
REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:	10
DATE OF MEETING:	17 th JULY 2003	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:	NA
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	DAWN DAWSON Ext 5979 & BEVERLY WAGSTAFFE Ext 5822	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2003 – 2006	REF:	BW
WARD (S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	CS01

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Committee approve the proposed Homelessness Strategy, Annexe A.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To bring before Committee a Homelessness Strategy to comply with the Homelessness Act 2002.

3.0 Detail

3.2 The Homelessness Act came into force in July 2002. It requires local authorities to:

- Carry out a review of homelessness in their area;
- Formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on this review by 31st July 2003;
- Keep the strategy under review;
- Consult other local or public authorities or voluntary organisations before adopting or modifying the strategy.

3.2 In January a Homelessness Planning Day was held to inform key stakeholders of the new implications of the Homelessness Act 2002. Following on from this day a questionnaire was sent to all key partner organisations to map the existing homelessness services and to identify gaps in the services currently provided. Along with the Government official statistical return form (P1E) this information was collated to form the Homelessness Review, in essence chapters 1 to 10 of the Strategy. The Review was published in March 2003.

3.3 Copies of the Review were sent to all key stakeholders including neighbouring authorities. Copies were also made freely available from the Housing reception. Recipients were asked to feedback any comments on the review and to identify opportunities for cross-authority working. East Staffordshire District Council has expressed interest in working with the Authority to develop temporary accommodation. No other comments were received.

- 3.4 In April a Homelessness Steering Group was established to jointly prepare the Homelessness Strategy. Membership includes key partner organisations as well as District Council Members. The Group will be working in partnership to ensure delivery of the Strategy. Details of the Group Membership can be found in Annexe B of the Strategy.
- 3.5 In June a draft Strategy was forwarded to stakeholders for formal consultation. A District Council member's awareness event was also held on 23rd June 2003 to inform members of the Strategy and to receive initial feedback. As a result the draft Strategy has been amended as detailed in Annexe B.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Monies to implement the Homelessness Strategy have been allocated from:
- The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)
 - The Council's revenue funds

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The Homelessness Strategy will have implications on the overall housing strategy.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The Homelessness Strategy will work towards meeting the Governments objectives to reduce National Homelessness levels.

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1 The Homelessness Act 2002.