

POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGENERATION – 1 OCTOBER 2020

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan

2019-2020

	Strategy commitment	Lead partner	Completion by					Progress (RAG)
			2020					
			Q3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1. Prevention: providing people with the ways and means to address their housing and other needs to avoid homelessness.								
1.1	We will ensure established housing governance forums drive forward the strategic vision.	Local Authority – Housing Programme Officer Board						Housing forums are established across the IOW Council. Housing are a key partner and represented in various partner organisation forums. These will need to be further reviewed post C19 to ensure all remain fit for purpose. Consideration to be given to Housing having membership at the health and wellbeing Board as highlighted as best practice in the Governments Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
1.2	We will co-produce a communication strategy with key partners in relation to homelessness and rough sleeping.	Local Authority Communication Team						A communication strategy for housing was completed in 2019. This will need to be refined following C19.
1.3	We will develop a document that outlines our corporate approach to care leavers at risk of homelessness- aspiring to end homelessness for this cohort.	Local Authority – Children Services and Housing Needs						Completed- Agenda item on the Housing Programme Officers Board and Corporate Parenting Board (Oct 2020)

1.4	We will develop a strategic approach to homelessness prevention; including service level agreements that define pathways from criminal justice, hospital discharge and leaving care.	Local Authority and partners						In progress; This will need to be refined following C19. We are working in collaboration with specialist MHCLG advisers to help inform these work streams.
1.5	We will strive to achieve The SAHRA certification (Self-Assessment Homelessness Reduction Act) operated by the National Practitioner Support Service (NPSS)	Local Authority – Housing Needs						We continue on a journey of improvement and are working towards achieving this accreditation.
1.6	We will utilise and make applications to access all available funding streams to support the prevention agenda making the best use of the public purse.	Housing Needs	As opportunities/ new funding is advertised.					We have 100% success rate. Since January 2020 we have received nearly 1 million pounds from three bids we have made to MHCLG. This includes a recent award of over £500k to help us recover/reset from C19.
1.7	We will identify and agree the development of alternative accommodation options to eliminate the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation for homeless families	Local Authority – Housing Programme Officer Board						We have entered into an agreement with Southern Housing Association and have nomination rights for a provision that negates the need to use B and B for homeless families.

1.8	We will end rough sleeping in collaboration with partner agencies by making efficient use of existing and future resources to reflect the needs of the island.	Supporting People Providers							We have significantly reduced rough sleeping reducing from 11 in November to 3 in September 2020. We are hopeful that as we mobilise a new single homeless accommodation pathway offer proposed to go live in November 2020 that we will move closer to this aspiration. We have reduced rough sleeping by 87.5% in less than 2 years. This would not have been achieved without our partners and although we still need to do more there is active participation and progress being made across the system.
1.9	We will analyse the use and impact of the 'Duty to refer' mechanism and formulate a briefing report outlining successes and learning.	Local Authority alongside mainstream partners.							This has been completed and an action plan has been created to address a number of deficiencies that remain across the system. This includes the development of a virtual training module we hope to roll out to partners.
1.10	We will utilise the Health and Wellbeing Board to scrutinise the sphere of influence of any particular service decision on the homelessness prevention agenda.	Health and Wellbeing Board							In progress although as noted in 1.1 Housing are not a core member of the board. This is highlighted as best practice in the governments rough sleeping strategy.
2. Intervention: focusses on helping people who are already in crisis to get swift, targeted, person centric support.									
2.1	We will develop a Somewhere Safe to Stay Assessment Hub where the Islands people will have access to a range	Full co-production of service, pathways and commissioning							A paper was signed off at Housing members Board on the 17.6.2020. It was agreed to renovate a local authority asset to meet this commitment funded through a combination of grants awarded to Housing services. It is

	of support services to meet their needs and resolve their incidence of homelessness.	led by the local authority with health partners, people with lived experience, housing partners and						envisaged this will be live in March 2021. In the interim an alternative solution has been created to fulfil this function.
2.2	We will design and implement a new Supporting People service offer.	Local Authority – Housing Needs						We have completed the procurement associated to supported accommodation for all household types. The design of the community support offer remains in progress.
2.3	We will review our Temporary Accommodation, modernising and improving our service offer to prevent further social and economic deterioration.	Local Authority						This has been delayed by C19 but remains a piece of work that is being progressed albeit in the context of the unknowns that surround the housing market.
2.4	We will assess the impact of our policies upon people threatened by or homeless i.e. Allocation policy.	Local Authority and partners						C19 has disrupted any reviews.
2.5	We will target mental health as a priority area to improve homelessness prevention/ intervention.	The NHS Trust and Local Authority						This has been slow due to the transformation work that has been undertaken by our partners. We are exploring how we can align and integrate service offers as a mechanism to better meet the needs of those we serve to prevent homelessness and aid recovery.

3. Recovery: emphasises how we will support people to find a new home quickly and rebuild their lives.							
3.1	We will develop community resilience by increasing access to personal development and well-being opportunities for individuals and households on the cusp of or recovering from an episode of homelessness i.e. life training, relationship development, tenancy support, financial management, creative courses and physical activity.	Local Authority and providers					We will work in collaboration to build on the response success associated to C19 and the opportunities that present as we embark on a journey to reset.
3.2	We will increase access to, and the number of, affordable properties.	Regeneration Members Board					This is pending post C19
3.3	We will utilise best practice and analysis of local need to influence and inform developments and front-line practice.	Housing Vulnerable Persons Board					Continuous process- We attend various regional and national forums to ensure we remain at the forefront of best practice.
3.4	We will implement and support the IOW Council's Empty Property Strategy Action Plan.	Housing Renewal					On-going.

3.5	Services commissioned under the umbrella of supporting people will develop peer support/ lived experience steering groups to help shape services and create a homeless champion network.	Supporting People Team						In progress- This was part of the specification and methods of delivery have been outlined by providers. Services are not due to go live until November 2020.
3.6	We will ensure that all services that provide homelessness prevention/ interventions will be underpinned by PIE (Psychologically Informed Environments) principles	Local Authority-Housing Needs						In progress. All new commissioned SP services are contractually required to be psychologically informed.
3.7	We will work with the Private Rented Sector (PRS) to develop a new accommodation quality standard.	Landlord forum						We are in the process of finalising a draft version which will be circulated for consultation.