

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 28th NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF LEICESTERSHIRE HOUSING SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE HOUSING

SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to update members of the Health & Wellbeing Board on the work of the Leicestershire Housing Services Partnership (HSP).

Link to the local Health and Care System

2. Housing in Leicestershire is the statutory responsibility of the seven district councils. The HSP was formed as a partnership in recognition that the impact of poor and inadequate housing reaches wider than just the statutory agencies.
3. The Lightbulb Project was realised as a consequence of the Housing Offer to Health report commissioned from the Chartered Institute of Housing by the HSP in 2013, this is part funded by the Better Care Fund.

Recommendation

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

Background

5. The HSP meets bi-monthly and sets annual priorities. An update on the current priorities is set out below:-

Homelessness & Rough Sleeping

6. The Homeless Reduction Act 2017 came into force on 1st April 2018 and, this placed increased responsibilities upon local authorities to assess applicant's needs and to prevent and relieve homelessness. This has increased the demand for service and the burden upon local authorities and, the numbers of people in temporary accommodation have also increased across the County; there were over 400 people in temporary accommodation during Q1 (excluding the City) and, Q2 has seen an increase on this figure of over 20%.
7. Data also tells us that an increased number of residents are under notice to quit and, voluntary sector partners within the partnership report a significant increase in numbers seeking advice.

8. A 'rough sleeping snapshot' figure will be established when the annual count or estimate process takes place across the City and County on 19th November 2019. These numbers will be formally submitted to MHCLG by 13th December 2019.
9. The partnership has been successful in bids for funding this year to the value of £277,000 and, will be submitting a further ask in the current funding round for the Rapid Rehousing Pathway fund.

Hoarding

10. A multi agency task & finish group was established earlier in the year as hoarding has been recognised as an escalating problem across many partners. The Hospital Enablement Team (HET) have already spent their 2019 / 20 budget allocation and, clean & clear was the highest reason that the HET team received referrals during Q2 of this year.
11. Positives from the group are that a support group which had been established by the Leicestershire Fire and Recue Service is now supported by the Leicestershire Partnership Trust with clinicians present at the meetings.
12. Data and intelligence has been shared across partners and, as part of future actions, there will be a shift to trying to resolve some of the reasons for hoarding, rather than the reactive clean and clear as happens now. There will be a standardised process for managing hoarding across Leicester and Leicestershire with effect from 1st April 2020.
13. Design and development of an app for professionals is under consideration and, it is hoped that this will move forwards in the next six months but, it requires sign up by 21 local authorities before the application developer will support its development – this initiative was as a consequence of a bid to the Adult Social Care Accelerator fund.

Universal Credit

14. Relationships with the DWP have continued to improve and, co-location of the DWP in certain district, together with a local escalation mechanism has lead to improved services to users. However, there is anecdotal evidence of considerable wait times, particularly when using the helpline and, there is also anecdotal evidence of increased dependence on foodbanks. Further work is being undertaken to evidence these concerns.

Housing Protocols

15. A number of housing protocols are in development, including one for Care Leavers. This is nearing completion and will be agreed through local governance processes.

Provision of Accommodation

16. The HSP continues to support the delivery of various LCC Accommodation strategies, including facilitation of meetings between developers and strategic

partners and work with health, strategic providers and district councils to support the provision of supported living and step down accommodation. The challenge of a lack of suitable accommodation for many client groups is an ongoing concern and will continue to shape the work programme.

Resource Implications

17. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Officer to Contact

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