

DERBY HOMES' CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY 2012-15

Report of the Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

Derby Homes has a Children's and Young People's (CYP) plan which is developed in consultation with colleagues from the Council's CYP service. It helps to give focus to our work. This is an update of the plan and is a substantial re-write of the original plan which is attached at Appendix A.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Board notes the progress made to date and approves the plan for 2012-15.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Derby Homes managers meet colleagues from the Council's Children and Young People (CYP) team to ensure that our work support their aims.
- 3.2 As a result the following plan was agreed for 2011-12 to focus our efforts on two outcomes promoted by the Council, ensuring all children and young people in Derby are
 - safe and healthy, and
 - will achieve more.
- 3.3 It is proposed to carry this plan forward until 2015, amending it in detail through the update meetings.

Derby Homes Children and Young People's Strategy 2012 - 2015

3.3.1 Outcome one - All children and young people in Derby are safe and healthy

1. Review and introduce a crashpad service for homeless young people

This initiative would enable a homeless young person to be provided with emergency accommodation for 2 -3 nights as they consider their future options. It has proven difficult to achieve this and to avoid high costs from leaving a flat standing empty. We are now investigating how we can introduce such crash pads based on 'just in time' using what voids are available when the need arises.

2. Include leaflets and advice on teenage contraception in receptions and our website

This supports the aim of reducing teenage pregnancies. Leaflets are available and links to reputable sites on sexual health and contraception have been added to our website

3. Working closely with the Council's CYP on Family Intervention Project (FIP)

The existing FIP staff have been aligned to the Locality teams, and we hope that this way of working will prove worthwhile. We are involved in the development of the new Troubled Families initiative and hope that this will see the best practice developed in the FIP continued.

4. Monitor the referrals under safeguarding procedures and train staff where under reporting is identified

Training has been provided to all teams and it is pleasing to report that levels of referrals are increased, for example from repairs operatives.

5. Cooperate with CYP on extending the successful locality working from North East to all Derby Homes neighbourhoods

The close working of the CYP Locality team with the Neighbourhood team in the North of the City has set an example that we hope will be extended to other teams.

6. Monitor the use of the climbing frame and ensure it is well used across all council estates

The climbing frame is very popular and local teams book its use throughout the year.

7. Consider the review report into the Junior Warden scheme and implement agreed recommendations

The review report was very supportive agreed by the City Board and is to be implemented.

8. Train front line staff in domestic violence and best practice in working with victims and perpetrators

This will be carried out this year.

9. Use estate pride funding to support sports activities

Funding has been provided for a range of activities, often with the support of Housing Focus Groups. This has included funding of activities run by Sporting Futures, the refurbishment of Cheviot Strett Rec, football kit for a school, and support for Olympic related activities

10 Take steps to minimise the influence of gangs on council estates

Derby Homes contributes towards the running costs of the Derby Gangs Team, and we link with the Gangs Team on particular initiatives and cases.

3.3.2 **Outcome two - All Children and young people in Derby will achieve more**

1. Support T16 and other school projects to explain housing options

Staff continue to provide sessions for schools on housing topics. We are funding an initiative at Merril School to provide booklets and course material to raise students awareness of money and debt matters.

2. Provide ten short term apprenticeships or training places for young people from council housing estates

In the last 12 months we have been able to offer a host of work experience and placement opportunities.

We currently have six Repairs apprentices part way through their trade apprenticeships, four are due to complete their studies this year.

In August 2011 we appointed four Customer Service Apprentices, two have since gained temporary positions within Derby Homes. We are in the process of undertaking pre employment checks for a further two Customer Service Apprentices.

The Home 2 Work scheme has offered work experience to five residents and we have given 6 Year ten students work placements. These placements have been with the Repairs Team and Personnel Team.

We have recruited 11 new volunteers in the last 12 months, offering roles in Mediation, Neighbourhood Safety Team, social activities and Junior Warden Teams.

3. Use estate pride funding to support youth intervention activities that divert them from crime and ASB

Funding has been provided for residential weekends for youngsters. We continue to fund the Enthusiasm project in their work on estates helping to divert young people away from crime and ASB. In particular we have supported their move to the disused Activity Centre on Elton Road Osmaston which is proving to be an excellent base for their work.

4. Build our links with local schools and children centres

We held a meeting with Steve Baguley from Localities and Housing and Neighbourhood Managers to improve links with Children's Services. As a result of this we are developing a referral process which ensures that Housing Officers refer all new tenants with children under five to Children's Centres.

We also agreed a point of contact within each locality area to improve information sharing.

We also build up links with schools and children's centres through the work carried out by the FIP and the meetings attended by Derby Homes staff, such as 'Team around the Families' meetings and child case conferences.

5. Create a forum for young persons to improve the quality of life on council estates and the way Derby Homes performs

We are currently working with the 'exiting' junior wardens and referring some to 'Voices in Action' – the Council's youth forum. We will continue to develop this idea and plan to run a pilot with Derby Homes' tenants' children when we have sufficient numbers to make this viable.

4. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

This plan will be taken to the City Board for their comments.

5. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Spend on these activities is contained within existing budgets.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The children and young people who live on many Council estates are more likely to live in poverty or deprived circumstances. The plan takes some steps towards mitigating this inequality.

7. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Before any activity is undertaken by Derby Homes a full health and safety assessment is carried out. Any staff or partners who work with children are subject to a CRB check.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

The risk is that Council estates suffer from a lower reputation and popularity because of crime and ASB caused by children and young people. The Plan helps to counter negative attitudes towards young people and gives our staff an opportunity to link with them in positive activities.

9. POLICY REVIEW IMPLICATIONS

This is a key policy of Derby Homes and is included in the Key Policy Review Schedule. In accordance with 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
- Personnel
- Environmental
- Equalities Impact Assessment

If Board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact the author, or Phil Davies, Chief Executive, phil.davies@derbyhomes.org – Phone: 01332 888528

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Background Information: None.

Supporting Information: None.

Derby Homes Children and Young People's Strategy 2009-11

1. Introduction

1.1 Derby Homes manages and maintains the Council's 14000 council houses. We wish to improve the quality of life for our tenants and their families, and to support young people who are our tenants. We also want to support the Council and Derby City Partnership to implement responsibilities for their Children's Trust arrangements for Children and Young People (CYP).

1.2 The Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 covers services for children and young people aged 0 – 19, young people aged 20 and over leaving care and young people up to the age of 25 with learning difficulties. The Children's Trust and wider partnership is committed to the shared vision of:

'Building a brighter future for children and young people that provides a healthy, safe and happy childhood, with the opportunity to achieve their full potential'

1.3 Its priorities, actions and targets are then grouped into the five Every Child Matters outcomes of:

Be healthy
Stay safe
Enjoy and achieve
Make a positive contribution
Achieve economic well being

1.4 Derby Homes Strategy has followed these five outcomes.

2. Be Healthy

2.1 What we have already achieved or started to do

- All Council housing meets the Government decent homes standard, so more children living in Council housing enjoy a warm and modern home than ever before
- Disabled adaptations are provided for children to help them remain in the family home
- We have started refurbishing all 24 housing funded play areas on estates to replace them with more modern and sustainable play areas, in consultation with local residents and Council Parks team.
- We have funded the Council Youth Service to provide a climbing wall to be used on our estates and at events
- We funded Sporting Futures to run sports activities in Sinfin in summer 2008

- Together with DACP we have supported the Chaddesden, Sinfen, Stockbrook Street, and West Indian carnivals
- We have sponsored individual tenants children and local teams to achieve sporting success
- Housing Officers give information on Health Providers to new tenants
- The Family Intervention Project (FIP) ensure that all families are registered with a doctors and dentist and access other relevant health care. They also get the families involved in healthy activities e.g. sports, swimming, walks (Elvaston Castle). They also ensure that the children are engaged in school holiday activities.

2.2 What we plan to do in the next 3 years

- Participate in the Play event in Markeaton Park 2009
- Run a health and wellbeing event for all tenants and family members 2009
- Support Youth Service climbing wall activities in north and south of the City
- Support further children activities during summer holidays, together with funding from neighbourhood team and Housing Focus Groups.

3. Stay safe

3.1 What we have already achieved or started to do

- Train our staff on safeguarding children and referral processes including the Common Assessment Framework where appropriate
- Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks for all staff and tenant volunteers who have contact with families
- Procurement processes require all contractor staff with public contact to be CRB checked
- Promoted Crimestoppers to young people
- Tackled anti social behaviour that includes CYP as victims and perpetrators, together with police, and care agencies
- Rehouse YP coming out of care sensitively and with support
- The FIP work with the parents on their parenting skills and provide advice around who are appropriate people to leave their children with. They challenge them on poor practice. They also provide advice around keeping their children safe both in and outside the home.

3.2 What we plan to do

- Ensure close links with the Derby Safeguarding Children Board to support, develop and quality assure our processes and practice
- Train all staff and contractors on safeguarding children and referral processes
- Audit the performance on CRB checks for all contractors staff
- Develop our links with the new Domestic Violence one stop shop
- Support Localities work to adopt multi agency approach to children at risk
- Extend the FIP to include a Youth Initiative and a youth mentoring scheme

- In October 2009 the Government will be launching the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) which will provide additional safeguards for treatment of staff who will work with vulnerable adults and children. We will ensure that we comply with ISA regulations.

4. Enjoy and Achieve

4.1 What we have already achieved or started to do

- We mentor enterprise curriculum projects
- Strong links with some schools on housing estates
- Have attended 5 school assemblies to raise awareness of ASB and vandalism issues
- Involved children in refurbishment of elderly persons common rooms
- The FIP encourage and support school attendance – this has increased in all of the families we work with. They also link families in to family learning projects to increase their life skills, self esteem and build up the relationships between children and parents.

4.2 What we plan to do

- Local housing and Neighbourhood Safety teams to exchange contact names and visit schools and Children centres on housing estates at least once a year
- Extend curriculum work and attend further 5 assemblies a year.

5. Make a positive contribution

5.1 What we have already achieved or started to do

- Developed a Kidstalk website as a communication tool to allow CYP to tell us about our services
- Funded Enthusiasm at £200k a year for 5 years to reduce offending in most at risk young people across City
- The FIP and Local Housing Office staff work with families to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime and encourage them to integrate in to the community and get involved in community activity e.g. Junior Wardens, local youth clubs
- Developed a junior wardens scheme in Chaddesden.

5.2 What we plan to do

- Develop a scheme of rewards for young people especially targeted at under 11 year olds
- Develop intergenerational activities and understanding using elderly persons sheltered housing schemes residents and SHOUT representative group

- Develop a planned exit strategy for Enthusiasm and support this youth intervention work
- Extend the Junior Warden Scheme for another 3 years with new group of children
- Increase positive publicity on CYP
- Ensure close link between our consultative processes and the City's Voices in Action Forum.

6. Achieve economic well being

6.1 What we have already achieved or started to do

- Provide and manage temporary accommodation for temporarily homeless families
- Employment and training scheme for 50 tenants or family members in partnership with Job centre+ and YMCA
- We re-house a number of young people from care each year in liaison with Children and Young People's Department
- Housing Office staff work with tenants on budgeting, tackling drugs and alcohol issues and refer them to relevant partners and agencies where necessary.
- The FIP work more intensely with parents on budgeting, tackling drugs and alcohol issues and encouraging them to attend training which will lead to employment. They also reduce the threat of homelessness for families.

6.2 What we plan to do

- Support the Young Persons Homelessness strategy initiatives
- Executive and senior managers from Derby Homes are not represented on outcome groups of CYP strategy, and we aim to get representation on them in 2009
- To improve the rate of success of re-housing children from care by improving their independent living skills
- Develop our links with YMCA as its new London Road base is redeveloped to provide skills training for young people.
- Work in partnership to deliver DCC initiatives for reducing Bed and Breakfast accommodation, provision of crash pads accommodation and accommodation for parenting orders in the city.