



**Challenge and
Improvement Committee**

19 February 2019

Subject: The Gainsborough Foyer

Report by:

Home Choices Team Manager

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

Summary of the provision of supported accommodation at Gainsborough Foyer

RECOMMENDATION(S): For information

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Financial: None

Staffing: None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

Risk Assessment: None needed

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

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

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

Origins of the Gainsborough Foyer

1.1 The Gainsborough Foyer was completed in 2015 and provides 12 units of accommodation for young people. This was a result of an identified need for accommodation in Gainsborough for young persons aged 16-24.

1.2 Prior to the build being completed, West Lindsey District Council contributed £200,000 towards the completion of the build. As a result of this payment, a charge has been placed against the property – should it ever be sold this money will be returned to WLDC. The remaining funding for the scheme came from the HCA (now Homes England) grant (£288k) and Axiom (£849k).

1.3 Prior to the finish of the build, the criteria for funding for young person's accommodation contracts changed, which meant that the original intention of having 12 beds for 16-24 year olds was no longer possible. This was as a result of a joint effort between Lincolnshire County Council and District Councils making the focus for young people to remain in their home where possible. Better working relationships, changes in welfare policies and new processes have reduced the number of young people in supported accommodation in Lincolnshire.

2 Funding changes and future of the project

2.1 2015 - Contracts issued in 2015 meant that 6 beds were funded by Public Health for 16-17 year olds and were to be used by Lincolnshire County Council. This was because Children's Social Care had responsibility for persons under 18 years old. West Lindsey District Council could then refer to the remaining 6 beds that were not commissioned under Public Health contracts. The remaining beds had to be used by persons aged between 18-24 years old.

2.2 Through joint working with Axiom, West Lindsey looked at the "journey" of a young person in the Foyer and looked into appropriate accommodation. Some, when they reached 18, either moved into a "West Lindsey bed", looked at independent living or through the move on property Axiom lease from West Lindsey.

2.3 2017/18 - Axiom approached West Lindsey in 2017 to discuss the future of the project after an announcement was made that they would no longer be funded by Public Health for the 6 beds for 16/17 year olds after April 2018. Figures from the council would support that there was no longer a need for accommodation for 16/17 year olds. This can be attributed to early intervention work from Children's Social Care and the work of the joint achievements undertaken by Lincolnshire County and the district councils.

2.4 The Gainsborough Foyer needed to be used but the changes in funding meant that how it was used needed to be addressed to make sure it was a working project for Axiom and West Lindsey. Options included:

- Moving the residents of Market Rasen House (18+ years supported scheme) to the Gainsborough project;
- Changing the remit to a drug/alcohol detox facility;
- Changing the remit to a high complex needs support facility which would have required additional funding;
- Using all 12 beds for persons aged 18-24 years with low support needs. This would be funded through a high rate of housing benefit which is assessed at various intervals throughout the year to make sure they meet the components required for care, support and supervision.

2.5 It was felt that, at the time, it would not be appropriate to move a number of complex cases into the project and so it continues to be used for persons within West Lindsey aged 18-24 years old.