



## REGENERATION, HOUSING, CULTURE AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members discussed the support available for those facing eviction and how the support was monitored to ensure that referrals were not circular.

\* **Resolved that the report be noted.**

### 33. **UPDATE ON YMCA, SALVATION ARMY AND LINKS TO CHOICE BASED LETTINGS**

A report was submitted to the Committee by the Head of Housing and Neighbourhoods, which updated Members on YMCA, Salvation Army and Links to Choice Based Lettings.

The Under One Roof Scheme was under review by the Committee and the report informed Members on the current situation for applicants living at the YMCA and Salvation Army through the scheme with regard to their priority under the banding system and the number of applicants rehoused in the period October 2008 to October 2009.

The Head of Housing and Neighbourhoods informed Members that the Local Authority was currently in consultation and negotiation with the YMCA on remodelling their provision and allocation schemes and that a pilot scheme regarding the allocation of available beds would begin in January 2010.

Members raised concerns with the banding system in place for applicants, how homes were allocated and applied for, the support mechanisms in place once an applicant secured housing and left supporting living, the lack of local exclusions in place for St Helens residents and the lack of variety in the provision delivered by the YMCA and Salvation Army.

Members discussed wider concerns with the YMCA provision in St Helens in relation to crime and disorder and believed that a task and finish group to conduct a scrutiny review on the YMCA in conjunction with the Environment and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee could prove beneficial to both Scrutiny Committees.

\* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) that occupancy statistics of the YMCA be provided to this Committee with further breakdown of YMCA occupancy by residents with Local Connections;**
- (3) a task and finish group lead by the Vice Chairman be appointed to undertake a scrutiny review of Hostel Accommodation provisions;**
- (4) the Chairman of Environment and Safer Communities be approached to discuss the possibility of Environment and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee linking into the Hostel Accommodation Provision task and finish group; and**
- (5) the initial scoping meeting to be arranged and confirmed by the Scrutiny Manager.**

## REGENERATION, HOUSING, CULTURE AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 34. **TASK GROUP UPDATES**

The Scrutiny Manager gave a verbal report to Members on the Task Group Updates.

It was reported that the Scrutiny Review of the Town Centre Area had been complete and the report on findings of the Task Group would be presented to the Executive on 9 December 2009.

Members were informed that the Under One Roof Task and Finish Group was currently in the process of compiling a report on the group findings and a draft report would be complete and submitted to this Committee for comments in January 2010.

The Private Landlords Task and Finish Groups had conducted their interviews and had attended a conference in Gateshead on LACORS; Tackling Problem Housing, Selective Licensing in the Private Rented Sector. It was anticipated that the draft report from this Task and Finish group would be complete for February 2010.

**\* Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) the Draft Interim LEGI Programme be brought back to the next meeting of this Committee.**

-oOo-