

# A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support joint action in Lincolnshire on improving health and wellbeing through the home



# Housing, Health and Care – A practical partnership

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## Why a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)?

1. The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.
2. We in Lincolnshire will work together, across local government, housing, health, care, and voluntary and community sectors to understand and respond to current and future needs.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding sets out:
  - Our shared commitment to joint action across local government, housing, health and care sectors, in Lincolnshire;
  - Principles for joint-working to deliver better housing, health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce health inequalities;
  - The context and framework for local cross-sector partnerships to design and deliver:
    - o Appropriate levels and types of housing, to meet a range of needs;
    - o Healthy homes, communities and neighbourhoods which promote health and wellbeing;
    - o Integrated and effective services that meet individuals', their carer's/carers' and their family's needs;
  - A shared action plan, with specific actions agreed by individual partners in accordance with their own policies, to help deliver these aims.
4. Working together, we will:
  - Establish ways to secure, interpret and share evidence to support local dialogue and decision-making across local government, health, social care and housing sectors;
  - Enable improved collaboration and integration between housing, health and care agencies in planning, commissioning and delivering homes and services;
  - Promote the housing sector's contribution to:
    - o Addressing the wider determinants of health and health equity.
    - o Improving the patient experience and outcomes.
    - o 'Making Every Contact Count' (MECC).
    - o Safeguarding.
  - Promote the contribution of health and care services, whether directly delivered or commissioned from others to:
    - o Enable people to secure and remain in their homes.
    - o Reduce homelessness.
    - o Maintain access to education, employment and their wider community.
  - Develop the workforce across all sectors so they are confident and skilled in understanding the relationship between where people live and their health and wellbeing and are able to identify suitable solutions to improve outcomes.

## Context

5. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduced a number of provisions intended to improve the quality of care received by patients and patient outcomes, efficiency, and to reduce inequalities of access and outcomes. Provisions require co-operation between the NHS and local government at all levels. The Health and Wellbeing Board (a partnership of all those working to advance the health and wellbeing of the people in Lincolnshire), also have a duty to encourage commissioners to work together.
  
6. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 outlines that Local Authorities and Partners must consider the needs of looked after children, care leavers and young people. Through this group we are able to ensure that service planning and designs meet the needs of young people and reduce the need for intervention and support in later life. We should afford all children the same care, nurture, health and well-being opportunities, and ensure Looked After Children and Care Leavers have the same life chances as any other child or young person. The corporate parenting principles outline that good, responsible parenting involves, but is not limited to:
  - Making sure that children and young people have a strong sense of belonging, and that they are cared about as well as cared for.
  - Supporting children and young people through school, college or work, being ambitious for them and helping them develop a sense of aspiration and self-belief.
  - Making sure children and young people are safe.
  - Making sure children and young people are healthy, and health-aware, and are offered the very best parenting.
  - Making sure children and young people have the best start in life and opportunities to thrive and grow.
  - Making sure children and young people are actively listened to, respected and valued, encouraging them to develop and participate as citizens now, not simply as 'citizens in waiting'.
  - Encouraging and supporting children and young people to form and sustain a range of healthy relationships, developing how they manage their feelings and behaviours, and understanding those of others.

Safe and secure accommodation is fundamental to ensuring all of the above and ensuring the wellbeing of young people and those transitioning into adulthood at 18 years old. By working together we can reduce the need for local authority and health intervention in later life by offering young people stability and suitable accommodation earlier.

7. The Care Act 2014 aims to improve people's quality of life, delay and reduce the need for care, ensure positive care experiences and safeguard adults from harm<sup>1</sup>. Local authorities in Lincolnshire are required to consider the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of the individual needing care, and assess the needs of carers. They must ensure the provision of

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<sup>1</sup> The Care Act relates primarily to people aged 18 and over but young people approaching adulthood and those caring for an adult or in families of someone receiving care should also benefit. The Children and Families Act 2014 is also relevant to young people with care and support needs.

preventative services and carry out their care and support functions with the aim of integrating services with those provided by the NHS or other health-related services.

8. The Care Act calls for:

- A shared vision and culture of cooperation and coordination across health, public health, social care and local authority roles, e.g. as housing commissioners, working closely with public, voluntary and private sector providers to improve services.
- A whole system, outcomes based approach to meeting the needs of individuals, their carer(s) and family, which is based on a robust understanding of the needs of individuals, their carer(s) and families now and in the future.
- Consideration to the health and wellbeing of the workforce and carers.
- Solutions to meet local needs based on evidence of 'what works'.
- Services that will address the wider determinants of health, e.g. housing, employment. Integrated health, care and support, and housing solutions could make best use of the budgets across the NHS, local authorities and their partners to achieve improved outcomes for less; for example, drawing on the Better Care Fund to support service transformation.

9. The Homelessness Reduction Act (2018) requires a stronger focus on preventing homelessness, extending the statutory duties of local housing authorities and places a duty to refer on a wide range of agencies to support prevention and early intervention.

10. Lincolnshire's Health and Wellbeing Board has legal duties to undertake Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Lincolnshire's JSNA includes a topic on Housing. The Board must also produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Lincolnshire's Strategy includes a Housing Priority. This recognises that:

- Poor housing, unsuitable housing and precarious housing circumstances affect our physical and mental health. Generally speaking, the health of older people, children, disabled people and people with long-term illnesses is at greater risk from poor housing conditions. The home is a driver of health inequalities, and those living in poverty are more likely to live in poorer housing, precarious housing circumstances or lack accommodation altogether.
- Key features of the right home environment (both permanent and temporary) are:
  - o It is warm and affordable to heat.
  - o It is free from hazards, safe from harm and promotes a sense of security.
  - o It enables movement around the home and is accessible, including to visitors.
  - o There is support from others if needed.
- The right home environment can:
  - o Protect and improve health and wellbeing and prevent physical and mental ill-health.
  - o Enable people to manage their health and care needs, including long-term conditions, and ensure positive care experiences by integrating services in the home.
  - o Allow people to remain in their own home for as long as they choose.
- In doing so it can:

- Delay and reduce the need for primary care and social care interventions, including admission to long-term care settings.
- Prevent hospital admissions.
- Enable timely discharge from hospital and prevent re-admissions to hospital.
- Enable rapid recovery from periods of ill-health or planned admissions.

11. In Lincolnshire the right home environment is enabled by a range of stakeholders (not exhaustive):

- The Health and Wellbeing Board has a duty to understand the health and wellbeing of their communities, the wider factors that impact on this and local assets that can help to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. The inclusion of housing and housing circumstances, e.g. homelessness in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and the Board's Strategy supports this MoU and steers local commissioning.
- Local housing and planning authorities<sup>2</sup> commission the right range of housing to meet the needs of people living in Lincolnshire, and intervene to protect and improve health in the private sector, to prevent homelessness and enable people to remain living in their own home should their needs change.
- Housing providers' knowledge of their tenants and communities, and expertise in engagement, informs their plans to develop new homes and manage their existing homes to best meet needs. This can include working with NHS providers to re-design care pathways and develop new preventative support services in the community;
- Housing, care and support providers provide specialist housing and a wide range of services to enable people to re-establish their lives after a crisis, e.g. homelessness, or time in hospital, and to remain in their own home as their health and care needs change. Home improvement agencies and handyperson services deliver adaptations and a wide range of other home improvements to enable people to remain safe and warm in their own home.
- The voluntary and community sector offers a wide range of services, from day centres for homeless people to information and advice to housing support services.

12. All stakeholders understand the needs of their customers and communities; their knowledge and insight can enable health and wellbeing partners to identify and target those who are most in need.

## Oversight

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<sup>2</sup> Local housing and planning authorities in two-tier areas are the district councils.

13. We aim to act and work together to ensure momentum continues in the coming years.
14. The key signatories to this MoU will be represented at the Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group. The group will review progress annually and agree if changes are required to the MoU or the action plan.
15. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) identifies housing as a priority. A delivery plan is in place and puts the responsibility on a range of people across housing, health and care. We will use JHWS delivery plan for housing as the basis for our actions, but it will not be limited to this.
16. All relevant agencies are invited to adopt this MoU, contributing to the local evidence base, needs analysis, commissioning and service delivery, and agree to work towards and meet the aims and delivery plan of this document.

## **Indicators of Success**

### ***1. Better strategic planning:***

Include housing and homelessness in key strategy and planning processes for health, social care and local government at a local level. The planning processes should be responsive to the needs and input of local communities. They should deliver good quality housing options for all, meeting both current health needs across the lifespan and be responsive to future changes.

### ***2. Better understanding of the preventative role of housing:***

Place greater recognition the role a stable and secure housing situation plays in keeping people healthy, independent and preventing ill health or injury. There is a strong case for investment in improving poor housing, as well as providing new and specialised housing.

### ***3. Greater collaborative care:***

Greater joint action on the contribution housing can make in different care pathways, including prevention, transfer of care or discharge planning.

### ***4. Better use of resources:***

Use our resources more effectively to improve health through the home, prevent illness, manage demand and deliver service improvements across local housing, health and social care sectors.

### ***5. Improved signposting:***

Frontline housing, homelessness, health and social care professionals should know which services and interventions are available locally across other sectors, and how to refer people into these. There should be greater awareness among the general public about the services they can access to improve their home environment where this is affecting their health and wellbeing outcomes.

### ***6. More shared learning:***

Housing, homelessness health and social care professionals to have the appropriate training to better prevent ill health and promote good health and wellbeing through the home, and deliver integrated care and support across the sectors.

**7. Wider sector engagement:**

Increase the number of signatories to the MoU, including organisations representing frontline professionals and experts by experience.

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# Declaration Statement for Lincolnshire

*We, the organisations listed below, support this Memorandum of Understanding.*

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| <p><b>Boston Borough Council</b></p>        | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |
| <p><b>East Lindsey District Council</b></p> | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |
| <p><b>City of Lincoln Council</b></p>       | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |



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| <p><b>Lincolnshire<br/>Community<br/>Healthcare<br/>Services NHS<br/>Trust</b></p> | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |
| <p><b>Lincolnshire<br/>County<br/>Council</b></p>                                  | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |
| <p><b>Lincolnshire<br/>Partnership<br/>NHS<br/>Foundation<br/>Trust</b></p>        | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |
| <p><b>North<br/>Kesteven<br/>District<br/>Council</b></p>                          | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |

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| <p><b>South Holland District Council</b></p>          | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |
| <p><b>South Kesteven District Council</b></p>         | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |
| <p><b>United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust</b></p> | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |
| <p><b>West Lindsey District Council</b></p>           | <p>The right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing, throughout life. Timely and appropriate support services enable people to live at home safely and independently.</p> <p>We are committed 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.</p> | <p><b>We support the aims of the Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> |