



To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Date: 5th September 2024

Subject: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024- 29 consultation

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To consult with the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) as part of the current consultation on the draft Homelessness and Rough sleeping strategy in regards to the identified priorities and themes.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
- 1) Agree the priorities and themes within the new strategy.
 - 2) Provide feedback in relation to the draft strategy and provide input into the development of a comprehensive action plan that will deliver the key priorities and themes.

3 Information and Background

- 3.1 All Councils in England & Wales have a statutory duty to undertake a periodic review of homelessness in their area and to publish a Homelessness Strategy.
- 3.2 The current Housing and Homelessness Strategy was published in 2019 and runs until 2024. It is aimed at providing a high-level plan to set out the main priorities for the Council and its partners for the life of the strategy, to guide the allocation of resources and investment, and provide a framework to inform project development, to achieve the vision that:
- Coventry Citizens will be able to access a suitable, affordable, and decent home, with the support they need to sustain their housing.*
- 3.3 In 2019 when the strategy was developed the previous Homelessness Strategy and Housing Strategy were combined into one document. The rationale was that it was recognised that activities to prevent and relieve homelessness were to a degree dependent on the availability of permanent housing.
- 3.4 Coventry published its first Rough Sleeping Strategy in December 2019, in line with a requirement by the Government for all areas to have a strategy to prevent and tackle rough sleeping. From the outset it was accepted that the successful delivery

of the Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan was not in the Council's power alone. Therefore, a One Coventry partnership approach is the only way that we will be able to ensure successful realisation of our vision, therefore the strategy needed to be owned, supported, and delivered by ensuring effective collaboration and partnership working.

- 3.5 The Rough Sleeping Strategy (2019-2024) and its Action Plan were reflective of and intrinsically linked to the Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy. The two strategies needed to be considered and delivered in tandem. The Housing and Homelessness Strategy set the vision for housing in the city and our priorities.
- 3.6 It was decided that the Homelessness element of the previous Housing and Homelessness strategy would be combined with the Rough Sleeping Strategy, creating a new Homelessness and Rough sleeping strategy. A separate Housing Strategy will be developed for the city which will align with the Local Plan review that is currently being undertaken in the city.
- 3.7 The new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy will focus on what actions are being taken to prevent people from becoming homeless, what we are doing when people find themselves homeless and how we are supporting people to end their homelessness. There will be a focus on partnership working alongside how we can ensure we are improving life chances and health outcomes for those affected by homelessness.

3.8 Early intervention and Prevention:

We believe that everyone in Coventry should have a place to call home, we will minimise homelessness by focusing on early prevention and intervention to help people keep their home or move in a planned way. Ensuring people access services as early as possible increases the opportunities to prevent homelessness.

3.9 Crisis and targeted support:

We will provide good quality accessible advice and support to ensure people can resolve their housing problems in a way that is resilient and long lasting. Where people do find themselves homeless and in need of emergency accommodation it will be of good quality, appropriate and conducive to their health and well-being. Targeted support will be provided for individuals and households who need support and find themselves in crisis.

3.10 Move on and Tenancy sustainment:

There will be a focus on creating and increasing move on options for people and ensuring the right tools and support is in place to help people sustain tenancies once their homelessness has ended. Our focus will not just be in terms of bricks and mortar but will also consider and reflect the wider social detriments that impact someone's ability to secure and maintain a settled home.

- 3.11 Underpinning the identified themes are the following 4 principles which will run through and underpin the priority areas and subsequent actions that will be taken to deliver the strategy:

- Partnership – we will work in partnership to address homelessness in the city
- Intelligence led – we will use intelligence, data and research to influence what we do and how we do it

- Improving life chances and health outcomes – we will ensure our actions help to enhance life chances and health outcomes for people at risk of homelessness or are homeless.
- Maximising opportunities – capitalise on the opportunities available to prevent and relieve homelessness

3.12 The new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out the vision, strategic direction, and priorities for the city for the next five years.

3.13 The new Strategy has been co- produced with customers, partner organisations and stakeholders who have helped us identify the priorities and themes.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

4.1 Improving life chances and health outcomes has been identified as a key theme that will run through the new strategy.

4.2 The new strategy will provide a key opportunity to consider as a system how we might better improve health outcomes for people who are homeless.

4.3 In progressing this work, we are already using the NICE guidance that explores how LAs are providing integrated health and social care services for people experiencing homelessness and ensure care, support and interventions are coordinated across different services.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG214>

4.4 The findings from the self-assessment process will be used to inform the delivery plan that will be developed once the consultation process is completed.

Appendices 1 – Draft Strategy

Appendices 2 – Homelessness review 2024

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