



REPORT OF: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES MANAGER

TO: EXECUTIVE

DATES: 16th MARCH 2017

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FOR INFORMATION

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION TRAILBLAZERS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Executive of the Council's successful joint bid for funding under this Government initiative.

ISSUE

On 17th October 2016, the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) launched a [£40 million homelessness prevention programme](#) which included a £20m fund to establish a network of ambitious Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer areas to develop innovative new approaches to prevent homelessness.

The Council, along with Blackburn with Darwen BC (lead authority), Lancashire County Council (East Lancashire only), Burnley, Hyndburn, Ribble Valley and Rossendale submitted a successful joint bid for funding and was awarded £735,000.

The East Lancashire Programme (ELP) aims to tackle youth homelessness by preventing family breakdown before things reach a crisis point. It will trial new approaches to effectively identify young people at greatest risk of homelessness, improve parenting capacity to support teenagers in danger and share the experiences of young people who have been homeless so those at risk can learn from their peers. These include:

- **early intervention services for 14-25 year olds** at risk of eviction in east Lancashire to mediate with the young people and their parents/carers;
- **an interactive website** to provide information and advice to young people at risk of homelessness and their parents/carers, such as maps to emergency shelters, virtual tours of accommodation and support videos; and

- **'respite' services** - very short term safe places for young people to stay while ongoing work continues to enable them to return home and/or prepare them to leave home in a safe and planned way.

The ELP is intended to be a pilot, which can be rolled out into a system of more integrated working across the whole of the Lancashire area and nationally.

Implications for Pendle

The Council will work with partners to help deliver ELP across east Lancashire (inc Pendle). It is hoped that this additional funding will help both sustain and improve upon services already provided in Pendle in helping to prevent youth homelessness.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy

7. There are no policy implications arising from this report.

Financial

8. There are no known financial implications arising from this report.

Legal

9. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

10. There are considered to be no significant risk management implications arising from this report.

Health and Safety:

11. There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.

Sustainability:

12. It is intended that implementation of ELP in Pendle will improve work already undertaken to prevent homelessness within the borough. There are no sustainability issues arising from the contents of this report.

Community Safety:

13. There are no community safety issues arising from the contents of this report.

Equality and Diversity:

14. The bid submitted was specifically aimed at improving homelessness prevention services for young people under 25, who are historically more at risk of homelessness than other age ranges. The implementation of ELP is therefore likely to lead to an improvement in services for young people but will not result in any reduction in services for all other age ranges.