

## Health and Wellbeing Board

9th January 2019

### Preventing Homelessness Update

#### Recommendation

- 1 That the HWBB notes the feedback, options and proposals, following the Countywide Approach to Homelessness Prevention Conference, held on 27th September 2018. The Housing Board:
  - Seeks HWBB approval to establish a Tackling and Preventing Homelessness Strategy group and establish reporting links directly into the HWBB.
  - Seeks HWBB approval that this group commences work on establishing a Countywide Tackling and Preventing Homelessness Strategy.
  - Seeks HWBB approval to begin looking into the feasibility of piloting the Pathway model in Warwickshire.

#### 1.0 Key Issues

1.1 Heads of Housing and the Housing Board were tasked with hosting a Countywide conference on preventing homelessness. The conference brought together commissioners and providers to engage in constructive dialogue around system wide solutions for preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.

1.2 It examined the impact of housing on health, considered the countywide homelessness challenges, reflected on the early impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, considered the impact of welfare reform on tenancies and held a series of workshops facilitated by expert partners, which included:

- Supporting safe and timely discharges from an acute or community setting from attendance and/or admission to A&E
- Substance misuse and mental health
- Daytime street cultures - County lines/cuckooing
- Young people, care leavers and homelessness
- Homelessness and access to Primary Care
- Rough sleeping and getting people off the streets
- Homelessness and Domestic Abuse

1.3 The conference welcomed over 150 delegates who listened to keynote speakers from Pathway, the UK's leading homeless healthcare charity, which helps the NHS to create hospital teams to support homeless patients. Dr Nigel Hewett's presentation demonstrated a person centered, multidisciplinary approach. The Pathway model is evidence based, with various studies demonstrating a reduction in A&E attendances, unscheduled admissions, bed days and improved housing outcomes for the cohort.

1.4 Our second keynote speaker, Victoria Kell from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, outlined details of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, in particular the Duty to Refer, the challenges and opportunities the new legislation presents and the manifesto that plans to halve rough sleeping by 2022.

## 2.0 Options and Proposal

2.1 It is evident, following feedback from stakeholders and providers that there is an appetite for a Countywide homelessness strategy. Acknowledging that District and Borough Council's are required to have such a strategy at a local level, stakeholders have discussed the value in having a Countywide perspective and vision on tackling and preventing homelessness. To that end, the Housing Board seeks HWBB approval to establish a Tackling and Preventing Homelessness Strategy group to commence work on a countywide strategy, with reporting links directly into the HWBB.

2.2 Following the presentation from Dr Nigel Hewett on the Pathway model and the clear presentation of evidence based practice, the Housing Board also seek HWBB approval to begin looking into the feasibility of piloting the Pathway model in Warwickshire.

## 3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

3.1 Following approval from the HWBB, the Housing Board proposes to gather on 20th December to discuss the Tackling and Preventing Homelessness Strategy Group, appropriate membership and a plan for how the board will take this forward.

### Background papers

None.

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

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