

# HOUSING CABINET MEMBER MEETING

## Agenda Item 12

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of the Single Homeless Strategy</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>3 June 2009</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Adult Social Care &amp; Housing</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>James Crane</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 29-2933
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>James.crane@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Forward Plan No. HSG2377:</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Single Homeless Strategy has been developed to address the citywide issues in tackling single homelessness, rough sleeping, and street based anti-social behaviour. It is a sub-strategy of the Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 and focuses on people who are single homeless, rough sleepers, vulnerable young people at risk and ex-offenders.
- 1.2 The Strategy reflects the priorities outlined in the 2020 Sustainable Community Strategy, and integrates with the City's Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy, Local Area Agreement and wider corporate objectives to prevent homelessness, reduce inequality, and provide support and access to settled homes.
- 1.3 The Strategy draws upon the recommendations of the following national policies: PSA 16: Socially Excluded Adults 2008; Reaching Out – An Action Plan on Social Exclusion - 2007; Sustainable Communities – Settled Homes, Changing Lives (CLG 2005/6); “No One Left Out - An End to Rough Sleeping CLG Nov 2008”; the Housing Reform Green Paper 2009 and the Welfare Reform Bill 2009.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That Cabinet Member for Housing approves the Single Homeless Strategy 2009–14 as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**

- 3.1 The Strategy builds on the objectives and achievements of the Single Homeless Strategy 2002-2007 delivered in partnership by the Council and their public and third sector partners that make up the Single Homeless Partnership.
- 3.2 The key performance indicators in the Local Area Agreement relating to this Strategy are: the Local Indicator to maintain the reduction in levels of rough sleeping; and N141 number of vulnerable adults achieving independent living. However our holistic approach to addressing homelessness means that the outcomes achieved feed into a range of other indicators addressing worklessness, improving health and wellbeing, preventing homelessness, reducing the numbers of people in temporary accommodation, and reducing offending and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.3 Brighton and Hove is the largest city on the south coast and attracts inward migration from across the region and beyond. In the late 1990's/early 2000's, rough sleeping levels within the city were problematic and at its height 66 rough sleepers were found on a Street Count in 2001.
- 3.4 The implementation of the previous Single Homeless Strategy has seen this number reduce by 82% since this time and remains at low levels. This has been achieved by a partnership approach to the problem with the voluntary and community sector playing an important role in service delivery.
- 3.5 The government has for some time had a specific focus on rough sleeping and the target of keeping rough sleeping as near to zero as possible is a performance indicator for the Council in the Local Area Agreement. In December 2008 the Government launched the latest strategic statement "No one left out" This is a fifteen point action plan that looks to change the Strategic aim from reducing rough sleeping to eradicating it by 2012.
- 3.6 The Council has a well developed strategic framework that already covers the major areas that are contained in this Strategy and is considered by the government to be an area of good practise in tackling rough sleeping. The council's holistic approach to tackling rough sleeping and the provision of the right support at the right time through the Integrated Support Pathway is ensuring that our Single Homeless Strategy mirrors the government's direction in tackling rough sleeping.

### **4. KEY THEMES OF THE SINGLE HOMELESS STRATEGY**

- 4.1 The objectives in this strategy aim to build upon the progress we have made in tackling single homelessness and rough sleeping by focusing on the following key themes:
  - **Reducing inequality and addressing the housing, health and support needs of vulnerable adults, young people and communities of interest** ensuring our services are welcoming and responsive to the needs of our vulnerable residents and communities of interest, tackling

discrimination, inequality and disadvantage to help improve the lives of local people.

- **Personalisation/Individual support** that support is accessible, holistic, personalised to meet the needs of the individual, tailored to provide the right support at the right time, challenging and aspirational, and provides clear progression pathways to more independent living
- **Places of Change** that hostels/ homeless services are not a place of last resort but are there to provide and create opportunities to change negative behaviours, overcome barriers and to promote independence, health and well-being, and the attainment of skills, training and employment.
- **Prevention/Early Intervention** both in terms of addressing behaviour that is problematic such as anti-social behaviour or substance/alcohol misuse, and in relation to helping people to support themselves and maintain their home.
- **Integrated approaches to employment and housing** addressing worklessness through learning, skills and employment, extending the role of the Housing Options service to provide an integrated housing and employment advice package, co-location of housing and skills/employment services and creation of a “no wrong door approach”
- **Improving Access to the Private Rented Sector** – to maximise opportunities to settled homes, divert resources away from the overburdened and limited supply of social housing, overcome the effects of population churn in social housing, and promote mixed income communities across the city.
- **Joint working** – that cross-sector partners and agencies work together to simplify access to and provide seamless services that meet the needs of vulnerable people with complex issues.

#### 4.2 **Our Strategic Objectives:**

1. **Reduce rough sleeping to as near to zero as possible**  
To use an assertive outreach approach to engage with rough sleepers and seek accommodation and support solutions both within the city and in other areas for those with no local connection. To provide access and support to progress towards independent living and prevent repeat homelessness.
2. **Improve the health and well-being of homeless and insecurely housed people.**  
To provide a range of holistic services within the Integrated Support Pathway and improve access to primary and secondary health services.

**3. Reduce inequality, social exclusion and disadvantage through learning, skills and employment**

To continue to embed work and learning into the resettlement process and maximise learning, training and employment opportunities for homeless or insecurely housed people through integration with citywide approaches such as the City Employment and Skills Plan, Adult Learning Strategy, Local Employment Partnership and the Social Enterprise Strategy

**4. Prevent homelessness**

Continue the work of the Housing Options Service, Housing Youth Advice Centre, the Homeless Psychology Service, Working Support service, Peer Support Service and Crisis prevention teams to prevent incidence of homelessness and promote tenancy and employment sustainment

**5. Ensure people are able to move on and maximise their independence**

To provide skills for independent living and promote access to settled homes, maximising the opportunities within the private rented sector.

**6. Reduce offending and anti-social behaviour**

To continue to work with our citywide partners to address street based anti-social behaviour and to ensure that our housing providers are meeting the Respect Agenda.

**5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 This Strategy has been developed along with a range of other strategies including the Housing Strategy, Homeless Strategy and Supporting People Strategy, LGBT, BME and Older Peoples Housing Strategies
- 5.2 As part of the process there was a large scale public consultation that involved a number of events in the summer of 2007. There was a further round of consultation on LGBT, Older Peoples and Housing Strategies in November 2008
- 5.3 As part of the process and in line with other housing related strategies this strategy has been subject to a Health Impact Assessment. This was carried out by the Brighton and Hove City Teaching Primary Care Trust. There are two recommendations from this assessment The first is that health promotion and housing should work together to scope the possibility of incorporating additional training skills into relevant staff groups and Employment support solutions should be looked at in the context of the City's Employment and Skills Plan
- 5.4 Consultation has been held with the Housing Strategy and Departmental Management Teams
- 5.5 As part of the preparation of this report, the relevant legal and financial officers have been consulted

5.6 Consultation is currently being undertaken as part of the Equality Impact assessment process.

## 6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

### Financial Implications:

6.1 The single homeless strategy is a sub strategy of the homelessness strategy and builds on the work that has been completed over the past few years to reduce rough sleeping and work with those who form a street based community.

The strategy is expected to be delivered within the housing options, homelessness & social inclusion and housing allocation budgets.

The gross budget for 2009/10 is approximately £6m and includes government funding for Homelessness Grant (£855k), Preventing Offender Accommodation Loss Funding (One-off £60k) and Supported Housing for Teenage Parents (£192k). In addition to this, there is capital funding under places for Change of £760k.

RISKS: We are currently in year 2 of a 3 year cycle for the Homelessness Grant and there is currently no indication on our allocation after the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

The supporting people grant for 2008/09 was £12.5m with an additional brought forward of £0.4m making a total budget of £12.9m. Against this budget £12.6m was spent leaving a carry forward figure of £0.3m in to 2009/10. There will be a reduction in the supporting people grant of 5% each year over the next two years, with funding of £11.8m and 11.2m for 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively. This grant will become non-ring fenced from 2010/11 and will form part of the Area Based Grant which allows local authorities the freedom to use their funding as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities. This brings with it a condition that does not allow any carry forward of unspent funding in to the next financial year.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Neil J Smith*

*Date:25/3/09*

### Legal Implications:

6.2 By virtue of section 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002, every local housing authority is statutorily required to have a homelessness strategy. The Single Homeless Strategy is a part of the Council's Homelessness Strategy. It has been developed in accordance with national policy and follows a comprehensive analysis of assessed need within the city, taking into account the outcome of consultation with relevant stakeholders

*Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley*

*Date: 21/05/09*

#### Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 There are a number of equalities implications in regards to the Single Homeless Strategy. Firstly it is designed to deal with a range of issues that affect single homeless people in the City and therefore does not include households with dependent children. The needs of these households are addressed within in the Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013.
- 6.4 An Equalities Impact assessment has been carried out and an action plan agreed. The results of the EIA will be published on the Council's website.
- 6.5 The strategy has been developed alongside strategies aimed specifically at the BME, LGBT and Older People's Strategies and a range of consultation has occurred in the formulation of this strategy. The EIA group has been established the aims and objectives have been identified, as have the scope and focus of the EIA.

#### Sustainability Implications:

- 6.6 The strategic aims are used in the commissioning of services in accordance with sustainability objectives

#### Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 6.7 The Single Homeless Strategy looks at and addresses the issues of rough sleeping, and street based anti-social behaviour in the City. All of these areas can have an impact in the city especially in the centres of Brighton and Hove. Rough Sleepers themselves can be the target of crime from within the street based community and from members of the public. They are less likely to report crime and this strategy is developing a 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting protocol aimed at keeping rough sleepers safe and community responsibility protocol for hostels and homeless services to ensure that anti social behaviour kept to a minimum and managed by project to the benefit of local communities

#### Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 6.8 There are no significant risks attached to the proposals in this report

#### Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 6.9 The Strategy is citywide and reflects the priorities of the City's Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement, Corporate priorities and the objectives of the overarching Housing Strategy "Healthy Homes, Healthy Lives, Healthy City".

### **7. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 7.1 None considered

## **8. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Brighton and Hove are nationally recognised for their approach to addressing single homelessness and rough sleeping. Despite the achievements in reducing rough sleeping and preventing homelessness, the City has the second highest rough sleeper count outside of London, and continues to attract high numbers of people coming to the city without accommodation or employment. The Single Homeless Strategy is essential to ensure that we focus resources on the city's most vulnerable residents, and support them to overcome the barriers to social inclusion and independent living; and to prevent rough sleeping in the city and work with those people without a local connection to relocate to other areas where they have a support/familial/social networks in place.
- 8.2 This strategy will also enable the Council and other partners to bring in additional resources from central government, such as the successful bid under the Places for Change initiative that will see £950,000 being used to refurbish First Base Day Centre and develop a learning resource centre at Palace Place; the Child Poverty Teenage Parent Pilot (£410,000) and the Prevention of Offender Accommodation Loss Project (£200,000).

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Single Homeless Strategy 2009-2014
2. Single Homeless Strategy Executive Summary 2009-2014

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

- 1.
- 2.

### **Background Documents**

1. No One Left Out Communities ending rough sleeping

