



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

7 July 2022

Report of the Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group

Update on the county wide homelessness and rough sleeping strategy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the progress of the County wide homelessness and rough-sleeping strategy.
- 1.2 To request the Health and Wellbeing Board support the implementation of the county wide homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 Work on Derbyshire's first ever countywide homelessness and rough sleeping strategy has now concluded. The strategy embodies a multi-agency collaborative approach to tackle homelessness and comes at a time where we are facing huge challenges against the backdrop of the cost of living crisis, recovery from the global pandemic, and a housing market becoming ever more unaffordable.
- 2.2 The strategy has been formed in close collaboration between district and borough councils and partners at Derbyshire County Council, the NHS, criminal justice system and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The strategy supports the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority regarding well planned and healthy homes.

- 2.3 The vision of the strategy is a simple one “Working collaboratively across Derbyshire to prevent and reduce homelessness – making it everyone’s responsibility”.
- 2.4 Homelessness is a cross cutting issue which cannot be tackled by any one agency or organisation alone. Our work during the pandemic showed what could be achieved by working together. We have witnessed innovations and creativity through our collaboration over the last two years and this was especially prevalent in relation to the link between homelessness and health.
- 2.5 The strategy sets out an ambitious plan to transform our response to homelessness. It is a multi-agency document developed with partners to tackle the underlying causes of homelessness, design out system blockages and create effective pathways out of homelessness.
- 2.6 There are four strategic priorities contained within the strategy:
1. Make homelessness everyone’s priority through a systems wide approach
 2. Prevent and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions
 3. End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness
 4. Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions
- 2.7 Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group working alongside other partners have developed a list of actions based around the four strategic priorities.
- 2.8 It is proposed a homelessness charter will be developed with partners, as well as a health needs audit / assessment to better understand the health needs of the homelessness population. In addition, we want to improve access to health services and outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
- 2.9 Early intervention will be embedded and the offer of personalised solutions into homelessness services especially where complex social issues are at play and where only a shared partnership approach will solve them.
- 2.10 The aims and ambitions set out in the strategy require ongoing commitment and close working with key partners to ensure that across Derbyshire we have the expertise, services, provision, resources, partnerships and infrastructure to deliver.

2.11 The Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group will lead on the delivery of the strategy and will report into the Housing Health and Systems Group. The delivery of the strategy will be governed by the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board, ensuring that the intrinsic link between homelessness and health is fully understood and cemented.

3. Alternative Options Considered

3.1 Not developed a shared strategy: Each district and borough local authority could have developed their own individual homelessness strategy. However, one of the key positive outcomes of the Covid-19 pandemic, is stronger collaborative working between stakeholders engaged in this key agenda area. The joint strategy will ensure better alignment of work across the system.

4. Implications

4.1 See Appendix 1.

5. Background Papers

5.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board have previously received update reports on the strategy development:

5.2 Homelessness Strategy Update:

<https://democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk/documents/s12848/DERBYSHIRE%20STRATEGY%20UPDATE%20v3%20final.pdf>

5.3 Homelessness in Derbyshire:

<https://democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk/documents/s10090/Agenda%20item%206%202021%2009%2030%20HWB%20Homelessness%20in%20Derbyshire.pdf>

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 Implications

6.2 Appendix 2 Derbyshire Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy

7. Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a) Support the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- b) Allow for the provision of regular updates on the progress of the strategy to be made at the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority updates on 'Well planned and healthy homes'.

8. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

8.1 To engage the Board and its members in the key priorities of the strategy and our efforts in making homelessness everyone's responsibility

Report Author: Lee Pepper

Contact details: lee.pepper@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

Implications

Financial

1.1 No financial implications have been identified.

Legal

2.1 No legal implications have been identified.

Human Resources

3.1 No human resources implications have been identified.

Information Technology

4.1 No information technology implications have been identified.

Equalities Impact

5.1 In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: equality of opportunity, health, environmental, transport, property and crime and disorder considerations