

Name of meeting: Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel
Date: 17 January 2019
Title of report: Kirklees Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018 - 23

Purpose of report

To inform the E & N Scrutiny Panel of officers' approach and progress in developing the Kirklees Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and provide opportunity for Members to comment on the draft strategy.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Karl Battersby - 09.01.2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Finance (S151 Officer)?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning?	Not applicable
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Cathy Scott, Housing and Democracy

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

GDPR: No information, which would identify any individual person, is included within this report.

1. Summary

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 fundamentally changed the way Local Authorities work to support homeless people in their areas. The Act gives new prevention and relief responsibilities, towards more people.

In August 2018 the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) published its Rough Sleeping Strategy which stated that government is committed to halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it by 2027.

Local housing authorities are required to carry out a review of homelessness in their area and to produce a homelessness strategy which sets out how they will prevent and reduce homelessness, and provide support to people affected by it.

It is expected that these strategies will be reviewed every 5 years and that they will now be rebadged as homelessness and rough sleeping strategies. It is expected that Local Authorities will have reviewed and updated their strategies by winter 2019 (paragraph 71 of the Governments Rough Sleeping Strategy - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy_WEB.pdf)

The Council's previous Homelessness Strategy was produced in 2013. Council officers, in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including people with lived experiences of homelessness are currently developing the new strategy in line with the principles of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and the MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (attached) reflects our ambition for people and place. The Strategy builds on and has direct links to the Kirklees Housing Strategy 2018-23 which was approved by Council in September 2018.

A high level action plan is to be developed with partners following approval of the finalised Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy by Council at its meeting in March, 2019.

2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required. However the following information sets out in more detail the approach being taken by officers to develop the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy describes our shared vision and ambition for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in Kirklees and the key strategic priorities which are;

- Preventing homelessness and supporting people
- Tackling rough sleeping

The strategy sets out the principles for how we will achieve change. This includes a joint development of the strategy, working with our partners including people affected by homelessness and rough sleeping to do so, our continued focus on prevention and how we will progress and review the strategy's action plan.

The strategy gives an overview of the picture of housing and homelessness at a national, regional and local level. It describes relevant legislative and policy development, and gives some key facts and figures and trend data at a local level to inform the evidence base to our strategic intention, and set the scene.

The strategy identifies what the challenges and issues are, both now and looking ahead, what we will do in response and what outcomes we will achieve.

It takes a collaborative and enabling approach. It is recognised that the Council cannot achieve its ambitions and outcomes on its own; and that preventing homelessness requires the support, input and resources of a cross section of partners.

This is set out in the strategy and will be further reflected particularly as we continue our engagement with partners to develop and agree the action plan.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy is centred on working with people affected by homelessness, enabling and empowering them to develop the skills, resilience and improvements in their health and wellbeing that they need to move on to a more settled, happy and stable situation. It recognises people's strengths and capacities for change, as well as identifying how their support needs can best be met.

3.2 Working with Partners

A collaborative approach has been taken in developing the draft strategy. This means that the strategy is informed from a range of partners' perspectives, particularly members of the Kirklees Homelessness Forum. Forum partners include representatives from Health, other Council services such as Social Care, Job Centre Plus and providers. The strategy also takes account of what people have told us who have lived experience of homelessness.

3.3 Place Based Working

The strategy recognises that Kirklees is a diverse community and that in addressing issues of homelessness and rough sleeping, a Place Based approach is needed. This includes consideration of people's local support networks, and where and how they access services.

3.4 Improving outcomes for children

The strategy's focus on early intervention and prevention of homelessness will lead to improved outcomes for all households who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, including households with children, and young people.

3.5 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

There are no additional financial or human resource implications arising from implementation of the strategy. The strategy is being developed to align with the Council's legal obligations including under housing legislation.

4. Next steps and timelines

The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will be finalised taking into account the views and comments of the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel and others. The timeline for future approval and formal adoption of the finalised strategy is as set out below;

Leadership Management Team (LMT): 28.1.19
Cabinet: 19.2.19
Council: 20.3.19

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

Comments and views of the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel on the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy should be noted and shared with the Portfolio Holder, Housing and Democracy for consideration.

6. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

The comments and views of the Economy and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Panel are welcome in helping to strengthen and inform the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

7. Contact officer

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8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, 2018 - 2023

9. Service Director responsible

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