



East Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Special Needs and Specific Groups

Housing Strategy 2005-2010
Supplementary Document

*'Giving everyone the
opportunity of a decent and
affordable home'*





1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF THIS SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT

This supplementary document to the 2005-10 Housing Strategy covers issues facing persons with an accommodation or support need arising or affected by a special or specific need, such as age, ethnicity or disability. We also recognise that these needs are not mutually exclusive and a client may present with a combination of needs.

The purpose of this supplementary document is to provide more information about the specific issues facing these groups and define what action we are taking and need to take.

1.1 Relationship to our housing priorities

To fully achieve our housing priorities and deliver housing services available to all it is important that when:

- We enable more affordable homes, we have full consideration for special needs issues
- We improve the accessibility of housing, we have full regard for the needs of these groups, we can provide appropriate accommodation and a service that does not put unintentional barriers in the way
- We prevent homelessness, we understand the specific issues and needs an individual has and tailor our service according
- We improve the quality of housing, we understand specific issues facing these groups

In alphabetical order:-

2.0 BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES (BME)

2.1 Housing Need summary

East Lindsey has a relatively small BME population (98% of our population is classed as white British). In order to establish housing needs and issues a survey of our BME population was undertaken but unfortunately responses were limited. This means it is not possible to draw definitive conclusions from the survey, but there could be issues about accommodating older family members and the provision of housing information.

2.2 What we are currently doing?

We are working to offer an inclusive housing service, which responds appropriately to BME clients and therefore we need to undertake further investigation into BME issues.

2.3 What will we do?

- **We will undertake more research into the housing needs of BME groups following a limited response from our initial survey by Mar 06**

- **We will set up an interpretation procedure/protocol so we can respond effectively to non-English speaking clients' enquiries by November 05**
- **We will review and monitor the level of information we provide in alternative languages and initially provide housing advice leaflets in the five most prevalent non English languages by November 05**

3.0 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV)



3.1 Housing Needs/Issue Summary

DV is an issue that East Lindsey takes extremely seriously.

The Lincolnshire DV Strategy published in January 2004, highlights the needs for accommodation, providers to offer appropriate responses for those fleeing DV, including a range of safe "choices" and working in partnership to provide a responsive service. The Lincolnshire Supporting People Strategy 2005- 2010 also indicates that there is a lack of a refuge service in the east and recommends improved support and DV services.

3.1.1 ELDC Housing related needs

During 2004/05 205 households were accepted by the authority as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (This means the council had a duty to provide accommodation for this group). The third main priority need group (excluding households accepted due to being households with children) during 2004/05 was those fleeing from domestic violence (7% of all those accepted).

3.2 What we are doing?

We are currently providing 'dispersed hostel' accommodation. Following consultation with victims of DV who expressed a desire for choice and to remain close to existing facilities and services (such as schools) we remain committed to providing accommodation in a dispersed hostel form. We use dispersed accommodation in different locations around the district, with daily visits from a housing support worker.

We firmly believe that this method promotes choice, by providing a range of options for those fleeing DV, it also caters for women with young male family members (who are not being given access to refuges with their mother) and it enables ELDC to offer accommodation to men, (1 in 6 of whom, are likely to experience DV).

Dispersed units are also flexible, as they do not require any special adaptations and are also responsive to demand, as panic alarms and safety features can be relatively easily added. Crucially the client has anonymity as there is not one single identified refuge and family units can be maintained.

We have also introduced a "Safe at Home" Scheme, which provides a selection of

home security measures to allow a victim of DV to remain safely in their own home, close to their local support networks.

3.3 What will we do?

- **In view of Government and Lincolnshire S.P position of refuges, we will research the effectiveness of dispersed DV accommodation and whether there is need for a specific E.L.D.C refuge by Feb 06**
- **Expand current provision with 5 dispersed shared houses solely for DV clients with support by specialist provider by Mar 06.**

4.0 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL/ MULTIPLE PROBLEMS

4.1 Need Summary

The NHS National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse research (December 2002) shows that nationally 80% of single homeless people have a drug dependency and usually have other support needs. Further research carried out by 'Crisis' showed a correlation between a person's worsening drug and alcohol use as their housing situation worsened.

The Lincolnshire Drugs Audit report December 2004 produced by the Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) shows that East Lindsey currently has the highest number of presentations of problematic drug users and second highest level alcohol referrals in the county. The worst drug problem areas within East Lindsey are Louth, Spilsby and Horncastle; along with the coastal strip including Skegness Mablethorpe, Burgh Le Marsh and as far north as North Somercotes.

The Lincolnshire Supporting people strategy 2005- 2010 indicated that further work should be undertaken to establish whether specialist services are needed on the east coast.

4.2 What are we doing?

- We have developed strong links with the East Division Probation service since 2001, with a working protocol in place. There is also a countywide group working with Shelter to produce a countywide prison leaver's protocol, as a result of the initial working documents used between Lincoln prison and ELDC.
- We have made a number of approaches to the DAAT to stimulate joint working over drug/alcohol and housing issues, although as yet they have not responded.

4.3 What will we do?

- **We have not sufficient resources to plan for specific accomodation, however, ELDC will research the need to provide a hostel specifically for clients with alcohol problems with a view to bidding for funding by Oct 05 and drugs problems by Aug 06.**
- **We will continue to approach DAAT to improve services to clients and establish protocols to ensure there is floating support services to prevent tenancy failure, and ultimately eviction of clients**
- **We will work with the private sector to encourage more landlords to consider making their properties available to this client group, by guaranteeing levels of housing support from ELDC, housing support and specialist or drug workers. Pilot scheme by Oct 06.**

5.0 EUROPEAN UNION (EU) WORKERS

5.1 Need Summary

We have a duty to assist EU workers if classified as unitentially homeless and in priority need in the event of any homelessness claim (excluding A8 countries). Currently there are limited enquiries from this client group although we are aware of higher demand in our neighbouring authority of Boston, particularly from Portuguese land workers.

5.2 What are we doing?

We are currently monitoring demand from this client group and provide advice and assistance in accordance with our obligations.

5.3 What will we do?

- **Increase our advice information in alternative languages, in order to be able to respond effectively to enquiries by Nov 05.**
- **We have no plans to consider any specific accommodation provision as demand is not sufficient to warrant this course of action at this time, but we will monitor ongoing demand and liaise with Boston.**



6.0 HOUSING FOR THOSE WITH HIV/AIDS

6.1 Need summary

There is currently very limited data on this client group's housing needs and consequently, no housing provision with support for this group is provided in East Lindsey.

6.2 What will we do?

- **We have had limited demand but always take a sympathetic approach to customers suffering with HIV/Aids and are able to provide floating housing support when required. In addition to this, any client with HIV/Aids would always be classified as vulnerable, in the event of them being homeless.**
- **We will approach the health authority for assistance with a survey to map housing and support needs for HIV/Aids clients to establish if there are any specific housing needs by Dec 06.**

7.0 HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PROCEDURES

7.1 Need Summary

We cannot overstate the importance of being given advanced warning of a housing application from those in hospital, if there is not to be a delay in their being rehoused following hospital discharge.

Hospital discharge plans for all patients leaving hospital should ensure they have a safe and secure home to go to or, at the least, suitable temporary accommodation where plans for more permanent housing can be made.

7.2 What will we do?

We will work to engage all of the discharge liaison teams to improve the joint working practices to stop crisis situations arising when people are discharged from hospital. Therefore we will produce a draft discharge protocol to initiate this joint working by Dec 05

8.0 LEARNING DISABILITIES

8.1 Need summary

Objective 6 in the 'Valuing People, A new strategy for Learning Disabilities the 21st century', (Dept of Health March 2001) states, the aim to enable people with learning disabilities to have choice and control of where and how they live. The strategy states that they will be legislating to improve provision of advice and information by housing authorities and will be issuing guidance on housing care and support options.

8.1.1 ELDC Housing related needs

The availability of statistics in this area is limited so we undertook a survey with the Social Services Learning Disabilities Team (LDT) and Linkage a major independent learning disabilities accommodation and training provider, to map current and future needs in ELDC. Findings included:

- The need for a range of accommodation including 1 and 2 bedroom independent and supported units
It was suggested that more housing information leaflets be made more user friendly by using symbols
- The need to locate new developments in sustainable locations near to services was expressed

8.2 What are we doing?

- We attend Learning Disability Team (LDT) meetings to promote shared understanding of issues
- Our Housing Support service was commended by the LDT, for assistance to those with lower level learning disability needs to sustain home occupation.

(This allows the LDT to concentrate on higher support needs).

- Prompt housing benefit payments for learning disability clients was also commended by LDT.
- We have joint funded the provision of additional learning disabilities accommodation in Mablethorpe, Spilsby and Skegness in partnership with Linkage and Eastern Shires Housing Association.
- We have produced learning disabilities housing advice leaflet, using symbols.

8.3 What will we do?

- **Whilst there is a need for additional accommodation Lincolnshire Supporting People are not prioritising this client group for funding. ELDC has supported a number of learning disability schemes in recent years. Therefore within the context of limited resources we cannot prioritise further development beyond very limited numbers against other special needs groups**
- **We will establish a protocol with the LDT about levels of support for clients with learning disabilities prior to any allocation of a property from the housing register, in order to prevent tenancy failure by June 06.**
- **We will encourage LDT to include housing as part of the pathway planning for service users so potential housing issues can be identified well in advance of their need for accommodation. We will attend first meeting by Dec 05.**
- **We will investigate the need for and provide additional housing information, if required, in symbols by June 06.**

9.0 MENTAL HEALTH

9.1 Needs summary

The National Service Framework for Mental Health (Dept of Health September 1999) lists the following aims:-

- Implementing local protocols for the effective and safe care of people with severe mental illness including a protocol for sharing information.
- Engaging service users through assertive outreach
- Investing in a balance of hospital beds, staffed and supported accommodation provision. (A shortage of provision at any point will result in pressures in other areas, such as access to move on accommodation.)
- Ensure information is available for people with mental health problems including access to support services such as housing and employment.

The Social Exclusion Unit (Mental Health and Social Exclusion June 2004) report and the Regional Housing Strategy both identify mental health issues, can cause homelessness through a person's inability to maintain a tenancy and a significant proportion of homeless people have a mental health problem.

Needs highlighted by consultation with Lincolnshire Partnership Trust include

- A lack of accommodation including move-on accommodation (from supported accommodation) to facilitate independence and prevent bed-blocking problems.

- Crisis management units are in short supply along with respite beds
- The need for support to prevent tenancy failure/eviction.
- Need joint working across all relevant organisations to deliver a seamless service.

Lincolnshire Supporting People strategy recommends

- A wide range of care support and housing options, with the maximum use of floating support in the service user's own home.
- A mental health housing strategy
- More accessible information about housing and support services that are available.
- Intensive floating support system in place for those being discharged from hospital.
- Longer term floating support service for older people with mental health problems.

9.1.1 ELDC Housing Related Needs

From those accepted as homeless by the authority during 2004/05 (excluding households accepted with children) 5% were priority need due to mental illness or disability.

9.2 What Are We Doing

- ELDC is a member of the multi-agency Lincolnshire Mental Health Housing Strategy Group who are working toward a housing strategy to coordinate and address mental health issues.
- ELDC and the Community Mental Health Team have worked in partnership to produce an exceptions policy for housing applications. This promotes access to housing for those with mental health problems, who are currently in health institutions negating the need for a full homelessness application.

9.3 What will we do?

- **Within the context of available resources we will support further accommodation provision for people with mental health needs and 20 additional units are in the Housing Strategy Action Plan Development Policies at 6.8**
- **Ensure joint working to deliver the best possible service for clients with mental health needs including setting up links with the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and attend their team meetings by Dec 05.**
- **Undertake a review of information provision for clients with mental health needs by Aug 06.**

10.0 OLDER PERSONS

10.1 Needs summary

The ODPM published Quality and Choice for Older People's Housing in January 2001, setting out the vision for older person's housing and housing related support, around the themes of

- Diversity and choice,
- Appropriate information and advice provision.
- Flexibility of service provision for housing and support to promote choices, to remain independent.
- Joint working.
- Providing good quality housing.

The Lincolnshire Supporting People strategy recommendations for older people's services include.

- 1) To develop more extra care schemes
- 2) Introduction of a countywide Home Improvement Agency
- 3) Mental health floating support services for older people
- 4) Improvements to housing information on the choices available

10.1.1 ELDC Housing Needs

The ageing population and related health issues create serious accommodation demand in East Lindsey. This is heightened by the growing unpopularity of traditional types of older person's accommodation, particularly bedsits, and rural, isolated accommodation. There is also extremely high demand for Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations, which allow people to remain independent in their own home. There are 1300 applications on the Housing Register, where the main applicant is 65 or over. From those accepted as homeless by the authority during 2004/05 (excluding households accepted with children) almost 5% were priority need as a result of old age.

10.2 What are we doing?

- We are members of the Lincolnshire Older Persons Housing Forum, which produced an Older Persons Housing Strategy in 2004. This aims to improve older person's housing service in relation to improving choice and access to housing and promoting independence, by working in partnership with related providers
- We have constructed two extra care schemes in East Lindsey in partnership with the Housing Corporation, RSLs and Social Services in Sutton on Sea and Louth.
- We remain committed to the provision of additional affordable housing in East Lindsey for older persons and recently a scheme for 25 shared ownership bungalows was completed in Woodhall Spa
- East Lindsey has introduced a Handyman Service for over 60s and people with a disability, who still live independently but cannot physically or



financially afford to maintain the property. The service undertakes small jobs that can make staying in their own home much easier.

10.3 What will we do?

- **A further extra care scheme in Skegness is an ongoing strategy priority.**
- **We will increase provision of older person affordable housing by ensuring that 30% of affordable housing developed is single storey (subject to planning constraints).**
- **Review information provision for older persons so informed housing choices can be made by Aug 06.**
- **Consider bid for specific older person's support service by June 06 which will focus specifically in assisting older people to remain independent in their own home.**

11.0 PHYSICAL DISABILITY HOUSING ISSUES

11.1 Needs summary

The National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions (Dept of Health March 2005) states that "Social Services need to work closely with housing/accommodation and Supporting People services to provide suitable adapted or purpose built accommodation and /or support in making adaptations including: - timely access to assessment and provision of disabled facilities grants and supported living schemes."

Lincolnshire Supporting People Strategy has identified county issues-

- there is a very limited range of services, which fail to meet local need.
- up to 150 young people with a disability will be returning to the county and will require accommodation with support over the next 5 years
- an urgent need to develop short-term intensive support services for those having serious sight loss, which could result in alternative accommodation being required.



11.2 ELDC Housing Needs

In October 2004 in East Lindsey there were 1,186 physically disabled people included in housing applications in East Lindsey. There are only 262 adapted properties suitable for those with a disability in the social housing stock.

From those accepted as homeless by the authority during 2004/05 (excluding households accepted with children) individuals with a physical disability accounted for 8%, the second highest priority need group.

In consultation with Social Services, the following accommodation is required for those with a physical or sensory disability over the next 5 years: -

- 15 x 2 bed bungalows for single/couples
- 10 x 3 bed bungalows for families
- 16 young people may require accommodation subject to further assessment of housing and support needs.
- 6 self-contained dispersed units clustered so they can receive support from a central location. Thereafter there would be two tenancies a year required.
- 7 supported units for newly disabled until they can learn to cope with the changes to their lifestyle and how to use adaptations before returning to their home.

11.3 What Are We Doing

- Investigating Need in more detail

ELDC welcomed a joint research project funded by the Housing Corporation, (Living with Physical Impairment in Rural Areas: Challenges and Responses.) Initial findings show issues about rurality and availability of services and proximity to facilities as well as costs of transport and practical mobility issues for those physically impaired including narrow country lanes, poor street lighting and no suitable paths for wheel chair users.

- Consultation with Partners/clients

We consulted with Lincolnshire Social Services Planning and Development Department (Social Inclusion) and their clients over the key housing issues including:-

- A lack of available adapted properties
- Long waiting times on the Housing Register.
- Long waits for adaptations to existing homes
- Need for improved communication between client, social services and housing
- We are working to increase the turn round of DFG adaptations

11.4 What will we do?

- **We have insufficient resources to address all physical disability needs and recognise that physical disability accommodation needs are not homogenous but are individual to each client. We will target our partners to deliver 5% of the affordable housing programme as 'enhanced physical disability' accommodation and 30% of the development programme will also be single storey which will assist those with lesser disabilities.**
- **We will deliver 450 DFG adaptations to properties by Mar 07**
- **We will consult with disabled people about plans specifically for disabled properties via the East Lindsey Physical Disability Forum.**

12.0 PRISON LEAVERS

12.1 Need summary

National research shows that ex offenders who receive supported accommodation on release are less likely to re-offend by up to 70%. The Lincolnshire Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 indicates that research in prisons in Lincolnshire shows a high proportion of prisoners on release intend to remain in Lincolnshire (96 of 240 prisoners). Of those 84 expect to have no fixed abode and 12 thought they would be living with friends, on release.

The National Probation Service highlighted a lack of suitable accommodation for single male offenders, spread over the east division. Current working relationships are strong but a lack of move on accommodation causes blockages in supported accommodation.

Lincoln Prison feels that the following accommodation is required:-

- Flats for single men in all areas
- Housing for ex prisoners and their families who may be looking to relocate or move away from areas where they would be vulnerable (such as where the offence was committed)

12.2 What are we doing

- East Lindsey has worked closely with Lincoln Prison to produce a prison leaver's housing application form and working protocol which was used as a basis of a regional protocol by Shelter. The Lincolnshire Benchmarking Group will be monitoring the success of the protocol and reporting back on progress after 6 months.
- We have widened the criteria of the rent assist scheme, to non priority and intentionally homeless persons, so it is accessible to prison leavers looking for accommodation in the private sector. However, it requires a prison resettlement officer to secure the property in the first instance (as they have the appropriate knowledge to undertake any risk assessments and address any specific issues in relation to accommodating ex offenders).

12.3 What will we do?

- **We do not have sufficient resources to develop specific accommodation for prison leavers but we will carry out an assessment of their needs and attempt to rehouse them appropriately. Currently private sector landlords express concern about providing accommodation to unsupervised prison leavers. We are approaching a number of local private landlords to make their accommodation available, to these and other client groups with appropriate housing support.**

- **Ensure that support workers liaise with prison resettlement officers to ensure that support needs are adequately met, including links to substance misuse.**

13.0 ROUGH SLEEPERS

13.1 Needs summary

ELDC contacted the Police, the Salvation Army Hostel and local voluntary agencies regarding rough sleeping. Responses indicated that there were less than 10 regular rough sleepers in ELDC although the number does increase in the summer and at weekends. Also for rough sleepers, their appearance can be a barrier to accessing private sector accommodation, as landlords are reluctant to accommodate them based on their appearance.

13.2 What will we do?

- **We will undertake a rough sleepers count to assess the extent of the issue by Oct 05**
- **Set up a protocol with various agencies to assist rough sleepers/street homeless, to access bathing/clothing/cleaning facilities by Dec 05.**

14.0 TEENAGE PARENTS

14.1 Needs Summary

The National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services (September 2004) states a number of aims:-

- To increase the participation of teenage parents in education and work to reduce their risk of long-term social exclusion.
- Housing pilots are testing how best to support teenage parents, having approved funding for over 1500 new units of supported housing for this group.

In February 2005, the Regional Tackling Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator for the East Midlands and the housing policy team at Government Office for East Midlands initiated a project to investigate partnership working and to identify best practice between the local teenage pregnancy coordinators and housing providers with the aim to improve access and choice to appropriate housing for pregnant teenagers and teenage parents.

The main issues/recommendations raised were: -

- The RSLs not wishing to accommodate teenage parents and therefore were "cherry picking" tenants.
- There needs to be liaison between the Tackling Teenage Pregnancy Team and East Lindsey support workers. This will be achieved through the identification of a teenage pregnancy lead within ELDC.



- Encourage further partnership working with Connexions
- Pregnant teenagers were not receiving support or accessing suitable accommodation, as full housing benefit could not be claimed on a 2-bedroom property until after the baby is born. Also landlords were reluctant to take on teenage parents with no tenancy experience.
- Explore opportunities to increase housing provision and support for young parents in locations commensurate with their support networks
- To utilise the regional 'training pack' for professionals on working with teenage parents

14.2 What we are doing

- We provide floating support to teenage parents to assist them to access and maintain accommodation. East Lindsey has enabled 3 properties to be made available as teenage parent units in conjunction with Longhurst Housing Association with St Matthew's Housing providing the support. We are working with the Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator regarding the ODPM guidance on supported housing
- To attend joint training sessions, to gain greater awareness of the issues and to share the realities of housing provision

14.3 What will we do?

- **Identify further detailed evidence of housing need for this group in the area by July 06.**
- **To utilise the training pack that is available for professionals, to be supplied by the 'Tackling Teenage Pregnancy Team' by Dec 05.**
- **Identification of a teenage pregnancy lead within the ELDC Housing Support Team by Dec 05.**

15.0 TRAVELLERS

15.1 Needs summary

Gypsies and Travellers: A strategy for the Campaign for Racial Equality, (2004-7) states the need to "...promote good relations between and within all communities and prevent racial discrimination"

Under the 2004 Housing Act local authorities are required to undertake an assessment of the accommodation needs (including the provision of sites on which caravans can be stationed) of gypsies and travellers, but there is no duty to provide designated sites for travellers.

Supporting People documentation highlights that there are four traveller sites in Lincolnshire, with families staying resident for many years, and there needs to be further investigation into the needs of travellers with a view to increasing county provision of traveller sites.

East Lindsey does not have a high proportion of travellers and estimates that there are around 20 traveller families in the district at anyone time, although there can be seasonal fluctuations

15.2 What are we doing?

East Lindsey does not currently have designated traveller sites, but we deal with any homelessness presentations under the requirements of the Homelessness Act 2002

15.3 What will we do?

Corporately undertake further investigation of the needs of travellers and address any issues raised within published Government guidelines. We will undertake a housing needs assessment of gypsies and travellers by Dec 06.

16.0 YOUNG PEOPLE

16.1 Needs summary

The National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services (September 2004) lists the following aims:-

- Parents with specific needs such as relationship conflict, teenage parents, and parents of disabled children have their needs identified early and are provided with effective multi agency support
- Improved access to services and advice for young people, especially disabled, or those in rural areas
- Transition to adult services is planned and co-ordinated around their needs to maximise their ability to live independently
- Additional support for those looked after children leaving care



The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 imposes new and stronger duties on Social Services to support care leavers until they are at least 18 and then to stay in touch with them and provide some support until they are 21. Social Services are under a duty to assess the needs of care leavers and identify the advice, assistance and support required to meet those needs. A Pathway Plan will set out how Social Services will support the young person and will be reviewed and updated at least every six months. Other housing agencies should also contribute to these Pathway Plans.

The Supporting People Strategy confirms the recent research undertaken by Lincoln University (Lincolnshire Homeless Strategy Research, University of Lincoln 2004) that "by far, the group most likely to be cited as being in need of support was young people and notes the lack of Foyer type housing, providing supported accommodation with learning and training opportunities".

The National Children's Home (NCH) audit of the housing needs of young people leaving care in Lincolnshire found that young people leaving care in Lincolnshire struggled to secure stable accommodation and one in four had experienced homelessness. One in five had unsuitable accommodation due to lack of available support, or it being temporary only.

144 ELDC responses to a countywide questionnaire distributed by Connexions on behalf of the County Youth Strategy Group showed affordability issues were a serious barrier to independent living, both accommodation cost and managing household expenses. In order to live away from home, most felt that they would need a job, financial support from their family and support with budgeting and managing a household.

16.2 ELDC Housing related needs

We have 764 16-25 year olds on the Housing Register at July 2005.

From the 205 homeless households accepted by this authority during 2004/05, the main priority need group was 16/17 year olds (excluding those households accepted with children), although remaining one of the main groups over the previous 2 years 2004/05 saw a significant increase in comparison to all other priority need groups where figures fell following the introduction of prevention methods. The main reason for loss of a settled home during 2004/05 was due to parents no longer willing to accommodate.

16.3 What we are doing

- We are members of the Countywide Youth Housing Strategy Team that aims to improve the integration of services to young people, meet accommodation needs of specific young people, (substance misusers, those with mental health issues and teenage parents) introduce measures to prevent homelessness and provide a range of good quality supported accommodation.
- In partnership with Boston Borough Council we reintroduced a countywide joint assessment policy and protocol with Social Services to jointly assess the housing and related needs of 16-17 year olds and joint training has taken place for all agencies. This protocol has been extended to NCH, Youth Offending Team and Social Services Physical Disabilities Team.
- Homelessness prevention through offering a mediation service via Lincolnshire Family Mediation Services, between young people and their parents to facilitate their return to the family home
- The Council have worked in partnership with the Salvation Army to give access to a young persons accommodation wing at their hostel in Skegness, which has been cited as "excellent" in a series of recent consultation exercises.
- We have also delivered specific accommodation in partnership for young care leavers and teenage parents under the Safer Communities Initiative Funding (a Housing Corporation funding initiative for safer communities)

- As part of our homelessness prevention tool kit we have a mediation service to resolve parent child issues.

16.4 What will we do?

- **Undertake a feasibility study of a Nightstop facility where vetted volunteers would provide a bed for one or two nights in order to help deal with the situations where a bed is needed for the short term whilst a parent/young person conflict is resolved by Jan 07.**
- **Produce advice leaflets and information aimed at parents (a survey of young people found this was their first preference) by Aug 06.**
- **We have limited resources for specifically designating young persons new build accommodation (including foyer style). However, we will target our RSL partners to deliver 10% of new build affordable housing as one bedroom and flatted accommodation for general needs including young people.**
- **Utilisation of the empty property grant to stimulate current empty accommodation space above shops in town centres would provide accommodation for young people we will be approaching shop owners in Louth & Skegness by July 06.**
- **Young people (like other ages) can have a range of issues including mental health needs, drug use or an offending history which make them difficult to accommodate. We are keen to work with relevant agencies to ensure appropriate support packages are in place and accommodation can be accessed in the private sector.**

CONCLUSION

Across these groups there are certain key issues which emerge including

- The need for investigation into the extent of needs and/or ongoing needs monitoring in order to respond appropriately
- The need for additional accommodation to be provided and tailored to the client groups needs
- The need for support to facilitate as independent living as possible, and in some cases to ensure community as well as the client's safety
- The need for joint working with other specialist organisations to improve service delivery and maximise the benefits for the user

Unfortunately the reality for the provision of services, support and accommodation for all these groups, (as well as those with general needs) is an environment of

limited resources. This makes the need to work in partnership with other agencies paramount if we are to achieve best results for the service user. It is also prudent and appropriate that the pursuit of additional accommodation is founded on sound and evidenced need, in order that the greatest priorities can be addressed.

As a strategic enabling authority we are also concerned to ensure that we have captured all the issues facing these groups and undertake further research where needed to sustain a strong and robust argument for further investment in the district. Therefore our actions in relation to these groups will very much be based on working with health, social services and specialist, voluntary groups and the service user to investigate need, share resources and plan appropriate delivery.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
A8	These are eight of the ten new countries, which joined the European Union and the European Economic Association on 1 May 2004. The A8 countries are Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
BME	Black and minority ethnic groups.
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services, part of the LPT.
CMHT	Community Mental Health Teams (adults) part of the LPT
CRISIS	A homeless charity focussing on hidden homelessness, working to help single homeless people. Its mission is to help marginalised and homelessness people.
DAAT	Drugs and Alcohol Action Team
DV	Domestic violence
ELDC	East Lindsey District Council
EU	European Union
Extra Care Schemes	Extra Care schemes provide housing for elderly or disabled residents who require more specialised amenities and greater support than is usually available. The schemes have special features including easy access for people with disabilities or who are in a wheelchair.
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus/Auto Immune Deficiency Syndrome
Homelessness	Under the Housing Act 2002 Part VII s175, a person is considered homeless in a number of circumstances including; no home; no home they can occupy with immediate family; staying with someone on a temporary basis; residing somewhere without permission; fleeing violence or threats of violence; if it is not reasonable for them to occupy a home; if they reside in a boat or mobile home with nowhere to put it.

LDT	Learning Disabilities Team, Social Services
Lincolnshire Benchmarking Group	All 7 local authorities within Lincolnshire meet to discuss best practices and procedures to ensure that we continually improve our services.
Lincolnshire Older Persons Housing Forum	This is a subgroup of the Lincolnshire Housing Forum.
LPT	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust was formed on 1 June 2002 to replace Lincolnshire Healthcare NHS Trust. The Partnership combines social care and health services for people with a mental illness. It also provides services for people with a learning disability or substance misuse problems.
Move on accommodation	Accommodation (sometimes with a level of support) provided to allow people to move out of more intensively supported accommodation, when they no longer need the level of support.
NCH	Formerly known as the National Children's Home, now NCH is one of the UK's leading children's charities, giving support to vulnerable and excluded children and young people faced with difficulties such as poverty, disability and abuse.
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. A Government Department, which responsibility includes housing.
Priority need	S 189(1) in Part VII of The Housing Act 1996 gives rights to an applicant and places duty on the local authority if they have been assessed as having a priority need for accommodation.
Protocol	A formal agreement between agencies.
Special needs	A term used to refer to a person requiring any special services, based on physical, developmental, emotional or behavioural conditions.
Supporting People (SP)	A programme which funds housing related support services and which is administered in each county by a Supporting People Team.
Social Exclusion Unit	The Prime Minister set up the Social Exclusion Unit in 1997. Since then the Unit has led innovative thinking in addressing some of society's most difficult problems.
Tenancy failure	Tenancies can fail through a variety of reasons including anti-social behaviour, debt, non payment of rent, mental health problems, a lack of lifeskills, education or support and an inability to cope with the basic requirements to keep a tenancy.

