



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Non-key Decision

6 June 2024

Report of Councillor Virginia Moran,
Cabinet Member for Housing

Prison Leavers Guidance

This report relates to the request for the Council to confirm its agreement to sign up to the Lincolnshire Housing Authority Guidance on Local Connection for Prison Leavers

Report Author

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Approved for
publication:

Councillor Virginia Moran

6 June 2024

Recommendation(s) to the decision maker (s)

1. Approves that the Council signs up to the Lincolnshire Housing Authority Guidance on Local Connection for Prison Leavers

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance

- 1.1 There are no additional financial implications associated with this decision as the guidance relates to the homeless duties which the Council is already responsible for.

Completed by: Paul Sutton Interim Head of Finance (Deputy 151)

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

Safeguarding

- 1.3 Any safeguarding concerns or issues would be picked up via usual processes already embedded across our housing services.

Completed by: Sarah McQueen, Head of Housing Options and Designated Safeguarding Lead

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 This report relates to the request for the Council to confirm its agreement to sign up to the Lincolnshire Housing Authority Guidance on Local Connection for Prison Leavers which has been produced in conjunction with the Lincolnshire District Councils and the Lincolnshire Housing Partnership Manager.
- 2.2 The guidance provides clear information to the Prison Service regarding how Lincolnshire Local Housing Authorities manage homelessness applications and referrals for prison leavers in respect of local connection and how any disputes will be managed.
- 2.3 The guidance does not change what the Council is required to do by legislation it provides clear guidance to prison resettlement teams and probation services

regarding the information they need to gain from the prison leaver to enable the organisations to contact the relevant local authority as they have a duty to refer prison leavers.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could choose not to sign-up the guidance but this could cause confusion for the prison resettlement teams and probation services regarding the process the council follows when assessing prison leaver referrals with to local connection.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 That the Council signs up to the Lincolnshire Housing Authorities Guidance on Local Connection for Prison Leavers.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 This guidance ensures that the prison resettlement teams and probation services understand that Lincolnshire Housing Authorities are all following the same guidance with respect to prison leaver referrals.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Lincolnshire Housing Authorities Guidance on Local Connection for Prison Leavers

Report Timeline:	Date decision due to be made	18 June 2024
	Call-in deadline	25 June 2024
	Date decision effective (subject to call-in)	26 June 2024