

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

19 May 2022

County Wide Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy

Report of Councillor C Renwick, Portfolio Holder for Housing & Community Safety

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Lee Pepper – Housing Strategy & Homelessness Manager

Contact Officer: Lee Pepper

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

For Cabinet to endorse the adoption of the county wide homelessness strategy. The pandemic and subsequent response by all of the district and borough authorities in Derbyshire has led to a sea change in collaborative working from across the health and social care sectors, criminal justice system and the NHS. North East Derbyshire have been at the forefront of this activity and we have led on the development of a new county wide homelessness strategy. The aim is to lock in the new partnerships and joined up working formed over the last two years in order to improve homelessness provision for our residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet note the contents of this report
2. That Cabinet endorses the County wide homelessness strategy

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Cllr C Renwick

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

The special projects post holder will be tasked with delivering the objectives contained in the five year strategy action plan. This post will be funded by all of the Derbyshire District and Borough Councils and Derbyshire County Council and the post itself will be hosted by North East Derbyshire District Council. The post is currently undergoing

a job evaluation exercise and is expected to be either grade 11 or grade 12 of the salary scale. The annual cost of the post to NED is expected to be between £5,000 & £10,000 per annum and this will be covered by existing homelessness grant funding.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection):

Yes

No

Details:

N/A

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing:

Yes

No

Details:

N/A

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	All
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Yes Details: Portfolio Holder for Housing

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

Better health & housing outcomes for residents

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 The challenges we have faced over the course of the last two years has brought about creativity, innovation, improved partnership working and a wide recognition of the link between homelessness and health.
- 1.2 Through our co-ordinated approach to tackling homelessness and service delivery we have seen improved outcomes for many people across North Derbyshire with long and complex histories of homelessness.
- 1.3 North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) has an excellent reputation for the way it delivers its homelessness service. We always try to find positive outcomes for our residents regardless of the complexities we may encounter, however, we have for some time faced difficulties linking vulnerable people into the services that they need. Those with enduring multiple complex needs have often had difficulty engaging with drug, alcohol and mental health services because often those services apply rigid rules that lead to people falling between the gaps. Likewise, we have evidence to show that services will often refuse to take people on because they need one problem addressing (drug addiction) before they can access a service (mental health). This leads to a chicken and egg situation whereby people are left without any support service at all.
- 1.4 The new county wide homelessness and rough sleeping strategy (see appendix 1) has a core aim to break down system blockages, and argues that a multi-disciplinary approach is needed to make systems work better and that services are flexibly designed around the needs of our customers.
- 1.5 The Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) is now fully embedded and this legislation has enabled councils to do much more for people facing homelessness. The Government are committed to ending rough sleeping by 2024 and this new Derbyshire wide strategy is fully in keeping with the positive spirit of the homelessness legislation and the ambition of the Government's target.
- 1.6 The strategy makes reference to the new Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and contained within the list of priority actions are proposals to increase support and easier access to accommodation for abuse victims.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The strategy has been developed through close collaboration between the Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group (DHOG), Derbyshire County Council, Public Health, NHS, Police, Probation, and wide range of partner agencies including from the voluntary sector.
- 2.2 The strategy is ambitious and our vision is “working collaboratively across Derbyshire to prevent and reduce homelessness – making it everyone’s responsibility.
- 2.3 The strategy will meet the vision and aims through the delivery of 4 clear priorities:
1. Make homelessness everyone’s responsibility through a system wide approach
 2. Prevent homelessness and respond through early intervention and personalised solutions
 3. End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness
 4. Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions
- 2.4 The Director of Public Health for Derbyshire is a signatory and the strategy will sit under the Health & Wellbeing Board. This represents a significant shift in how homelessness strategies are implemented. With the strategy sitting within the wider health spectrum this means that we have a huge opportunity to transform housing and homelessness services for the people we serve.
- 2.5 The Derbyshire strategy will serve as the council’s main homelessness & rough sleeping strategy for 5 years.
- 2.6 We will be creating a project worker post funded via the district and borough councils to deliver on the action plan. We have received confirmation from Derbyshire County Council that they intend to help fund this post with us.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The previous two years have brought us to a unique position whereby there is now a broad consensus that we are stronger by working together.
- 3.2 By adopting this strategy we will be able to meet the continued challenges ahead such as meeting the needs of those with multiple and complex needs and the coming issues related to the increases in the cost of living.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 We proceed with our own homelessness strategy

4.2 We would not have the added support of the other district and borough councils and the influence and added value of Derbyshire County Councils involvement.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1&2	Draft Derbyshire Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy Policy framework & legislative background
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	