



Policy and Resources Committee 4th November 2019

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Update

Purpose of report

To update Members on progress with the North Northamptonshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 2: Health Impact Assessment

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Rough Sleeping Strategy and its Delivery Plan placed a duty on housing authorities to have a combined Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy in place by Winter 2019. Given the imminent move to a unitary authority in North Northamptonshire and the need for all four councils to produce a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, it was considered expedient for this work to be undertaken jointly. Officers from the four North Northamptonshire District and Borough Councils therefore undertook a comprehensive review of homelessness in the area and produced a draft over-arching Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for North Northamptonshire.
- 1.2 The draft Strategy was brought to this Committee on 15th July 2019 and was approved for public consultation, subject to a Member consultation event also being arranged.
- 1.4 Following a meeting of the Northamptonshire Chief Housing Officers Group on 18th July, it was agreed that member consultation should be carried out jointly across North Northamptonshire and that this would be organised by Corby Borough Council.

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 The public consultation ran until 16th August 2019 and a small number of responses were received, which have been incorporated into a revised draft document, including strengthening the strategic links between the 4 councils' homelessness services, social services, public health and the NHS. Further revisions are currently being incorporated, and an action plan is being developed.
- 2.2 It was not possible to find a suitable date for the joint consultation event and Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough Councils have decided to take the

revised document directly to their committees for approval.

2.3 In view of the decision of this Committee regarding a consultation event for Members, officers have not considered this an appropriate course of action in East Northamptonshire. It is therefore proposed to hold a consultation event for East Northamptonshire Members on Monday 11th November 2019 so that they have the opportunity to input into the revised draft prior to it being finalised. The revised document will be circulated to Members prior to the event.

2.4 Due to the time constraint of needing to have the strategy in place for this winter, it will not be possible to bring the final document back to this Committee. It is therefore proposed that any amendments to be incorporated following the consultation event are approved by the Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

3.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the draft strategy and only neutral or positive impacts were identified. The positive impacts will be for:

- People with mental health conditions and/or drug and alcohol problems who are more likely to experience homelessness and rough sleeping
- Pregnant women, single parents, families with children, older people and young people under 18 who are considered to be in priority need under the Homelessness Reduction Act
- All homeless households who are more likely to experience socio-economic exclusion.

The initial Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 1 for information.

4.0 Privacy Impact Implications

4.1 It is considered that the over-arching Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will not have any Privacy Impact implications. Statistics included in the Strategy are anonymous and cannot be traced to individuals. However, items on the Action Plan will need to be given further consideration, particularly when sensitive information about individuals is involved.

5.0 Health Impact Assessments

5.1 A Health Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached at Appendix 2 for information.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 It is a statutory obligation, under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and its Code of Guidance, for housing authorities to produce a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy by Winter 2019.

7.0 Risk Management

7.1 The Council's Risk Register includes RM PLN 014 'Increase in Homeless Applications'. The Housing Services and Housing Options teams aim to keep increases in homeless applications to a minimum by placing the emphasis in their work on homelessness preventions. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will also assist with keeping homelessness to a minimum.

- 7.2 If no Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is put in place by the Winter, the council risks being in breach of its statutory duty.

8.0 Resource and Financial Implications

8.1 There are no resource or financial implications arising directly from this report. The strategy is being produced using existing resources within the Housing Services Team. However, the Action Plan may have resource implications which will need to be considered.

8.2 Significant additional ring-fenced resources have been allocated to the council by the Government for homelessness prevention over the past 3 financial years and various sums have been allocated for use from this funding, such as the provision of an additional Homelessness Prevention Officer for Homes Direct, and Homelessness Prevention Grants. Subject to Member agreement through the budget setting process, it may be considered appropriate to allocate some of the remaining resources to delivering elements of the Action Plan.

9.0 Constitutional Implications

9.1 There are no constitutional implications associated with this report.

10.0 Implications for our Customers

10.1 The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan will provide better services and outcomes for our customers who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Where possible, homelessness will be prevented, but where it is not possible, customers will be dealt with in a dignified way and, wherever possible, suitable accommodation will be provided, with support as necessary.



11.0 Corporate Outcomes

- 11.1 The Corporate Outcomes associated with the strategy are:
- Good Quality of Life – The prevention and relief of homelessness will improve the quality of life for people homeless or threatened with homelessness
 - Good Value for Money – Resources available for homelessness will be allocated in a more targeted and strategic way
 - Effective Partnership Working – Partnership working will be encouraged with housing providers and other statutory and voluntary agencies
 - High Quality Service Delivery – Delivery of homelessness services will be more targeted and strategic.

12.0 Recommendation

- 12.1 The Committee is recommended to
- i) Note the content of this report and the arrangements for Member consultation on the strategy
 - ii) Resolve that approval for any further amendments to the document from the Member consultation be delegated to the Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

(Reason – To ensure that the final strategy document will be fit for purpose and that the Council meets its legal obligations).

Legal	Power: Homelessness Reduction Act 2017				
	Other considerations: Homelessness Code of Guidance 2018 MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy and Delivery Plan 2018				
Background Papers: North Northamptonshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024					
Person Originating Report: Carol Conway, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager ☎ 01832 742078 ✉ cconway@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 22 nd October 2019					
CFO		MO 24/10/19		CX 23/10/19	

Title of proposal being assessed:	<i>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy</i>
What type of proposal is this an assessment of?	<i>Policy - New</i>
What are the aims and/or objectives of the proposal and the intended outcomes?	<i>To consult on the production of a strategy across North Northamptonshire, in line with our statutory duty, which aims to reduce and eliminate homelessness and rough sleeping</i>
Who is intended to benefit from this proposal?	<i>Homeless people, the council, housing providers</i>
Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?	<i>The council and housing providers</i>
How is the success of the proposal to be measured?	<i>Better services and facilities in place to prevent and relieve homelessness and rough sleeping. Reduction in homelessness and rough sleeping</i>
Name of person completing Initial Screening:	<i>Carol Conway</i>
Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:	<i>Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager</i>
Date of Initial Assessment	<i>27/06/2019</i>

Instructions: For **every** category in column A, below, submit a positive, negative or neutral assessment by entering an **x** in the relevant cell. Add an explanation in the Reason box, where applicable, including a specification of any sub-group affected. There may be both a positive and negative impact for the same category (e.g. a policy may be positive for young children but negative for older people).

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Explanation and Evidence (e.g. data, consultation results, customer feedback)
Gender:				
Consider Women/Girls, Men/Boys, Transgender individuals.			x	
Sexual Orientation:				
Consider, for instance: Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals Any other sexual orientation			x	
Race/Ethnicity:				
Consider, for instance: • White British people, • White non-British people • Asian or Asian British people • Black or Black British people • Chinese people • People of mixed heritage • Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage) • People from any other ethnic groups • People who do not have English as their first language			x	
Disability:				
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.			x	Pregnant women and new mothers are considered in priority need under the Homelessness Reduction Act
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.			x	
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia	x			People with mental health conditions are more likely to experience homelessness and rough sleeping.
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder			x	
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy	x			People with drug and alcohol dependency are more likely to experience homelessness and rough sleeping.
Other health problems or impairments (<i>please specify if appropriate</i>)			x	
Marriage and Civil Partnership:				
People in a Marriage or Civil Partnership			x	
Pregnancy and Maternity:				
People who have just had a baby or who are pregnant.	x			Pregnant women and new mothers are considered in priority need under the Homelessness Reduction Act
Age:				

Older People (60+)	x			Older people are considered in priority need under the Homelessness Reduction Act
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)	x			Children up to 18 are considered in priority need under the Homelessness Reduction Act
Religion/Belief:				
Consider, for instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian • Hindu • Muslim • Sikh • Buddhist • any other religion or belief (including holding no belief) 			x	
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access			x	
Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands	x			Homeless people are often subject to socio-economic exclusion. They are more likely to be on benefits, be unemployed, be single parents, have low incomes, low educational attainment, mental health or drug/alcohol issues, struggle to access services
Any other potentially affected groups (<i>please specify</i>)			x	

APPENDIX 2

NCC - Health Impact Assessment

How to use this tool:

Potential Health and Wellbeing impact – Think about what the potential health and wellbeing impacts will be in regards to each determinant of health. If you are unsure of the impact, mark uncertain. If there is no identified impact, mark neutral.

Length of impact – Provide details of whether the identified health and wellbeing impacts are likely to be short, medium or long term, or a combination.

Description of impact – Provide further details describing the potential impact of the policy, project or proposal.

Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions – Think about any recommendations detailing how positive impacts could be enhanced and negative impacts mitigated against.

If you have any questions regarding completing this form, you can contact Mitch Harper, Public Health Mharper@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Name of proposal, policy or project

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Service/organisation responsible

Planning Services - Housing, East Northamptonshire Council

Name of completing officer

Carol Conway, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager

Date HIA created

23.10.19

How does this proposal impact upon **health behaviours** in a positive or negative way?

Determinant of Health	Potential Health and Wellbeing impact	Length of impact Short (<1 yr) Med (1-5 yrs) Long (>5 yrs)	Description of potential impact Please identify any specific indicators	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Healthy eating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Provision of long and short term accommodation enables settled lifestyle with cooking facilities	
Physical activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Mental Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Provision of long and short term accommodation impacts positively on mental health. People with mental health issues are at higher risk of homelessness and rough sleeping. The strategy aims to improve ability to engage with mental health services	
Use of alcohol/drugs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Provision of long and short term accommodation impacts positively on addressing alcohol and drug abuse. People with drug and alcohol problems are at higher risk of homelessness and rough sleeping. The strategy aims to improve ability to engage with drug and alcohol services	
Sexual Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Use of cigarettes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Homeless people and rough sleepers are often smokers and not in a position to act positively to stop. The strategy aims to improve ability to engage with health	



	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain		services	
Other (list in description)	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		

How does this proposal impact upon **social support and the community** in a positive or negative way?

Determinant of Health	Potential Health and Wellbeing impact	Length of impact Short (<1 yr) Med (1-5 yrs) Long (>5 yrs)	Description of potential impact Please identify any specific indicators	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Family support – how will the proposal affect access to family support?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Settled accommodation will enable families to better access support from social services, schools, health services	
Community assets – will the proposal impact on the quality or access availability to community	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		



assets?				
Community safety –a safe and inclusive environment that acts to discourage crime and antisocial behaviour.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Reduction of homelessness and rough sleeping will reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and the perception of it	
Social isolation – will the proposal have an impact on the level of contact between an individual and society?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Homeless people and rough sleepers are isolated from society. Getting them into accommodation or preventing homelessness will have a positive impact on reducing social isolation and exclusion	
Other (list in description)	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		

How does this proposal impact upon the **housing** in a positive or negative way?

Determinant of Health	Potential Health and Wellbeing impact	Length of impact Short (<1 yr) Med (1-5 yrs) Long (>5 yrs)	Description of potential impact Please identify any specific indicators	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Home temperature and warmth – will the proposal affect home energy and the access to a warm home?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term	Reducing homelessness and rough sleeping will improve access to warm accommodation. Good quality, energy efficient affordable housing helps to reduce fuel poverty among low income households.	
Noise exposure – is there likely to be a change to the exposure of noise in the proposal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Indoor air pollution – will the proposal impact on	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		



indoor air quality – house dust mites, allergens and dampness.				
Adequate space – will the proposal affect access and size of housing space? Is there likely to be an increased risk of falls?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term	Aims to ensure homeless households and rough sleepers will have access to adequate housing. This in turn will help to prevent accidents and other risks associated with homelessness and being housed in inadequate accommodation	
Home safety – is there likely to be an impact on safety in the home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Other (list in description)	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		

How does this proposal impact upon the **environment** in a positive or negative way?

Determinant of Health	Potential Health and Wellbeing impact	Length of impact Short (<1 yr) Med (1-5 yrs) Long (>5 yrs)	Description of potential impact Please identify any specific indicators	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Noise exposure – is there likely to be a change to the exposure of noise in the proposal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Outdoor air pollution – will the proposal contribute towards a reduction in air pollution?	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Green spaces – will the proposal affect access and availability of green spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Waste disposal – is there likely to	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		

be an increase in the amount of landfill and food waste?	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain			
Other (list in description)	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		

How does this proposal impact upon **work, education and income** in a positive or negative way?

Determinant of Health	Potential Health and Wellbeing impact	Length of impact Short (<1 yr) Med (1-5 yrs) Long (>5 yrs)	Description of potential impact Please identify any specific indicators	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Employment - including working conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term	Access to accommodation will improve employment prospects	
Economy – will the proposal have impact on work, benefits, allowance income and the economy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term	Access to accommodation will improve employment prospects and access to benefits	
Education – is there likely to be an affect on opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term	Access to accommodation will improve access to education and life chances for children and adults will be improved	

for education?				
Other (list in description)	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		

How does this proposal impact upon **transport** in a positive or negative way?

Determinant of Health	Potential Health and Wellbeing impact	Length of impact Short (<1 yr) Med (1-5 yrs) Long (>5 yrs)	Description of potential impact Please identify any specific indicators	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Active transport networks – how will the proposal affect participation in active travel? (cycling / walking)	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Public transport networks – will the proposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		



support public transport use? Will it provide more availability of public transport?				
Traffic management – is there likely to be an impact on the traffic flow and pedestrian crossings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Road injury risk – will the proposal have an impact on the road risk to pedestrians and vehicle users?	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		
Other (list in description)	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	<input type="checkbox"/> Short term <input type="checkbox"/> Medium term <input type="checkbox"/> Long term		

Using the above information, your own experience, and the evidence base, briefly outline the overall proposed health impact of the project.

The strategy will improve life chances and health for those who are threatened with homelessness, actually homeless or rough sleeping by providing them with shelter and all the health improvements which flow from it.