

BUSINESS SUPPORT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
15 OCTOBER 2009
SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE IN TEMPORARY
ACCOMMODATION

Report from: Assistant Director, Housing and Corporate Services

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Summary

This report sets out the findings of a task group of Members who have looked at the support needs of people in temporary accommodation in Medway. Cabinet will consider the task group report on 3 November 2009.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The work carried out by the task group helps to contribute to the Council's aims under the Housing Strategy 2008-2011, and also links into the Older People's Plan and Children and Young People's Plan. The proposals are within the existing budget. In the event that the feasibility of providing an assessment centre for people in temporary accommodation and/or providing a multi-agency homeless healthcare team are developed there will may be budget implications at that stage.

1.2. The report relates to the following Local Area Agreement targets:

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|--------|--|
| NI 156 | Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation |
| NI 45 | Young offenders' engagement in suitable accommodation, education, employment or training |
| NI 46 | Young offenders' access to suitable accommodations |
| NI 116 | Proportion of children in poverty |
| NI 117 | 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or Training (NEET) |
| NI 145 | Adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation |
| NI 147 | Care leavers in suitable accommodation |
| NI 149 | Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in settled Accommodation |

2. Reasons for urgency

- 2.1. This report is being dealt with as an urgent report as it is considered important to deal with the recommendations of the task group expeditiously, as housing is an important priority for the Council.

3. Background

- 3.1 The attached document sets out the background to the review and includes key findings, a summary of evidence gained from various sources, information and context drawn from other publications and policies along with the findings of the task group.
- 3.2. Over the period of one month the task group took evidence from Officers within the Council, NHS Medway, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Shelter and Citizen's Advice Bureau. The task group also undertook a visit to Southampton City Council's housing provision and saw their emergency accommodation provision, an assessment centre and a unit of supported temporary accommodation.
- 3.3. Section 8 of the review document details the conclusions and recommendations of the task group and it is proposed that Cabinet will consider these on 3 November 2009.

4. Financial and legal implications

- 4.1. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report although at a stage when any proposals for an assessment centre or a multi agency homeless healthcare team are developed these would need to be considered further.
- 4.2. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations contained in the report. The Council has the power to carry out the recommendations under S2 Local Government Act 2000, and the findings help to meet the strategic aims set out in the Housing Strategy 2008-2011.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. Members are asked to agree the task group findings as set out in section 8 of the attached review document for consideration by Cabinet on 3 November 2009.

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