

AGENDA ITEM**6.1****EXECUTIVE**

DATE: 30TH MARCH 2009

SUBJECT: REFERENCE FROM SOCIAL INCLUSION SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – COUNCIL TENANCIES FOR CHILDREN
IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY)

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	STAFFING
EQUALITIES		COMMUNITY SAFETY
FINANCIAL		RISKS
OTHER		

CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER(S): COUNCILLORS RODEN AND SHAW

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Executive is recommended to increase the number of priority tenancies allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers from 12 per annum to 18 per annum.

REPORT

2. At its meeting held on the 12th February 2009 Children's Panel requested that the Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee seek Executive approval to increase the number of priority Council tenancies allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers from 12 to 18 per annum.

3. It was explained to Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 5th March 2009 that since the figure of 12 priority Council tenancies had been set the number of children in care and care leavers had increased three fold and included a significant number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who had the same rights to be housed as the indigenous group of young people.
4. The Scrutiny Committee was informed that the Children's Panel on 12th February had been advised by the Team Manager 16+ that discussions had been held 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.
5. The Children's Panel had been advised that not all care leavers required Council tenancies. Some attended university whilst others would be accommodated by other social renting, such as housing associations.
6. 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.
7. The Children's Panel at their meeting on 12th February 2009 therefore requested that Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee request the Executive to increase the number of allocated priority Council tenancies from 12 to 18 to account for the increased numbers of children in care and care Leavers requiring priority Council tenancies.
8. Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee were supportive of this proposal and resolved:-

"That the Executive be requested to increase the number of priority Council tenancies allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers from 12 to 18 per annum."

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

OPTIONS

10. Executive can agree to increase the number of priority Council tenancies from 12 to 18 allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers.
11. Executive can note the number of priority Council tenancies from 12 to 18 allocated to Children in Care and Care Leavers.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report – CP/08/01/09
Minute – 5/01/09
Report – SI/7.1/03/09
Minute – 9/03/09