



From: Minister

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Our ref: AQW 15105/22-27

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Kellie Armstrong MLA
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Dear Kellie

AQW 15105/22-27

You recently submitted an Assembly Written Question AQW 15105/22-27, requesting an update on the implementation of recommendations set out in the Review of Jointly Commissioned Supported Accommodation Projects.

As outlined in my response, due to the large volume of detail required to provide an answer, I have arranged for this to be deposited in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely

**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

ANNEX A

AQW 15105/22-27

Question: To ask the Minister for Communities for an update on the implementation of recommendations set out in the Review of Jointly Commissioned Supported Accommodation Projects.

This is an operational matter for NIHE.

I have sought the requested information from the Chief Executive, who has advised me as follows:

“The Review of Jointly Commissioned Supported Accommodation Projects was launched in October 2023 and an implementation plan has been developed for year one actions. Local Planning Partnership Groups (LPPGs) have been established across all Health and Social Care Trust Areas.

These multi agency groups are made up of statutory partners, Supporting People provider representatives, NIHE Housing Services, Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG), Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC), Youth Justice Agency, Supporting People and other voluntary sector partners involved in Young People Homelessness.

These Groups have been established to coordinate and identify areas for improvement within the sector, relative to the outworkings and recommendations of the JCSA report. The table below details achievements with regard to the current implementation plan.”

| “Report theme descriptors | Current position and activities |
|---|--|
| <p>THEME 1</p> <p>Determine the strategic relevance of JCSA projects and to better inform commissioners, funders and providers about future planning and service development in the housing and support continuum for young people</p> | <p>All current provision is being scoped by LPPG’s with a finance review of joint commissioned accommodation currently in train with the Strategic Investment Board.</p> <p>Interface workshops have been established across all areas to examine Pathways.</p> |
| <p>THEME 2</p> <p>Examine young people's pathways into projects and capture some of the current issues and challenges faced by services in responding to their needs.</p> | <p>Review of Good Practice is underway with NIHE & HSC championing YP roles within their operational teams.</p> <p>Independent Provider Forum has been established with SCNI leading on this.</p> <p>Leaving After Care (LACC) referral panels are currently under review with ambition to establish a regionally agreed model with good practice. Enhanced governance models to be developed in order to ensure this.</p> <p>Assessment workshop has been completed with follow up to be developed within the next 6 weeks.</p> |
| <p>THEME 3</p> <p>Consider the extent to which JCSA projects are supporting young people to develop the life skills to</p> | <p>Information guide to be co-created with Young People so views can be shared – discussions have taken place with provider forum regarding delivery,</p> |

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|--|---|
| <p>transition when they are ready, to safe, suitable and affordable housing</p> | <p>format and best use of resource to deliver this.</p> <p>Early identification of vulnerable families and young people is identified as a key issue and HSC colleagues are furthering this to work in tandem with recommendations from Prof Ray Jones.</p> |
| <p>THEME 4</p> <p>Help commissioners and providers make decisions about service improvements or remodelling which will improve outcomes, inform best use and distribution of finite funding and deliver value for money</p> | <p>Training needs analysis to be developed and completed by provider in Year 1. Providers will be involved in this process and this has been spoken about in update meeting over the summer.</p> <p>Outcomes framework being developed with key stakeholders to ensure close monitoring of outcomes and impact of living within JCSA projects.”</p> |

For any future queries relating to operational matters, you may wish to contact NIHE directly. Making direct contact with the ALB will ensure that you receive the information in the shortest possible timeframe and make best use of public resources.