

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

16 December 2015

North Derbyshire Housing Ambition

**Report No EAH/10/15-16/AWC of Councillor Mrs E A Hill, Portfolio Holder with
Responsibility for Housing Strategy and Social Inclusion**

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To provide an overview of North Derbyshire Housing Ambition
- To update on current progress to date

1 Report Details

- 1.1 NEDDC is the host authority for North Derbyshire Housing Ambition, an innovative project funded through the DCLG Single Homeless Fund released in 2014. Through Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group (DHOG) a bid was submitted for £150,000 to deliver a specialist housing project for young people aged 16 to 24. A key element of the project is its direct links with the Sheffield City Region Ambition project, also hosted by NEDDC. SCR Ambition provides intensive support for 18-24 year olds to assist them in to employment, education or training (EET).
- 1.2 It was identified that there was a gap in this service for provision of housing advice and that there were provable links between young people being successful in obtaining and sustaining employment education or training where they have a settled living situation. Conversely the same applies where accommodation is more likely to be sustained where the young person is accessing EET.
- 1.3 The application was successful and 2 new posts were created at NEDDC to deliver Housing Ambition. Recruitment took place in July 2015. The project covers Bolsover District, Chesterfield Borough, Derbyshire Dales District and North East Derbyshire District Council areas. The project is a pilot limited to an initial 18 months.
- 1.4 The key objectives of the Housing Ambition Project are:
 - Develop a Single Point of Entry for young people to access services.
 - Develop a housing pathway to enable a planned move for young people whose best option is to move into independent accommodation.
 - Deliver an education programme in schools.

- Provide a specialist mediation service to avoid young people being evicted from the family home in crisis situations.
- Develop a young person's housing needs forum to ensure a joined up approach and agency buy in from statutory and non statutory partners.
- Conduct a health audit of young people.
- Procure funding for the continuation of the project beyond the initial 18 months and roll out of the project across the remainder of Derbyshire.

1.5 Progress so far:

- A webpage and single referral form have been developed to ensure that a young person approaching any agency will be referred to all appropriate support specifically required to meet their needs.
- The first young person's housing needs forum took place in November 2015 which was a very successful meeting and kick started the activity to develop a housing pathway with partner involvement.
- The first session in schools has taken place and feedback was extremely positive. Further bookings have been confirmed in 7 schools delivering 45 sessions. This will be received by in excess of 1030 young people. The schools with sessions currently booked are:
 - Tibshelf Academy – Bolsover (session already delivered)
 - Brookfield Community School - Chesterfield
 - Highfield School - Matlock
 - Lady Manners School - Bakewell
 - Netherthorpe School – Staveley, Chesterfield
 - Parkside Community School - Chesterfield
 - Shirebrook Academy - Bolsover
 - Tupton Hall School - NEDDC – sessions not yet confirmed but discussions ongoing
- Mediation training has taken place and upon receiving the subsequent qualification there will be up to 10 members of staff able to deliver mediation services.
- An opportunity was identified within Derbyshire County Council Transformation for Change fund and a successful application was made to fund a similar post to the North Derbyshire Housing Ambition Co-ordinator based at DCC to replicate the work of Housing Ambition across the remainder of Derbyshire. It is expected that this will increase the likelihood of identifying additional funding for the continuation of Housing Ambition. In particular we aim to demonstrate that the service will bring quantifiable savings to partner agencies who may be asked to contribute on a spend to save basis after the initial 18 month period.

- 1.6 Housing Ambition has recently drawn the interest of the Industrial Communities Alliance and presentations have been made at both their regional and national meetings with a view to the project being promoted in the House of Commons and viewed as a best practice example of collaborative working joining up housing and employment, education and training projects.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The project is currently achieving results exceeding our initial expectations and has been received extremely positively by partner agencies.
- 2.2 The overall success of the project will rely heavily on partner engagement and for this reason we continuously need to raise the profile of the project and work being carried out.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Not required for this update paper

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Not required for this update paper.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 All finance and risk implications have been considered in previous papers to Cabinet and are monitored monthly via a review of the Project Initiation Document.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 As above.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 As above

6 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 6.1 Acknowledges the progress and successes achieved to date and
- 6.2 Supports the promotion of the North Derbyshire Housing Ambition project at the House of Commons.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	All
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	Increase housing choice Create jobs, Build Skills, Attract Investment Improve people's Health

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
N/a	N/a
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
N/a	
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