.2 The Community Grants Programme has consisted of the following funds:

Councillor Initiative Fund

£144,000 from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

£4,000 per Councillor for 2019 to 2023

Each Councillor has a set allocation of funding and is able to make awards to local projects and organisations.

Match Funding Grant

Total fund: £450,000

Grants up to £8,000 (up to 50% of project costs)

Funding to support wide range of community projects and helps to secure match funding.

Community Defibrillator Scheme

Total fund: £50,000

Supporting installation of community accessible defibrillators.

1.3 A full spend is forecast for the Councillor Initiative Fund and the Community Defibrillator Scheme. As of 28 November 2022, there is £121,321 Remaining within the Match Funding Grant allocation. The Match Funding Grant will continue to process new applications until it is closed in March 2023.

1.4 On 7 July 2022 the concurrent meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee and the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approved the West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan.

1.5 The West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan includes the creation of a new Flagship Community Grants Programme. This new programme will utilise funds from the UKSPF matched with any remaining funds from the existing Match Funding Grant when it closes in March 2023.

1.6 The UKSPF Flagship Community Grants Programme will be funded to run during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

1.7 This report recommends the continuation of the Flagship Community Grants Programme, beyond the current UKSPF commitment, into 2025/26 and 2026/27 therefore creating a 4-year community grants programme.

2 Current Community Grant Programme Summary

2.1 The following is a summary of grant spend:

Councillor Initiative Fund (April 2019 to March 2022)

Total Awarded: £73,022.98

Total Grants: 230

Match Funding Grant (April 2018 to March 2022)

Total Awarded: £265,432.76

Total Grants: 56

2.2 Community grants impact reports have been produced each financial year to provide a full summary of grant spend. These can be accessed from the council website at: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/funding

3 Community Grant Programme delivery 2025/26 and 2026/27

3.1 Delivery of community grants in 2025/26 and 2026/27 will provide further reach to support community led projects beyond the current UKSPF funding allocation. It will build upon learning obtained whilst delivering grant activity during 2023/24 to 2024/25.

3.2 Details of how the UKSPF Flagship Community Grants Programme will be delivered will be presented to Prosperous Communities Committee in February 2023 as part of approving UKSPF Business Cases. This will establish the approach and governance of delivering the community grants programme.

3.3 This report proposes the following community grant activity is approved, aligned to the UKSPF Flagship Community Grants Programme:

Councillor Initiative Fund

£144,000 from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2027 (4 years)

£4,000 per Councillor for 2023 to 2027

Flagship Community Grant Programme – Year 3 (25/26) and 4 (26/27)

£200,000 from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2027

To provide continued grant funding beyond current UKSPF

3.4 The Councillor Initiative Fund will launch again in June 2023 after the May 2023 elections.

3.5 The provision of a community grants programme spanning 4 years will play a direct role in meeting our current and any future corporate plan objectives by:

- Supporting community and volunteer led activity

- Delivering projects that benefit the environment, health & wellbeing, connectivity and other impacting factors on our residents
- Supporting vulnerable and at-risk individuals and organisations
- Maintaining and enhancing community facilities and assets including heritage, green spaces and recreational facilities
- Securing match funding into West Lindsey
- Supporting community organisations and the wider voluntary and community sector to be effective and sustainable

4 Financial Profile

4.1 The following details the financial profile of the planned UKSPF Flagship Community Grants Programme with the additional recommendations in this report:

	23/24 to 24/25	25/26 to 26/27	TOTAL
UKSPF	£525k	£0	£525k
REPF	£477k	£0	£477k
Remaining Match Funding Grant (est.)	£121k	£0	£121k
Councillor Initiative Fund	£144k		£144k
Community Grant Programme Year 3 and 4	£0	£200k	£200k
TOTAL:			£1,467k

- **UKSPF – UK Shared Prosperity Fund**
- **REPF – Rural England Prosperity Fund**
- These grants must be spent within 2 years (23/24 & 24/25). Any remaining council funds (£121k current balance) at year end 2024/25 to be carried forward, which will reduce the requirement from GFB in 2025/26.

4.2 The total budget requirement of £344k over 4 years to be met from General Fund Balances. This reduces the current forecast balance at the end of 2026/27 to £3.582m which is £1.082m above the minimum revenue balance of £2.5m.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Committee approve the continued delivery of the Councillor Initiative Fund from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2027.
- 5.2 Committee approve the continued delivery of the Flagship Community Grants Programme (previously agreed) from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2027.

5.3 Committee recommend to Corporate Policy & Resources Committee for financial approval.

Prosperous Communities Committee Work Plan (as of 28 November 2022)

Purpose:

This report provides a summary of items of business due at upcoming meetings.

Recommendation:

1. That Members note the contents of this report

Date	Title	Lead Officer	Purpose of the report	Date First Published
6 DECEMBER 2022				
6 Dec 2022	Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027	Sarah Elvin, Housing Communities Project Officer	Paper to adopt the new Homelessness Strategy	05 September 2022
6 Dec 2022	Voluntary & Community Sector Grants	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To present findings from the Voluntary	11 July 2022
6 Dec 2022	Response to Motion - Street Lighting in West Lindsey	Ady Selby, Director of Commercial & Operational Services	Council considered a Motion in June 2021 this report sets out a response to that motion having received information from LCC	
6 Dec 2022	Community Grants Programme	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To approve the continuation of a Community Grants Programme from 2023 to 2027, linked to the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	
31 JANUARY 2023				
31 Jan 2023	Prosperous Communities Revenue Base Budgets 2023/24 to 2027/28	Sue Leversedge, Business Support Team Leader	The report sets out details of the Committee's draft revenue budget for the period of 2023/2024, and estimates to 2027/2028.	11 July 2022
31 Jan 2023	Private Sector Housing - Options for Future Direction	Andy Gray, Housing and Enforcement Manager	To provide committee with options for future direction relating to the PRS following on from the work undertaken by the Selective Licensing Working	24 October 2022

Group.

31 Jan 2023	Parish Charter Review	Grant White, Enterprising Communities Manager	To review the Parish Charter and approve any amendments.	05 September 2022
31 Jan 2023	District Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Diane Krochmal, Assistant Director Homes and Communities	To present a District Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and associated action plan as a high level framework for improving health and wellbeing across the county, for adoption	
31 Jan 2023	West Lindsey DFG Guidance note	Sarah Elvin, Housing Communities Project Officer	Implement guidance document for delivery of mandatory DFG's in West Lindsey	
21 MARCH 2023* DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE				
11 Mar 2023	Local Enforcement Plan (Planning Enforcement) and Customer Charter	Andy Gray, Housing and Enforcement Manager	To seek approval for the updated Local Enforcement Plan (Planning Enforcement) and Customer Charter	18 January 2021

Page 100