

**MKC HOUSING FORUM**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**TITLE: Draft Young Person's Housing Strategy**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to notify MKC Forum Members of the draft Young Person's Housing Strategy.

**2. Recommendation**

Forum members make comments on the draft Young Person's Housing Strategy.

**3. Background**

- 3.1** In March 2005 the Government accepted the Council's Housing Strategy as being "fit for purpose". In the Action Plan we stated that we would prepare a Young Person's Housing Strategy (by which we meant people aged 16-25 year old). This strategy delivers on this promise and identifies the housing needs of Young People in Milton Keynes.
- 3.2** The Strategy is still in draft form and the closing date for comments is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

**4. Preparing the Strategy**

- 4.1** We used two methods of research for this Strategy. The first method looked at statistical data relating to young people in Milton Keynes. This included data such as population, migration, homelessness, tenure and incomes. The second method was to consult with young people and organisations that work with young people.
- 4.2** The combination of these research methods helped us to identify the housing needs of young people. Our Young Persons Housing Strategy includes an Action Plan, which outlines the gaps in current housing provision and shows measures to fill the gaps.

- 4.3 The Young Persons Housing Strategy will shape future housing provision for young people and give them the same opportunities as the general population to access housing. It will also identify areas where further research is needed to clarify specific issues related to access to housing information and reasons for young people leaving Milton Keynes.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

The draft Strategy sets out the following priorities for action:

1. To provide affordable housing specifically for young people. Providing more housing will also help provide more 'move-on' accommodation & thus free up existing specialist projects.
2. Carry out further research into the reasons why young people are leaving Milton Keynes.
3. Research the housing needs of university students and the impact on the current housing provision.
4. Provide more supported housing for young people & support for young people in their own homes.
5. Provide supported housing specifically for young people aged between 16 and 18 years.
6. Provide specific supported housing for young people with complex needs.
7. Provide more/better housing and support services to assist young mothers in order to prevent homelessness amongst this household type.
8. Improve the housing advice and information services currently available for young people.

Background Papers: None