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| REPORT TO: | HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: 6 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 19 APRIL 2022 | CATEGORY: (See Notes) DELEGATED or RECOMMENDED |
| REPORT FROM: | STRATEGIC DIRECTOR SERVICE DELIVERY | OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | PAUL WHITTINGHAM Paul.whittingham@southderbyshire.gov.uk | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | COUNTY WIDE HOMELESS STRATEGY | |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | ALL | TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS01 |

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the draft Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is endorsed subject to clarification on the agencies and forums that will assist in delivering the actions contained within it.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 This report provides the Committee with the draft County-wide Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This has been created by Homeless Link in collaboration with all District Councils in the County and other partner agencies. (The Draft Strategy is attached at Appendix A)
- 2.2 This strategy complements the Council's Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy which was presented to this Committee on 28 January 2021. It also provides a collaborative framework for the delivery of services in a consistent and accessible manner across the County.
- 2.3 The strategy itself builds on the long-standing success of the Derbyshire Homeless Officer Group (DHOG) which the Council has been a contributory member and beneficiary of the group's work.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 This strategy has been developed by the Derbyshire Homelessness Officer's Group (DHOG), Derbyshire County Council, Public Health, NHS, Police, Probation and a wide range of partner agencies and sets out a clear and ambitious plan to transform the response to homelessness across the County. It sets out a vision to "work

collaboratively across Derbyshire to prevent and reduce homelessness –making it everyone’s responsibility.”

- 3.2 The Strategy identifies a number of key priority areas and has a strong focus on the need for greater collaborative working with the Health and Social Care sectors in both the prevention of Homelessness and also the ongoing support for those who are homeless.
- 3.3 The complexities of people’s circumstances are often much more than simply not having a permanent home and these circumstances continue to become more complex as economic and housing market pressures build on households. A coordinated response to these challenges is already necessary and will become essential over coming months and years.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has provided the catalyst for a collective partnership approach to protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities. Councils in Derbyshire, in partnership with the other statutory and voluntary agencies, have demonstrated what working together can achieve through creativity, innovation, improved partnership working and a wider recognition of the intrinsic link between homelessness and health. This has improved outcomes for residents with long and complex histories of homelessness.
- 4.2 The strategy aims to build upon this collaborative approach and create new permanent systems and models of service that break down current blockages within the system, ensuring a multi-disciplinary approach designed around the needs of customers.
- 4.3 The Strategy identifies four key priorities each with a series of actions which are broadly in line with the Council’s own homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Make homelessness everyone’s responsibility through a system wide approach

- Secure System-wide commitment to transform services in recognition that homelessness is everyone’s responsibility.
- Embed homeless prevention across public services.

Prevent homelessness and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions

- Intervene earlier to ensure opportunities for homeless prevention are maximised with effective and targeted tools in place.
- Promote customer choice in developing bespoke housing solutions.

End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness

- Deliver a multi-agency, trauma informed approach to meet the multiple and complex needs of individuals through multidisciplinary interventions
- Develop targeted rough sleeping prevention services and rapid accommodation and support
- Prevent repeat homelessness through individually tailored accommodation and support options.

Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions

- Advocate for higher standards in the regulation of supported housing at a national level

- Develop, improve, then maintain the standards and management of supported housing provision to meet the needs of the homeless population
 - Improve access to affordable, quality, private sector homes to respond to homelessness
- Secure commitment from social housing providers to tackle homelessness as a corporate priority
- Ensure an adequate supply of temporary accommodation and minimise the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

4.4 There is a detailed series of actions within the strategy to address these four key strategic aims.

4.5 The strategy also underlines the need for the continued work of DHOG in order to deliver these aims across the County and also in accessing funding and services that benefit individual districts. This is particularly relevant for the Council who as a relatively small provider have often received the benefit of funding and services that have been collectively created and include:

- Securing match funding of £86,000 from Derbyshire County Council in order to pool COVID-19 emergency funds to enable a collaborative approach.
- Bringing together partners from the NHS, public health, adult social care, police, substance misuse services and the charitable sector to provide support to those accommodated as part of the crisis response.
- Establishing a Keeping Everyone In Service (KEIS) to continue to provide accommodation and support to clients with severe and multiple deprivation, securing funding from a wide range of partners.
- Establishing a Derbyshire Move-on support protocol.
- Jointly commissioning an integrated ICT solution to meet the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
- Co-ordinating rough sleeper counts across Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands.
- Successfully securing Rough Sleeper Initiative funding bid to provide outreach services across Derbyshire.
- Jointly commissioning of a countywide out of hours service
- Jointly commissioning the Call B4U Serve to prevent homelessness from the private rented sector.

4.6 The strategy is currently under consultation. As its contents are broadly in line with the Council's own strategy there are no major substantive comments proposed. However, the Council has requested that the strategy provides a clear indication of the social care and public health bodies, forums and agencies that are going to play a part in the delivery of this strategy.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications within this report.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct employment implications contained within this report.

Legal Implications

- 6.2 There are no direct legal implications contained within this report.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 The County-wide strategy does directly contribute to the aims within the corporate Plan regarding: Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable
- a. With partners encourage independent living and keep residents healthy and happy in their homes.
 - b. Promote health and wellbeing across the District.
 - c. Improve the condition of housing stock and public buildings.

Risk Impact

- 6.4 This report contributes directly to mitigating the risk identified in the Service Delivery Risk Register: SD7 - Insufficient supply of affordable homes to meet Council needs relating to allocations and homelessness.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 7.1 The draft strategy has been circulated to partner agencies across the County for their comments.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed prior to the completion of the strategy.

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 The multi-agency “joined up” approach to delivering services for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness provides a positive impact on the health and well being of residents within the District.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.4 There are no direct environmental sustainability impacts within this report.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 Homelessness is often a symptom of many other issues and circumstances. These issues cannot often be resolved simply through the provision of a new home and if not resolved may only allow for a crisis to re occur.

8.2 Joint work between Districts across the County through DHOG has always sought to address the housing related issues. The COVID pandemic and this new strategy has provided the platform for the creation and delivery of a much wider range of services that genuinely prevent homelessness occurring and reoccurring for particular households.

9.0 Background Papers

Report to Housing and Community Services Committee January 2021- South Derbyshire Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy.