

Submission to Cabinet
24th November 2023



Comment from the Labour Group

Item 5: Review of Homeless Support Services

The Labour group is committed to supporting the council objective of protecting services to the most vulnerable people in Leicestershire.

Whilst it's recognised that the support for accommodation for Homeless People in Leicestershire would be the responsibility of the District/Borough Councils.

The paper does highlight that the County Council is responsible to take appropriate steps to improve the health of people in Leicestershire. The paper also provides the shocking statistic that homeless people already have significantly lower levels of life expectancy of the local population. In light of this statistic, it's fair to conclude that people who are experiencing Homelessness are some of the most vulnerable people in society.

The Cabinet is being asked to consider the Homelessness services as though it's a single procured service, however it was confirmed verbally at Health Scrutiny in September that there are 3 smaller contracts with the In-reach support element, the support within the hostel, is just under 50% of the financial allocation.

Reviewing this as a single service the paper does not offer information on the impact closing each element of the service has on the homeless population. It also does not provide full financial information on each element of the service.

We would like the Cabinet to consider the 3 component parts of the service and identify the impact for each service area. It is a concern, that there no provision within the alternative approach which considers the specialist nature of Homeless support offered by the in-reach element within the Hostel settling.

Finally, we are concerned that the paper does not provide appropriate re-assurance that absorbing the work of the specialist homeless provision into First Contact Plus or the Local Area Co-ordinator team is an appropriate route for homeless people. By providing an additional caseload that is complex into these teams, there has been no acknowledgement in the paper of the current service that would be displaced.

This page is intentionally left blank