

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 8TH JULY 2021

REPORT OF THE HOUSING SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

HOUSING UPDATE

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update concerning housing and the Lightbulb Partnership, including key housing related projects currently underway across Leicestershire.

Link to the local Health and Care System

2. Housing is critical to people's health and wellbeing, it is also a key factor in the generation of health inequalities. The Lightbulb Partnership (hosted by Blaby District Council) supports people in remaining in their own homes by delivering a joined up approach to aids and adaptations and a comprehensive housing assessment called a Housing MOT. The Housing Enablement Team (HET), funded by health, supports hospital discharge by placing housing specialists within discharge teams.

Recommendation

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the report.

Background

Homelessness figures.

4. The Chief Housing Officers Group (CHOG) continues to monitor homeless figures on a weekly basis to ensure early recognition of emerging trends. As the table below illustrates, figures up to end of 14th June show a sharp increase in the number of new homeless cases, from 105 in week ending 6th June to 138 week ending 14th June. Additionally, there is evidence of increased numbers of people being asked to leave private rented accommodation, an impact of the lifting of the eviction embargo on 31st May 2021. Use of temporary accommodation due to Covid (those accommodated through Everyone In) continues to reduce as people are moved onto more long term solutions.
5. CHOG are also monitoring availability of private rented accommodation as evidence is showing that it is increasingly difficult to accommodate people into private rented accommodation due to the high demand for such properties and landlords leaving the market.

Questions	Snaps hot 13/10/19	09/05/ 2021	16/05/ 2021	23/05/ 2021	30/05/ 2021	06/06/ 2021	13/06/ 2021
1 a) Amount of new rough sleepers this week?	1	8	5	9	0	4	10
1 b) Total number of rough sleepers known to the district? (including anybody counted in 1a)	2	20	16	30	11	10	26
2) Number of new cases of homelessness this week as a result of:							
a) Friends or Relatives no longer able to house?	41	45	37	45	36	37	47
b) End of Private Rent?	21	16	21	14	18	15	26
c) End of Social Rent?	6	2	6	2	4	5	5
d) Domestic Abuse?	5	12	15	18	13	12	10
e) Non Abusive Relationship Breakdown?	9	9	7	5	5	8	9
f) Other	32	32	36	41	38	28	41
3) Total New Cases of Homelessness this week?							
	114	116	122	125	114	105	138
4 a) The number of Households who are currently in emergency accommodation in response to the Covid-19 pandemic?							
	1	203	190	185	179	179	173
b) The total number of single person households (individual/couples with no dependants) in Temporary Accommodation (Total households not people)?	60	562	553	551	540	532	502
c) The total number of family households in Temporary Accommodation? (Total households not people)?	67	152	148	145	150	159	144

Rough Sleeper Initiative

6. The seven districts, together with Rutland were successful in securing £430,000 for from the Rough Sleeper Initiative 4 funding. This covers:

- Continuation of CBC Lettings - CBC Lettings is a Social Lettings Agency who work to identify private sector landlords with available accommodation and broker bespoke packages of support and assistance to persuade landlords to let to clients that would not normally meet their eligibility criteria
- Continuation of Mill House - Mill House has provided emergency bed spaces for those rough sleeping or at serious risk of rough sleeping
- An extension of the Support Worker roles provided by the Bridge, split into 2 dedicated outreach workers and 3 supported lettings workers
- 6 additional units of accommodation provided by EMH under a "Homes First" pilot

- A rough sleeping co-ordinator The co-ordinator will co-ordinate and allocate resources within the rough sleeping pathway as well as build formal links with other service providers to ensure that limited resources are targeted most effectively at those in greatest need and closest to the street to ensure that interventions maximise their impact. A pot for personal budgets to assist cases that's needs fall outside the existing interventions.

CCG Place Led Plans

7. Housing leads are linking in with the discussions that are taking place within localities on Place Based plans. The importance of housing and homelessness data and the associated knowledge is recognised and will be considered in the developing plans.

Other work being overseen by CHOG

- Development of prisoner protocol and refresh of the 16/17 Homelessness and Leaving Care protocols
- Overseeing Rural Housing enabler contract with an emphasis on site identification for new developments in rural areas.
- Discissions with partners on the approach to customers with complex needs and sustaining tenancies
- Warm homes funding opportunities
- Domestic Abuse Act implementation - consideration of the housing implications and linking in with the county DA group.

Hoarding

8. Following the agreement between the districts to jointly fund a hoarding pilot by top slicing some DFG monies within the Better Care Fund to smooth pathways for professionals and residents of Leicestershire, the updates on the pilot are detailed below:-
 - A Team has been recruited and currently undergoing specialist training.
 - A joint strategic protocol has been agreed, between social care and district councils to create a starting point for assessment of complex cases that require a multi-disciplinary approach
 - During the pandemic there have been a number of enquiries directly from residents themselves to request help. Initial conversations have begun with professionals and customers to gain intel on the pathway, however as is the case nationally most have been reluctant to engage in any face to face work until restrictions are lifted.

Next steps

- To engage with professionals and work on supporting with 'live cases'
- To develop a sustainable pathway for professionals post the end of the pilot
- To gather evidence and feedback from residents to ensure they engage on a prevention pathway

Lightbulb

9. The team have provided core services throughout the pandemic, navigating restrictions by introducing a lot more self-service and virtual appointments. There has been a

significant increase in urgent cases, which mainly consist of hospital discharges. This in turn has resulted in increased wait time for routine cases.

10. Over 2020/21 the Occupational Therapists, Technical officers and Trusted Assessors supported 4,751 residents to remain independent in their homes

11. As part of recovery works Lightbulb have:-

- Introduced the adaptations grant and hospital discharge grant to allow professionals to refer for adaptations which supports the home first model. Also changed policy so that matches the D2A pathway which aims at reducing the gap of residents eligibility for grants
- Lightbulb are currently working with OT service at UHL to smooth the process of discharge in particular looking at how to support access to properties when returning home from hospital

12. Work will shortly start on the new business case for Lightbulb which is due to be submitted for approval in April 2022.

Assistive Technology

13. All districts have agreed to top slice some of their DFG funding to develop an Assistive Technology offer, aimed at integrating this into the Housing MOT, supporting people to stay in their homes longer. Recruitment is underway for a project manager to support this programme and, there will be close collaboration on this project with the County Council and their Technology Enabled Care offer.

The HET Team

14. The team continue to support the Integrated Discharge Team successfully with referrals numbers for 2020/21 reaching a third higher than the year before. Leicestershire Partnership Trust have agreed to continue to fund the additional HET support in community rehab for 2021/22, which will also support patient flow.

Officer to Contact

Jane Toman, Chief Executive, Blaby District Council

Telephone: 0116 272 7576

Email: jane.toman@blaby.gov.uk