

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ASSET MANAGEMENT, CULTURE AND HOUSING
CABINET MEMBER**

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL HOUSING ADVICE TEAM ANNUAL
HOMELESS PREVENTION REPORT 2012-13**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To note the latest statistical government returns for homeless prevention for 2012/13.
- 1.2 To note the emerging national issues which are likely to impact on activity in the future.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Under the Homelessness Code of Guidance published in July 2006, local authorities have a duty to secure advice and assistance for homeless prevention on behalf of any person in their district.
- 2.2 Effective homeless prevention saves money and reduces homelessness and rough sleeping. Homeless prevention is cost effective in that it reduces pressures on other agencies with regard to health, social care, crime etc. For example, studies suggest that homeless people visit A&E eleven times more often than housed people. A national audit report in 2011 identified the cost of a visit to A&E at £147 per visit. Effective homeless prevention also identifies and tackles the root causes of homelessness.
- 2.3 The latest statistical government returns 2012/13 for Homeless Prevention show that North Lincolnshire Council is now the fourth best performing local authority in the Yorkshire and Humber sub region. This includes 21 other local authorities. Further details are available at Appendix 1. Nationally North Lincolnshire Council is the 27th best performing local authority from a total of 336 other local authorities. These regional and national indicators demonstrate the year on year ongoing service improvement.

- 2.4 Early indications from April 2013 are that general activity and the number of homeless preventions is still rising. June 2013 figures are low but this is directly due to temporary staff shortages. Further details are available at Appendix 2.
- 2.5 The welfare reforms, bedroom tax, benefit cap and change to universal credit are all impacting on the number of people accessing the service. These changes which ostensibly reduce people's income are very likely to increase homelessness and the threat of homelessness through non payment of rent.
- 2.6 The benefit cap in North Lincolnshire becomes active on 16 July 2013. It will affect 63 families and individuals identified in the area who will lose between £5 and £50 per week.
- 2.7 The date for the introduction of Universal Credit keeps getting put back. However, this has the potential to have a significant impact on homelessness as people on benefit get all their benefit in one payment each month. All studies show this group is particularly vulnerable and struggle to effectively manage their finances, pay priority bills etc now, even before the introduction of universal credit. In all of those pilot areas who trailed universal credit, rent arrears increased almost immediately.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To note the excellent performance of the Housing Advice Team to date.
- 3.2 To acknowledge the emerging issues and likely trend of increasing workload on the Team reflecting national trends.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Not applicable..

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The Housing Advice Team has recently moved to Church Square House which has had no adverse impact on service delivery whilst delivering significant savings. The move away from cash bonds has also delivered savings but this has and will continue to impact on future overall homeless prevention numbers.

5.2 In addition to the impact of the financial savings made to date because of recent staff changes there is currently a significant skills and experience gap within the team and this will, in the short term, impact on the number of homeless preventions we are able to deal with. These matters are currently being addressed to try and minimise any long term detrimental impact.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 Not applicable.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 No consultation has taken place on this report.

7.2 No conflicts of interest have been declared.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 To note the excellent performance of the Housing Advice Team in working to prevent homelessness during 2012/13.

8.2 To acknowledge the emerging issues and likely trend of increasing workload on the team reflecting national trends.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-homelessness-in-england-january-to-march-2013>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>

Number of cases where positive action was successful in <u>preventing</u> homelessness of which household									APPENDIX 1
Region or Local Authority Area	Number of Households (000s)	able to remain in existing home	assisted to obtain alternative accommodation	Total	rate per 1,000 households	Number of cases where positive action was taken	rate per 1,000 households	Total cases of prevention and relief	rate per 1,000 households
Kingston upon Hull	115	4,679	435	5,114	44.5	442	3.8	5,556	48.3
Bradford	192	1,460	-	1,460	7.6	2,343	12.2	3,803	19.8
Scarborough	49	233	522	755	15.4	4	0.1	759	15.5
North Lincolnshire	68	394	612	1,006	14.8	4	0.1	1,010	14.9
York	84	399	541	940	11.2	53	0.6	993	11.8
Leeds	334	1,271	2,193	3,464	10.4	133	0.4	3,597	10.8
Richmondshire	20	107	101	208	10.4	1	0.1	209	10.5
North East Lincolnshire	67	142	481	623	9.3	18	0.3	641	9.6
Harrogate	67	451	183	634	9.5	-	-	634	9.5
Ryedale	23	89	104	193	8.4	2	0.1	195	8.5
East Riding of Yorkshire	144	1,091	119	1,210	8.4	5	-	1,215	8.4
Kirklees	167	1,154	-	1,154	6.9	214	1.3	1,368	8.2
Barnsley	96	438	263	701	7.3	7	0.1	708	7.4
Wakefield	139	684	266	950	6.8	77	0.6	1,027	7.4
Hambleton	37	86	176	262	7.1	-	-	262	7.1
Craven	24	93	58	151	6.3	7	0.3	158	6.6
Sheffield	230	711	326	1,037	4.5	437	1.9	1,474	6.4
Selby	33	78	61	139	4.2	46	1.4	185	5.6
Rotherham	106	107	456	563	5.3	2	-	565	5.3
Calderdale	86	129	236	365	4.2	48	0.6	413	4.8
Doncaster	122	35	494	529	4.3	15	0.1	544	4.5

**NEW CASES
Q1 2012 & Q1 2013**

NEW CASES 2013		NEW CASES 2012	
APRIL 2013	48	APRIL 2012	41
MAY 2013	104	MAY 2012	64
JUNE 2013	111	JUNE 2012	59
TOTAL	263		165

**HOMELESS PREVENTIONS
Q1 2012 & Q1 2013**

2013	HOMELESS PREVENTIONS	2012	HOMELESS PREVENTIONS
APRIL 2013	72	APRIL 2013	47
MAY 2013	77	MAY 2013	64
JUNE 2013	35	JUNE 2013	51
TOTAL	184	TOTAL	162