



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 8 September 2022

Report of the Director - Public Health

Partnership Support of the Homelessness Strategy
(Cabinet Member for Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision

3. Purpose

3.1 To note the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and that the Council supports the implementation of the strategy from a partnership perspective.

3.2 To note that Derbyshire County Council does not have overall responsibility for housing and homelessness as this lies with the District and Borough Councils.

3.3 To acknowledge that the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy takes a person centred approach to homelessness and therefore some County Council services will support the collaborative approach outlined in the strategy document

4. Information and Analysis

- 4.1 Derbyshire County Council has successfully worked alongside Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group (DHOG) (a forum consisting of representatives from the County Council and the district and borough councils in Derbyshire) throughout the pandemic on the 'Everyone In' scheme and the Winter Rough Sleeping support at Mount Cook. There is a need to continue working in a shared strategic approach, despite statutory responsibility sitting with district and borough councils, moving forward to ensure that health outcomes are improved.
- 4.2 The challenges that have been faced over the last two years has led to creativity, innovation, improved partnership working and a wide recognition of the link between homelessness and health.
- 4.3 According to evidence in [Homelessness: applying All Our Health - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/homelessness-applying-all-our-health), the reasons that lead to homelessness are multiple and often extremely complex. Many people have needs that extend beyond the basic need for a home and impact on their health and wellbeing. Local Housing Authorities need to work alongside a range of local partners to meet those needs and a successful strategic approach to preventing homelessness is built on a coordinated multi-agency response, with opportunities for early intervention and promotion of wellbeing being prioritised wherever possible.
- 4.4 The health and wellbeing of people who experience homelessness are poorer than that of the general population. They often experience the most significant health inequalities. The longer a person experiences homelessness, particularly from a young adulthood, the more likely their health and wellbeing will be at risk.
- 4.5 Action is required to support better integrated health and social care, and to help people to access and navigate the range of physical and mental health and substance misuse services they require in order to sustain stable accommodation.
- 4.6 The strategy recognises that public sector partners across Derbyshire have a responsibility to prevent homelessness. Collectively, DHOG working with partners and local communities wants to ensure that the factors that lead to homelessness can be better understood and identified, with effective pathways into preventative services in place, and clear and accessible referral mechanisms. DHOG aims to embed this approach across Derbyshire, significantly reducing crisis presentations and ensuring effective homelessness prevention interventions, partnerships and pathways are in place.

4.7 The strategy identifies four key priorities, each with a series of actions to address the strategic aims:

- Make homelessness everyone's responsibility through a system-wide approach
- Prevent homelessness and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions
- End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness
- Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions

4.8 Working in partnership to tackle the complex issues that link to homelessness will be vitally important over the next 12 months as it is anticipated that increases in the cost of living, together with the longer-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, will lead to people finding it increasingly difficult to meet their housing costs.

4.9 DHOG will ensure that a range of measures are in place to mitigate these impacts. DHOG will work in partnership to ensure adequate services are in place to improve people's financial capability, including accessing education, employment and training. DHOG will ensure that there are targeted interventions to support both tenants and landlords in order to minimise evictions from the private rented sector.

4.10 DHOG will lead on the delivery of the strategy. The Group will report into the County's Housing and Health Systems Group, which operates as a coalition of partners who share good practice and expertise around housing and health, we well as explore external investment opportunities and work towards a joined-up system.

4.11 The delivery of the strategy will be overseen by Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board, ensuring the intrinsic link between homelessness and health is fully understood and cementing the partnership approach required to deliver the strategy.

5. Consultation

5.1 On 30 September 2021, the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board resolved to agree as a partnership to work collectively on the coming challenges in the same way as we met the challenge of the pandemic.

5.2 On 30 September 2021, the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to work with Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group collaboratively to develop a Countywide strategy in order to develop and commission new services to help those with severe and complex needs.

5.3 On 30 September 2021, the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board resolved to recognise that continued rough sleeping and an increase in

homelessness in general would affect services cutting across the health spectrum in the next few years.

- 5.4 The strategy has been circulated to partner cabinets / governing bodies (including district and borough councils and Homeless Link) for comment and sign off.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Do not adopt the strategy. This could cause a reputational risk to the authority as it could be interpreted that the authority is not working with partners to support strategies to improve health outcomes.
- 6.2 Adopt the strategy. This is the preferred option as Derbyshire County Council have successfully worked with partners in the past to reduce rough sleeping and homelessness and it is recognised that people of risk of homelessness may be in need of public health or other service support.

7. Implications

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

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 [Supporting homeless populations in Derbyshire – Health and Wellbeing Board, 30 September 2021.](#)
- 8.2 [Minutes of the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 30 September 2021](#)
- 8.3 [Funding to support the ‘no second night’ scheme in Derbyshire – Cabinet Member Meeting – Health and Communities, 7 January 2021](#)
- 8.4 [Use of Contain Outbreak Management Fund to support homeless population throughout winter 2021/22](#)
- 8.5 [Government Guidance - Homelessness: applying All Our Health](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy 2022 - 2027

10. Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- a) Note the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- b) Endorse the principle of the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and recognise that people at risk of homelessness may be in need of public health or other service support.
- c) Note that Derbyshire County Council does not have overall responsibility for housing and homelessness.
- d) Note that the Council supports the implementation of the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy from a partnership point of view.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 11.1 Recognise that homelessness is a complex issue which requires a person-centred partnership response from a range of agencies, and some county council services will support the implementation of this strategy. However, it is important that Cabinet notes Derbyshire County Council does not have overall responsibility for housing and homelessness as this lies with the district and borough councils.
- 11.2 Endorsing the strategy will build on successful partnership working and assist in delivering the actions contained within it and securing positive outcomes for the people of Derbyshire.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

- 12.1 *No*

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 There are no financial implications through noting and agreeing the partnership principles of this shared strategy. Cabinet and Cabinet Members will be asked to approve any specific future funding requests in relation to project such as those previously supported in relation to reducing winter rough sleeping.

Legal

- 2.1 Section 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002 (as amended) places a duty on local housing authorities (in relation to Derbyshire, the district and borough councils) to formulate a homelessness strategy. The Section also requires the relevant social services authority (the County Council) to:
- (i) give such assistance as the local housing authority reasonably requires; and
 - (ii) take the strategy into account in the exercise of its functions.
- 2.2 Article 19 of the Council's Constitution allows the Council to enter into arrangements with or co-operate with another person or body in order to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area or in pursuance of any statutory functions.

Human Resources

- 3.1 There are no human resources implications through noting and agreeing the partnership principles of this shared strategy.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The recommendations link to the Council Plan priority, Thriving Communities; Resilient, Healthy and Safe Communities and Effective Early Help for Individuals and Communities.
- 6.2 Working with partners to implement the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will work towards ensuring individuals and communities most in need are supported and protected.
- 6.3 Working with partners we can enable individuals and communities to lead healthier and happier lives, accessing support when and where they need it.

