

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.2

Meeting Date: 11th January 2018
Portfolio: Economy, Enterprise and Housing
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and Budget Framework YES
Public / Private Public

Title: CARLISLE INTERAGENCY HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2015-20
Report of: The Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Report Number: GD.77/17

Purpose / Summary:

To update members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel on key data and outcomes in relation to the Interagency Homelessness Strategy for Carlisle 2015-20 priority areas; and give feedback on the partnership from stakeholders.

Recommendations:

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel are asked to note key data and outcomes in years one and two in relation to the priority areas within the Interagency Homelessness Strategy for Carlisle 2015-20.

Tracking

Executive:	
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Section 1 (1) of the Homelessness Act 2002 gives Housing Authorities the power to carry out homelessness reviews within the district areas; and S.1 (3 and 4) places a statutory responsibility on housing authorities to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the ongoing results of regular reviews.
- 1.2** Section 3 (1) of the Homelessness Act 2002 requires the local housing authority to have a strategy which seeks to:
- prevent people from becoming homeless
 - ensure that there is sufficient accommodation in the area for people who might become, or are homeless
 - ensure that people who might be, or are homeless, have sufficient support to prevent them from becoming homeless again
 - consult with other relevant agencies in carrying out the review and in preparing the strategy
- 1.3** The Interagency Homelessness Strategy for Carlisle 2015-20 was developed in consultation with key stakeholders following a comprehensive review of local trends, gap analysis and a review of National Policy.
- 1.4** Building on the strengths and achievements of the previous strategy, the 2015-20 strategy was developed to focus on four key priority areas:
- 1) Appropriate flexible accommodation and support pathways
 - 2) Multiple Exclusion Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
 - 3) Positive outcomes for young people experiencing homelessness
 - 4) Prevent and relieve Homelessness
- 1.5** Following a full public consultation process, the Interagency Homelessness Strategy for Carlisle 2015-20 was subsequently agreed by full Council, published and launched in June 2015.
- 1.6** Annual reviews are conducted and delivery action plans agreed by the members of the interagency group with shared ownership of actions. The group meets quarterly, where the action plans are reviewed and progress monitored.

2 FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 CARLISLE KEY:

The Homeless Strategy meeting allows all the organisations who work in the sector the opportunity to raise concerns and develop a response to those issues to inform practice. As a charitable organisation it can often be hard resolve these concerns with statutory services or other providers if there is not one agency taking the lead. It also gives us the opportunity to share good practice, updates and changes within the sector.

2.2 MY SPACE HOUSING:

My Space provides accommodation for vulnerable adults in partnership with Carlisle Council and their partners. We have always found the work of the homeless service to be exemplary. From our perspective the good quality communication regarding the referrals enables us to act confidently and decisively in providing suitable and appropriate housing knowing we are part of a well-structured arrangement. The partnership members are proactive in managing the issues that are presented from what is a difficult client group and constantly display a genuine interest in what they do. For me it is the sense of optimism and willingness to do what needs to be done that is so refreshing.

2.3 CUMBRIA LAW CENTRE:

The Inter-Agency Homelessness Panel is another example (along with the Welfare Reform Board) of the joint efforts of many and varied partners. Since representatives include housing providers, support agencies, statutory services (such as in mental health) and advocates, issues can be examined from a number of viewpoints. From our perspective at the Law Centre, it is vital to understand the challenges faced by, for example, the Council and social housing providers. It is also very important to understand how they are responding to such challenges so that we might better support and advise our own clients. For example, the response of social landlords to the difficulties presented by Universal Credit is currently a key area. It can be complicated for all concerned and, from our point of view as an advocate, we want to get a good outcome for our client as quickly as possible. This usually requires good working alliances with landlords and councils and an understanding of each other's policies and practices. This helps us to be pragmatic in our support of clients. The Panel provides a very open forum where organisations that may at other times be adversarial to each other (in casework) can work together to pool their understanding and knowledge and seek genuine solutions to difficulties as they emerge. It is also a key tool for considering and responding to new legislation such as we will face in the Homelessness Reduction Act, which

comes into force in 2018. The Panel fosters collaborative and sensible joint work. We are convinced that , by considering issues of homelessness in such an open-minded way, the best and probably most cost effective actions are generally taken to deal with both individual cases and boarder issues of policy and the effects of economic and social changes. The panel is very inclusive and chaired very effectively with a good flow of information between all partners being the result.

3 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Appendix 1 profiles key data and outcomes of year one and two.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

4.1 Addressing Carlisle's current and future housing needs

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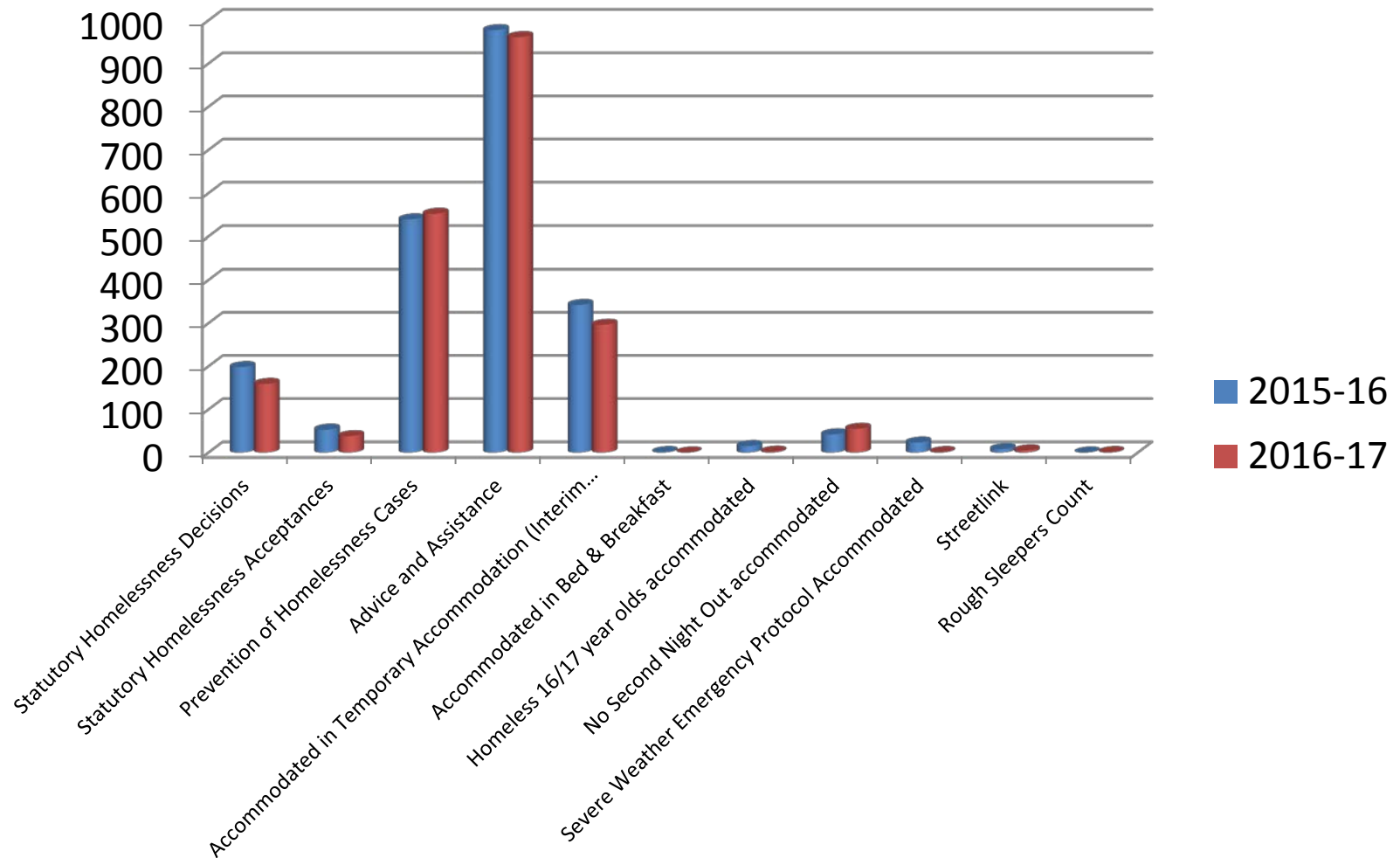
Appendices

attached to report: Key Achievements of Year 1 & 2

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers• None

Carlisle Inter agency Homelessness Strategy 2015-20

Summary of Year 1&2 Key Data



Inter agency Homelessness Strategy for Carlisle

Summary of Year 1&2 key outcomes

- ❖ Made 357 statutory homelessness decisions; and accepted a full homeless duty to 91 households
- ❖ Provided housing and homelessness advice to 1938 households
- ❖ Prevented or relieved 1091 households from experiencing homelessness
- ❖ Accommodated 638 households in temporary accommodation; 85% of which were assisted and supported to move on positively, in an average of 9 weeks
- ❖ No 16-17 year olds placed in Bed and breakfast
- ❖ No Families placed in Bed and Breakfast
- ❖ Two nightstop volunteer hosts in place with Carlisle district utilised for a total of 38 nights
- ❖ 34 households assisted successfully to move from hospital in to secure accommodation
- ❖ 28 cases where mediation has prevented homelessness
- ❖ 21 Early Help Assessments opened on 16-17 year olds
- ❖ 50 people (aged 16-17 year olds) successfully assisted and homelessness prevented
- ❖ Carlisle Protocol Implementation Group (16-17 year olds) established to prevent youth homelessness and discuss those at risk
- ❖ £2.86 million benefit gains through assistance from Carlisle City Councils Welfare Advice Service
- ❖ 97% of Discretionary Housing Payment allocation
- ❖ 20 crisis intervention meetings carried out with key partner to prevent homelessness
- ❖ 6 households assisted directly from hospital as part of planned discharge for complex cases
- ❖ 175 households referred for supported temporary accommodation placements
- ❖ Effective reconnection policy in place, which has successfully assisted 57 people
- ❖ Embedded and promoted No Second Night Out (NSNO); and supported 97 people directly as a result

Key Updates:

- Homeless Reduction Act to be statute from 3rd April 2018
- Domestic Homicide Review currently taking place in Carlisle
- Domestic Abuse partnership project established in Cumbria and aligned with the countywide DA strategy
- Carlisle Deposit Guarantee Scheme established in house