

Committee: Housing Board

Date: 14 June 2014

Title: Homelessness Update

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Summary

This report details updates to the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan and the current homelessness situation in the District

Recommendation

That Housing Board notes the contents of this report and the reviewed Action Plan

Financial Implications

The council has seen a small uplift in the ring-fenced homelessness grant we receive from government. This grant is used to deliver the service.

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	Services need to be tailored to individuals needs
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	Services delivered in line with Homelessness legislation
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	Staffing levels kept under review within the homelessness team to ensure we can deliver this statutory service effectively

Situation

- 1. The councils new Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy was delivered in 2020 and the Action Plan is reviewed annually. Attached to this report is the updated Action Plan for information.



Action Plan - 2020 - 2025 updated April ;

- 2. The councils Housing Options Team remains very busy, as they have been throughout the pandemic. Homelessness has increased during this period and Government initiatives to get anyone roofless into accommodation during lock downs and to help get an increase in vaccination uptake within this cohort, has also increased workloads. The complexity of homelessness cases has also increased with many people having chaotic lifestyles with homelessness being only one of their problems.
- 3. The situation with Ukrainian refugees arriving at Stansted has also seen an increased need for the homelessness team’s intervention as well as the out of hours services. However, with the CVSU now managing the HUB at the airport there has been less call on the team to intervene recently. To date we have taken 6 homeless applications from Ukrainian refugees but have found a variety of solutions that has not yet resulted in accommodating any permanently within Uttlesford. It is however anticipated that homelessness services will be called on to intervene with refugees housed locally when they finish their host placements or if these relationships breakdown.
- 4. We have also now rehoused 2 Afghan families through the Government resettlement scheme. These add to the 5 Syrian Refugees families we have housed in the past.
- 5. The main causes of homelessness over the past year is again loss of privately rented accommodation, mainly due to costs, family evictions and fleeing domestic violence. The cost of living crisis is only going to add to the strains families and individuals are experiencing and therefore we do not anticipate a decrease in the level of homelessness the team are currently dealing with.
- 6. The table below shows some homelessness stats for the past 2 years.

	20/21	21/22
No of applicants presenting as homeless	181	185

Number of applicants owned the full housing duty	49	44
Numbers of applicants where homelessness prevented	64	73
Number of households in temporary accommodation as at 31/3	18	34

7. The affordability of private sector housing remains a difficulty in finding solutions for those in housing need or facing homelessness, for many social housing remains the only viable option. The reduction in the number of vacancies over the past year is reflected in the increased numbers in temporary accommodation who we have not been able to move on quickly into more suitable housing. This has resulted in an increased use of bed and breakfast in emergency circumstances.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
2. Council's homelessness service does not deliver services in line with legislation	1. Services are kept under review	3. Risk of legal challenge and costs to the council if homelessness services are not delivered in line with legislation	2 Staffing levels will be reviewed regularly and any gaps in service identified and rectified

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.