

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Children and Young People's Scrutiny and Overview Committee

1st May 2009

Preventing Homelessness

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform members of the progress being made in reducing homelessness amongst young people and families with dependent children in North Yorkshire.

2.0 Key Points

2.1 A single North Yorkshire Homelessness Plan (2008-2012) has been launched which incorporates the North Yorkshire Supporting People Strategy for Homeless and Vulnerable People. This plan shares the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan for the prevention of homelessness (see annexe 1).

2.2 Multi-agency training on the prevention of homelessness has been delivered to over 120 front-line workers and their managers across housing, social care, 4youth, YOT and registered social landlords. Feedback from these events has been very positive with the new multi-agency working practice protocols being seen as very helpful in securing good outcomes for young people facing homelessness.

2.3 Levels of presentation of homelessness for most vulnerable groups have reduced over the period 2003-2008 (see annexe 2), as a result of improved prevention and partnership working. In particular the presentation level of families with dependent children has seen a reduction.

2.4 Outcomes for young people (aged 16 & 17) had however continued to be a concern, in particular for those known to YOT and for other young people with chaotic lifestyles. There is now evidence that the preventative programmes (for example Safe Moves) have begun to make an impact. In particular the presentation rate in Scarborough has fallen from over 60 (2007-08) to 12 (2008-09).

2.5 There remains a need to develop tailored supported lodgings for the most chaotic individuals, who currently often have difficulties in finding and keeping tenancies. A Supported Lodgings scheme, which had been placed on hold due to budgetary pressures on the funding body (Supporting People), is now in the process of being commissioned.

3.0 Background

3.1 The North Yorkshire Homelessness Strategy was produced by the County Homelessness Group, which is a partnership between the seven District Councils, the County Council, Supporting People and the other key statutory and voluntary sector service providers.

3.2 Parental exclusion is the main cause of homelessness within North Yorkshire and is the main cause of homelessness within five of the seven districts. In 2007/8, 157 households throughout the county became homeless because their parents were no longer willing to accommodate them. In 2006/7 over 30% of all acceptances in Hambleton, Ryedale and Selby were due to parental exclusion compared to the Yorkshire & Humber Regional average of 20%.

3.3 In 2007/8 there were 78, 16/17 year olds accepted as homeless across the county. This was a 37% increase on the previous year. Prevention work has contributed to a reduction in this figure to XXX.

3.4 Objective 3 of the Homelessness Strategy is to support young people in living independently and to prevent them from becoming homeless. Key expected outcomes are:

- An equitable provision of core services needed to tackle youth homelessness available in each district by 2010. This will be achieved through:
 - mediation services
 - outreach work in schools
 - suitable temporary accommodation that is linked to prevention options and support
- To have no homeless 16/17 year olds in Bed and Breakfast by the 31 of March 2010 (from a baseline of 10 as at 31 March 2008).
- To reduce the number of young people 16/17 year olds accepted as homelessness by 10% on an annual basis from a baseline of 78 as at 31 March 2008.
- To develop a range of accommodation options for supported housing for chaotic young people (aged 16 to 24) by 2013.
- To ensure that 100% of all young people leaving care will be provided with suitable accommodation to meet their needs.

3.5 Many young people who become homeless are simply not ready to live independently. In order to respond to this challenge there is a need for an adequate range of supported accommodation. The provision of a countywide-supported lodgings scheme for young people is essential if we are to prevent the most vulnerable from becoming homeless. The Supporting People

proposal to develop such a scheme will be considered at the Commissioning Group meeting on 1st December.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 That the report is noted.

17th April 2009

Report prepared by: David Walker, Education Officer (Social Inclusion), Extn 2667

Background documents: None

Annexe 1

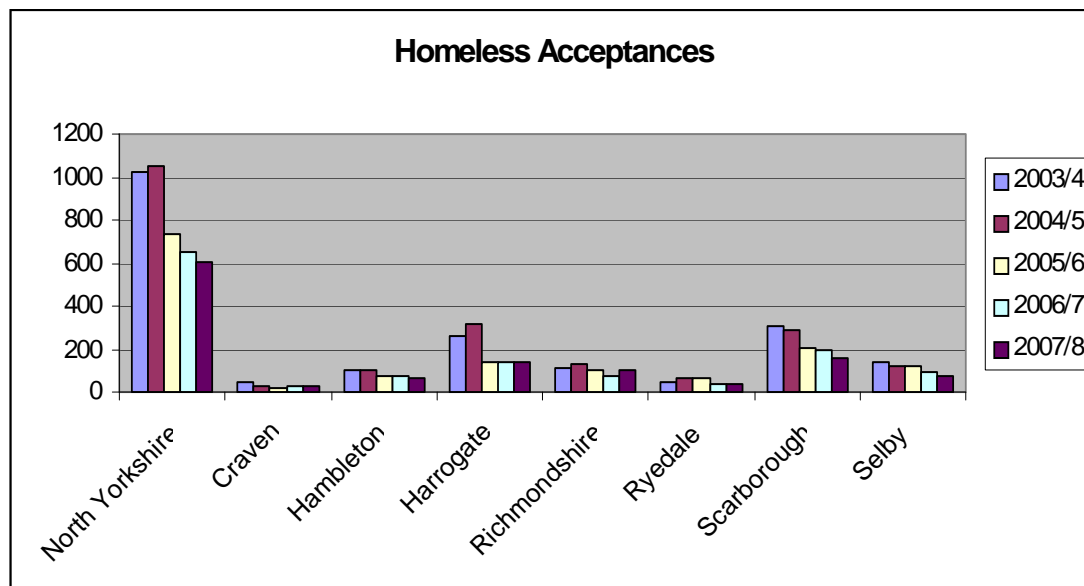
5.7 Ensure decent, secure, affordable housing

5.7 Ensure that children and young people are living in decent, secure affordable housing and have appropriate support	Lead Chair of County Homelessness Strategy Group
<p>What we will do over the next three years</p> <p>Develop integrated accommodation provision and support services throughout the county:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End the use by 16 & 17 year olds of B&B accommodation by 31st March 2010 (from a baseline of 10 as at 31st March 2008). • Reduce the number of 16 & 17 year olds accepted as homeless by 10% on an annual basis (from a baseline of 78 as at 31st March 2008). • End the use of non-self contained temporary accommodation by homeless families with dependent children (by 31st March 2012) • Provide appropriate mediation, outreach work with schools and provide suitable temporary accommodation (linked to prevention options and support) in every District by 31st March 2010. • Develop a range of county provision, of supported accommodation for young people (16-24) with complex needs/chaotic lives (by 31st March 2013) • Provide supported housing/ home adaptations for young people with LDD. • Secure suitable accommodation and related support services for all Care Leavers and Young Offenders. • Monitor the impact of the new Homelessness Prevention Protocols 	
<p>What we are going to do this year...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of 16-24 yr olds accepted as homeless (this is the largest group presenting as homeless) • Reduce the number of single non-dependent 16-17 yrs olds accepted as homeless placed in B&B • Increase the levels of supported accommodation (including supported lodgings) for 16-17 yr olds county-wide • Sustain housing support to all households accommodated under homeless legislation (this is in place but remains vulnerable to funding loss) • Develop and implement county-wide move on protocols (MOPPS) • Begin to develop a county-wide Prevention Toolkit (for completion 31st March 2010) • Embed the new Prevention of Homelessness Protocols and Information Sharing arrangements 	
<p>How we will know we are improving?</p>	
<p>Year 1 (2008-09):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of young people 16 & 17 years old accepted as homeless by 10% • Percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are living in suitable accommodation • Reduce number of homeless families using non-self contained accommodation - (0 by March 31st 2012) • NI 46 Young offenders access to suitable accommodation • NI 147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation • NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) • NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation – <i>below 300</i> 	
<p>Year 2 (2009-10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of young people 16 & 17 years old accepted as homeless by a further 10% • Percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are living in suitable accommodation • Reduce number of homeless families using non-self contained accommodation - (0 by March 31st 2012) • NI 46 Young offenders access to suitable accommodation • NI 147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation • NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) • NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation – <i>below 240</i> 	
<p>Year 3 (2010-2011):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of young people 16 & 17 years old accepted as homeless by a further 10% • Percentage of care leavers at age 19 who are living in suitable accommodation • Reduce number of homeless families using non-self contained accommodation - (0 by March 31st 2012) • NI 46 Young offenders access to suitable accommodation • NI 147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation • NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) • NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation - <i>below 180</i> 	
<p>Where can I find more information on how this will be delivered? North Yorkshire Homelessness Strategy</p>	

Annexe 2

The Scale of Homelessness in North Yorkshire

The number of households that became homeless (accepted by local authorities as owed the main homelessness duty) in North Yorkshire has been steadily reducing over recent years. In 2007/8 607 households were accepted as homeless, this represented a reduction of 41% compared to the same period in 2003/4.



Source: P1E returns

Overall levels of homelessness in North Yorkshire are lower than the rest of the Yorkshire and Humber Region. Proportionately homelessness is highest in Richmondshire where there were 5 homeless households for every 1000 households in 2007/8. Levels of homelessness are lowest in Ryedale (1.6 per 1000 households) and Craven (1.2 per 1000 households).