

**COMMITTEE:** SOCIAL INCLUSION SCRUTINY

**DATE:** 5TH MARCH 2009

**SUBJECT:** REFERENCE FROM CHILDRENS PANEL  
REQUESTING EXECUTIVE APPROVAL FOR AN  
INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL  
TENANCIES AVAILABLE PER ANNUM FOR  
CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

**REPORT BY:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF LOCAL  
DEMOCRACY)

**CONTACT OFFICER:** SUSAN ROWLAND 546036

**IMPLICATIONS:**

|            |   |                  |
|------------|---|------------------|
| LEGAL      | ✓ | COMMUNITY SAFETY |
| EQUALITIES |   | ENVIRONMENT      |
| FINANCIAL  |   | CONSULTATIONS    |
| STAFFING   |   | OTHER            |

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

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**PURPOSE**

1. That the number of priority Council tenancies allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers be increased from 12 per annum to 18 per annum.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

**Recommend that the Executive give approval to the increase in the number of priority Council tenancies allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers from 12 to 18 per annum.**

### **BACKGROUND**

3. At present the Children in Care and Care Leavers have been allocated 12 priority Council tenancies per annum.
4. Since this figure had been set the numbers of Children in Care and Care Leavers has increased three fold and includes a significant number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who have the same rights to be housed as the indigenous group of young people.

### **REPORT**

5. The Team Manager 16+ explained that he had held discussions with officers in the Housing Needs Team who were reluctant to increase the number of priority tenancies allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers to 18 per annum.
6. Childrens Panel proposed to increase the number of allocated 12 priority Council tenancies to 18 to account for the increased numbers of Children in Care and Care Leavers requiring priority Council tenancies.
7. The 16+ Team Manager explained that not all Care Leavers required Council tenancies, some attended University while others would be accommodated by other social renting such as housing association.
8. However the allocation of the 12 priority Council tenancies per year had not increased for some years and was inadequate for the numbers of Children in Care and Care Leavers requiring priority Council tenancies. It was emphasised that no young people in care would be made homeless unless they had become intentionally homeless.
9. Childrens Panel resolved to:-  
  
"Request Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee seeks Executive approval to increase the number of priority Council tenancies allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers from 12 to 18 per annum."

### **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

11. Social Inclusion can agree to seek Executive approval for an increase from 12 priority Council tenancies to 18 allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers.
12. Social Inclusion can agree to note Children's Panel request to seek Executive approval for an increase from 12 priority Council tenancies to 18 allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed by John Newman Solicitor in Legal Services on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

Report – CP/08/01/09

Minute – 5/01/09