



**Service Delivery
Committee**

13 October 2015

For Information

Title: **Update following imminent closure of Kennedy House**

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1 Introduction

The purpose of the report is to inform members of closure of Kennedy House and the arrangements which have been put in place to date.

2 Recommendations

That members note this report.

3 Information

Kennedy House is a 56 bed hostel located in South Wigston adjacent to the Glen Parva Prison and is operated by the Shaw Group. The Council is aware that it is mixed funded an element of which comes from the Leicestershire County Council (LCC). LCC as part of their cost reduction programme invited tenders for their homeless accommodation and support provision.

The Shaw Group were unsuccessful in their tender and the new contract has not only resulted in reduced bed spaces within Leicestershire, from around 84 to 30, and all these bed spaces will be supplied from only one base at the Falcon Centre in Loughborough.

The current contract runs until the end of September 2015 and as reported previously to the Committee that all remaining residents have been served with section 21 notices which was the start of the legal process to bring their occupation to an end.

Housing Options staffs have been actively engaging with the staff at Kennedy House since the section 21 notices were served and in that time 3 residents have been assisted by way of small interest free loans to help with deposits; one resident has been re-housed into a Council flat.

The new provider, the Falcon Centre, have advised the Council that they are inviting referrals from Kennedy House in advance of the closure of Kennedy House and all support will be provided to the residents and housing options staff are made aware of the referrals can be made to the Falcon Centre.

There remains a risk of the remaining residents calling upon Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's Housing Options service in September 2015. Were this risk

be realised then an additional burden will be put upon budgets including expenditure on emergency accommodation.

A recent Supreme Court ruling increases the likelihood of having to accommodate residents initially pending enquiries.

These risks were identified previously and resources were made available to the Housing Option team to support and manage these applications with a consistent approach which will involve referrals to authorities from where the applicant originated from.

To further mitigate the risk the Council to review its allocation policy on the rules based on residency as recommended in an earlier report of this Committee.

Latest update

Kennedy House is closing as of 30 September 2015 as reported to this Committee previously. There are no more than 5 residents remaining of which 4 are planned to move on and the remaining residents may approach Oadby and Wigston Borough Council as homeless. They will be assessed in accordance with policy and all their housing options offered to account and where there is a duty to house them. A further update will be given at the meeting.

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| Implications | |
|---------------------|---|
| Financial (PL) | Closure of facilities in neighbouring districts could put pressure on this Authorities homeless budget. |
| Risk (APM) | CR8 – Reputational Damage CR6 -Diminishing Financial |
| Equalities (AC) | No Significant Implications |
| Legal (AC) | No Significant Implications |