

## **DERBY HOMES CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE STRATEGY 2021-2024**

Report of the Head of Housing Management.

### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Appended to this report is the Derby Homes Children & Young People (CYP) strategy which sets out our vision for CYP engagement within Derby Homes (appendix one). The strategy aims to ensure children and young people can take part in a variety of opportunities and engagement to suit them, whilst addressing key Derby Homes and Derby City Council priorities around supporting young people.
- 1.2 Since the last CYP strategy in 2018 (appendix four - available on CMIS only), there have been several alterations and the strategy which has been re-written to reflect these changes. The strategy includes alterations such as:
  - the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including mental health
  - partnership working
  - jobs and training opportunities
  - contextualised safeguarding and place-based risk

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 For Operational Board to approve the refreshed Derby Homes Children & Young People strategy.

### **3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To ensure the Operational Board is informed of the progression of the Children and Young People's Strategy and approve the strategic direction.

### **4. MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 4.1 The refreshed Children and Young People (CYP) strategy replaces our previous CYP strategy 2018-2021. This strategy compliments the strategic intent of the Customer Engagement and Community Development strategy, The Customer First Strategy along with the wider priorities of Derby Homes and Derby City Council.
- 4.2 The purpose of the strategy is to show commitment to working and supporting the lives of young people who live on our estates, and we seek to create a seamless journey of engagement for children and young people.

- 4.3 We want to encourage young people to seek advice and utilise services to achieve a brighter future through:
- breaking the cycle of low educational attainment
  - reducing youth violence and promoting safe neighbourhoods
  - tackling worklessness
  - promoting employment opportunities
  - developing the skills and aspirational worth of the next generation of Derby citizens.
- 4.4 Poor mental health amongst children and young people has been increasing across the UK within recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has added to this with more uncertainty across society, less access to health interventions and treatments, and missed education and prolonged isolation periods for our young people. Recent studies show that children from families who are financially struggling, with rent arrears, low income, and debts, are more likely to experience poor mental health than families who are financially stable.
- 4.5 To try and lessen the impact in our communities, we will work with partner agencies to provide a range of upskilling and training opportunities to bridge the aspirational gap caused by the pandemic, focusing on how we can get young people into employment and education.
- 4.6 We have reviewed and reformed our Partnership Working to be reflective of the needs of Derby city's youth as part of this strategy. We are committed to working in partnership to place Children and Young People's safety and wellbeing as a priority within our day-to-day service delivery across all our workforce. Our Tenancy Sustainability teams link with several partners to facilitate young people into job and training opportunities. Projects include Building Better Opportunities, Way2Work and Connexions.
- 4.7 Our core offer allows children & young people access to an established apprenticeship programme as well as membership on our youth panel Ignite and Connect. To give our Ignite & Connect members the best opportunities to become work-ready, we have gained approval to offer them an automatic interview for apprenticeships with Derby Homes.
- 4.8 We see this strategy as a vital component of the work we do in our communities, which impacts on other partners and benefits young people of Derby.

## **5. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 None.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **6. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Youth Panel, Ignite and Connect, were asked a series of questions relating to the CYP strategy. Their feedback has been documented in Appendix two, which has been used to ensure there is a stronger focus on employability opportunities in this strategy.

- 6.2 The report was further reviewed in consultation with Derby Homes teams such as Tenancy Sustainment, Complex Needs and the Employee Development and Corporate Support Manager. We also consulted with the Safe & Sound Chief Executive to ensure our policy considered thorough safeguarding and place-based risk measures.

## **7. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Funding of youth projects is such as the Youth Alliance, Apprenticeships and the Youth Panel is contained within existing budgets. There is £100k set aside for the Youth Alliance project & £3k for the Youth Panel, within the Customer Engagement budget. Apprenticeships across the company are forecasted to costs £620k in 2021/22.

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 An Equality impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached as appendix three (available on CMIS only).

## **9. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are risks to Derby Homes' reputation if chosen partners to deliver external services for Children & Young People fail to adhere to service specifications. Regular monitoring and evaluation frameworks have been developed.

## **10. POLICY REVIEW IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 This is a key policy of Derby Homes and is included in the Key Policy Review Schedule. In accordance with Derby Homes Board Minute 10/51 this policy will be reviewed no later than 3 years from the date of this meeting.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Legal and Confidentiality  
Council  
Personnel  
Environmental  
Health & Safety

For more information please contact:

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Background information:

List of appendices:      Appendix one - Derby Homes Children and Young People's Strategy 2021-2024  
                                 Appendix two – Youth Voice Feedback  
                                 Appendix three – CYP Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment (CMIS only)  
                                 Appendix four – DH CYP Strategy 2018-2021 (CMIS only)

This report has been approved by the following

Managing Director	Maria Murphy	17/11/21
Finance Director/Derby Homes Accountant	David Enticott or Michael Kirk	15/11/21
Company Solicitor	Taran Lalria	12/11/21
Head of Service	Lorraine Testro	11/11/21