



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

28 March 2024

Report of the Director of Public Health

Derbyshire Homelessness, Housing and Health: An update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
- a) Note the overview of existing homelessness, housing and health support being offered to Derbyshire residents, and any specific issues highlighted that will be presented at the meeting.
 - b) Consider further opportunities to help address the wider determinants of health, with a particular focus on the emerging work from the Derbyshire Housing and Health Systems Group, which will be highlighted at the meeting.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 Addressing the wider determinants of health has an important role to play in reducing health inequalities in Derbyshire. In addition, cost of living increases has heightened the financial pressure people in the county are facing. This report and the associated presentation aim to update members of the Health and Wellbeing Board on current support and achievements to date, with a specific focus on homelessness, housing and health.
- 2.2 In Derbyshire, people living in the poorest areas will die, on average, seven and a half years earlier than those in the richest areas (JSNA, 2023). Addressing such avoidable inequalities and moving towards a fairer

distribution of good health requires a life course approach and action to be taken across the whole of society.

- 2.3 The evidence to say that housing is an important determinant of health has long been established. We know that where you live, your home, housing circumstances and your neighbourhood can affect your physical and mental health and wellbeing. For example, people who are homeless have some of the worst health outcomes in England and are more likely to experience and die from preventable and treatable medical conditions and to have multiple and complex health needs. The average age of death of someone experiencing homelessness is around 30 years lower than that of the general population (Office for National Statistics, 2020).
- 2.4 The reasons that lead to homelessness are multiple and often extremely complex, with the underlying causes of homelessness including structural, societal, and economic factors, such as poverty and deprivation, unaffordable housing, unemployment, exclusion, and discrimination. Nevertheless, local data from district and borough councils indicates that 2,963 homelessness assessments were made in 2022/23 in Derbyshire, indicating we have a sizeable number of people who are homeless or living in temporary accommodation, sleeping rough or living in overcrowded properties.
- 2.5 Partners in Derbyshire face considerable challenges in responding to homelessness and rough sleeping, set against a backdrop of the global pandemic, increases in the cost of living and an increasingly unaffordable housing market. A collaborative partnership approach is fundamental to being able to effectively tackle homelessness.
- 2.6 Further to this, the need for warm, dry, safe, and secure housing is essential to allow us to lead healthy independent lives. The evidence demonstrates a correlation between poor quality housing and poor health outcomes. Improved housing conditions can save lives, prevent disease, increase quality of life, reduce poverty, and help mitigate climate change. Additionally, poor quality housing is not equally distributed within society, with the greatest burden observed in individuals from lower socioeconomic groups and amongst older adults (BMC Public Health, (2020).
- 2.7 There are still a concerning number of residents in Derbyshire living in cold, damp, overcrowded and unsafe housing which has consequences on both physical and mental health. The percentage of people living in fuel poverty in Derbyshire is higher than the England average (Derbyshire Housing Health Impact Assessment 2023), however, large variation exists based on levels of deprivation. In areas of Chesterfield,

Bolsover, Erewash and North East Derbyshire - which are amongst the most deprived in England - over a quarter of households are estimated to live in fuel poverty.

2.8 Work to improve population health outcomes must include a focus on improving outcomes for those in the poorest health: those living in insecure, poor quality, unaffordable housing, and those without access to suitable accommodation. To address these inequalities a wide range of housing and health interventions are delivered across Derbyshire through many collaborative system partnerships, strategic plans, and service provision. The key elements of all this include:

System Partnerships:

- The Derbyshire Housing and Health Systems Group: Acts as a housing and health sub-group of the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board to provide strategic alignment of work across the system to ensure that health and housing needs are addressed across Derbyshire.
- Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group: A successful partnership of homeless leads from the 9 District and Borough authorities (including Staffordshire Moorlands), together with representatives from Public Health, to promote homelessness reduction and prevention through strategic leadership.

Strategic Plans:

- The Draft Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-29: Addressing the wider determinants of health, including increasing the number of people in Derbyshire who live in appropriate, healthy, safe, warm, secure and affordable housing is proposed as outcome 3 of the draft strategy.
- The Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27: Implementing the strategic priorities of the strategy to significantly reduce crisis presentations and ensure effective homelessness prevention interventions, partnerships and pathways are in place.
- The Derbyshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): The JSNA is an accessible, up to date and useful repository of information that partners across Derbyshire can access. Key topic summaries on housing and health and homelessness have been written and published to provide an overview of the latest research to demonstrate the importance to population health [Derbyshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Housing](#).
- The Derbyshire Housing Health Impact Assessment 2023: A report aimed to investigate the impact of poor quality, private sector housing on the health of residents in Derbyshire. The

report outlined several recommendations that aim to address the health inequalities brought on by poor quality housing in the county. [Derbyshire Housing and Health Impact Assessment.pdf](#)

Key Local Service Provision includes:

- **Derbyshire Rough Sleeping Outreach Service:** This service supports individuals experiencing rough sleeping to secure accommodation and prevent future rough sleeping. The service is operated by P3 Charity, who work in partnership with multiple organisations, enabling people to access the support services they need.
- **The Derbyshire Winter Rough Sleeping Service:** The service is coordinated by Derbyshire Homelessness Officer Group and aims to provide winter service for people sleeping rough which comprises of signposting, accommodation, floating support, and food provision.
- **Street Support Derbyshire:** is a newly launched online resource that connects people and organisations to tackle homelessness in Derbyshire. The site provides a comprehensive database of homelessness support services across the county.
- **Specialist Housing and Eviction Prevention Advice:** Providing additional specialist advice for residents across the County threatened with illegal eviction with significant increases in people facing housing vulnerability.
- **The Derbyshire Healthy Homes Project:** The project is currently under review, but it currently continues to support people with long term conditions who live in cold properties to stay healthy and independent in their own homes.
- **The Warmer Derby & Derbyshire Service:** An independent Derbyshire-wide dedicated fuel poverty service that helps struggling householders to access capital funding for heating and insulation upgrades and supports with softer energy advice.
- **Warm and Welcoming Spaces Grants Programme:** Small grants have been made available to organisations with accessible and appropriate community venues for the creation or improvement of Warm & Welcoming Spaces for local communities in Derbyshire during the winter. A maximum of £1,000 per organisation can be awarded, and this can be spent on a variety of project costs.
- **The Winter Pressures Professional Signposting Service:** A single contact point for professionals to signpost people who require help with various challenges during the winter period, for example, warm homes advice and support.

3. Alternative Options Considered

- 3.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board not to have oversight of this issue and the support available. This is not favoured as increased living costs amongst other risk factors are to continue to have a detrimental impact on housing, homelessness, and health across the population of Derbyshire for the foreseeable future.

4. Implications

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken.

6. Partnership Opportunities

- 6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board and its partners are asked to fully engage in promoting and disseminating the homelessness reduction and prevention provision, and the housing and health support that is available to residents in Derbyshire through relevant partnerships to help increase the scope.

7. Background Papers

N/A

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

9. Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a) Note the overview of existing homelessness, housing and health support being offered to Derbyshire residents, and any specific issues highlighted that will be presented at the meeting.
- b) Consider further opportunities to help address the wider determinants of health, with a particular focus on the emerging work

from the Derbyshire Housing and Health Systems Group, which will be highlighted at the meeting.

10. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 10.1 Addressing the wider determinants of health has an important role to play in reducing health inequalities in Derbyshire. There is a clear and direct link between living in a decent, warm, and safe home and good health and wellbeing. The recommendations of this report will help the partnership to remain informed when shaping and supporting the local response.

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Implications

Financial

1.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

Legal

2.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

Human Resources

3.1 There are no human resource implications of this report.

Equalities Impact

4.1 There are no equalities implications of this report.

Partnerships

5.1 There are no partnership implications of this report, although it is recognised and highlighted that key support is better delivered with all partners working together effectively. Locally, there is excellent commitment to drive improvements in homelessness reduction and housing quality, working with partners through the Derbyshire Housing and Health Systems Group and the Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group. The establishment of the Integrated Care System across Derbyshire will allow housing to be discussed by a wide range of partners who can collaboratively tackle the issues which cause poor health and wellbeing.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities

6.1 The Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022 Refresh) recognises the need to “Support our vulnerable populations to live in well-planned and healthy homes” as a key priority area. The wide overview of support available to Derbyshire residents described in this report can contribute positively to realising this priority.

Other implications

N/A