

## CABINET 16 JULY 2019

# JOINT HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Report by Director of Children's Services

## RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to adopt the Joint Housing and Homelessness Strategy for Vulnerable Young People and Families**

## Executive Summary

2. Our Vision is that every child and young person in Oxfordshire should have access to a full range of housing services and the opportunity for a decent and affordable home suitable to their needs; and that vulnerable families should be enabled to live in safe and suitable housing as a basis for supportive family relationships and thriving communities.
3. In order to achieve this vision, we have identified the following key objectives
  - support vulnerable families to maintain secure and long-lasting housing;
  - provide a range of housing options, with support and intervention, for Care Leavers and other vulnerable young people including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and young people involved with the Youth Justice System;
  - increase the supply of affordable housing options to meet the needs of families and single young people, and optimise the use of available property;
  - maintain partnership working between District and County Councils, housing providers, specialist support services and other stakeholders including young people and families;
  - resource early prevention work with families and young people at risk of homelessness; and
  - support landlords to mitigate negative perceptions of social care service users and/or benefit claimants.
4. We have a comprehensive joint action plan to achieve these objectives and progress will be monitored at bi-monthly meetings of representatives from the

County Council, Oxford City Council, and the other 4 housing authorities. (see pages 8-15 of the Strategy).

## **Introduction**

5. This strategy (Annex A) has arisen out of a comprehensive, countywide needs analysis which highlighted gaps in services, system blockages, and pressure points. It was set in the context of Oxfordshire's particular housing pressures, national welfare reform and new housing legislation. As a joint piece of work between the County, City and District Councils it represents a commitment to joint working and early prevention of homelessness. The strategy action plan offers a road map to address the issues raised by the needs analysis.
  
6. The City and District Councils are also being requested to adopt the Strategy.

LUCY BUTLER  
Director of Children's Services

Background papers: N/A

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