

Subject:	Annual Update on the Scrutiny Panel on Homelessness		
Date of Meeting:	9 September 2015		
Report of:	Acting Executive Director Environment for Development & Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	James Crane	Tel: 29-3316
	Email:	James.crane@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Panel on Homelessness was set up in January 2013 to look at and highlight the issues of homelessness in the city in light of increased levels of homeless including the number of accepted households in temporary accommodation (statutory homeless) and rising numbers of rough sleepers. It set out to look at the provision of services across the city and to see if all that could be done was being carried out by services across the city and to make recommendations on what it feels needs to be done in relation to this increasing problem.
- 1.2 The Members on the cross party Panel were Councillors Andrew Wealls (Chair), Alan Robins and Ollie Sykes. The Panel took evidence from a range of Council departments, other statutory bodies and a number of community and voluntary organisations including Housing, Adult Social Care, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Community Safety Partnership, Friends First, Sanctuary Support Living, Off the Fence, CRI, Shore, Homeless Link and importantly Homeless Service Users.
- 1.3 The Council's Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee of 4th February 2014 agreed and endorsed the scrutiny panel report without any amendments. Contained within the Homelessness Scrutiny Panel Report 2014 were 17 recommendations.
- 1.4 The Housing Committee received a report on the 12 November 2014 outlining the 17 recommendations made by the panel along with its response to those recommendations. This report was also considered by full Council on the 11th December 2014.
- 1.5 This report now looks at the progress and has been made since the original recommendations were made in February 2014. The action plan is contained at appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That committee notes the progress made against the action plan in appendix 1 by the relevant council departments.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Homelessness Scrutiny Panel was established in January 2013 in response to the growing number of people housed in temporary accommodation by the City Council and the rising numbers of people that are found to be sleeping rough of the streets of Brighton & Hove over the past four years.
- 3.2 The panel took evidence from a range of Council departments, other statutory, voluntary and charity sector organisations, both funded and non-funded. In addition the panel listened to the voices of people who had had experience of homelessness themselves. The panel noted the complexity of the issues that face the city from those that may need some advice to resolve their housing situation to others that can face sleeping rough through either being unable to find accommodation or those that, for various reasons are unable to accept accommodation.
- 3.3 After taking evidence from a range of professionals and service users the Scrutiny Panel produced a report with 17 recommendations. These recommendations cover a range of topics many of which have been incorporated into the development of the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2014. Appendix one contains the recommendation and progress against each of them since the report was accepted by the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2014.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 There is not analysis or consideration of any alternative options contained in this report. It is customary for an up date on the recommendations to be presented to the overview and scrutiny committee on an annual basis so that members can be advised of the progress, or otherwise, that has been made.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This report is an update of the action plan that was agreed following the scrutiny panel's recommendation in February 2014. During this time the Council has consulted on both the Homelessness Strategy 2014 and the Housing Strategy 2015. These consultations included community engagement city wide along with some targeted engagement that was the subject of recommendations within the Scrutiny Panel report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Levels of homelessness remain as a cause of concern in the City. The number of households accepted under a statutory duty has fallen slightly in the past financial year. The number of households who are accommodated in temporary accommodation remains at high levels and the number of rough sleepers are estimated to in the region on 130 people on any given night.

- 6.2 The council continues to look at new and innovative approaches to deal with homelessness as reflected in appendix 1.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

This report sets out the progress made to date on the action plan to address the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel on Homelessness in the City. There are no financial implications of this report but any financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations made will be reported either as part of the in-year budget monitoring process or through separate reports as necessary.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Monica Brooks
2015*

Date: 12th August

Legal Implications:

There are no significant legal implications attached to this report. Legal support will be available as and when necessary to take projects forward.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date: 14/08/15

Equalities Implications:

- 7.1 None

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.2 None


Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.3 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Background Documents


1. Report of Homelessness Scrutiny Panel February 2014

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 1 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>Given the significance of homeless people in terms of city health inequalities, we welcome the fact that the Health & Wellbeing Board is taking an active interest in the health and social care needs of this group.</p> <p>We are very interested in the progression of this work, and request that the HWB's plans for homeless healthcare be presented to the HWOSC for comment within the next 12 months.</p>	Alistair Hill – Public Health	Tom Scanlon
Council Response (December 2014)		
<p>Recommendation Accepted Recommendation accepted. Homeless health has been adopted as a key element of the Brighton and Hove Better Care Plan. A Homeless Integrated Health and Care Board has been established to improve the health and wellbeing of homeless people by providing integrated and responsive services that place people at the centre of their own care, promote independence and support them to fulfil their potential. An extended multidisciplinary team approach will be implemented.</p> <p>The Board is also overseeing the delivery of projects currently in place including the newly established hostel nursing team and Pathway Plus (focusing on hospital discharge and A&E attendances). A stakeholder event took place in July 2014 and a user involvement work-stream has been established. In line with the Better Care timetable the full model will be introduced in April 2016. An update for the HWOSC can be presented in early 2015.</p>		
<p>Progress at June 15 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>Programme remains a priority work stream in Better Care as described above. Extended multidisciplinary team approach to improve health and wellbeing needs is currently being piloted.</p> <p>To meet this recommendation a full update was presented to HWOSC in March 2015. Minutes available at</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by June 2015)</p> <p>Green </p>	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 1 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=728&MId=5423&Ver=4		


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 2 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
A senior BHCC officer should be appointed as 'homelessness services integration champion' across statutory services and other sectors.	Sylvia Peckham	Geoff Raw


Council Response (December 2014)
Recommendation Accepted in Principle
The Council provides a range of services across the City for both statutory and non statutory homelessness. Due to the complex nature of homelessness there are a number of officers at senior levels who already have responsibilities to ensure that the services provided are those that meet the needs of homeless people.
There is no single officer post in existence that covers the whole homelessness agenda.

Progress at June 15 – short commentary by service lead: There are several initiatives set up to draw together integration of internal services and external sectors to focus on services provided for homeless households and considering how best to prevent homelessness.	Status - (note status indicates progress by June 2015) Green 
To facilitate joint working across the council we have held joint workshops with Housing, Children's services and Adult Social Care an agreed aims of much earlier interventions to try and prevent homelessness at a much earlier stage and where this is not possible, to provide joined up approaches support and move people through to settled accommodation.	Completed June 2015. Action plan agreed with timelines through to the end of 2015.Led by Interim Head of Housing, Patrick Odling-Smee Set up and operating Led by Alistair Hill, Public health.

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 2 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>The Homeless Integrated Care Board includes representatives from different sectors and was set up for the purpose to oversee the work taking place to improve the health and wellbeing of homeless people. This is will be by ensuring that integrated and responsive services are in place which place people at the centre of their own care, promote independence and support them to fulfil their potential</p> <p>Rough Sleeper Review Steering group is being set up to develop a new approach to the operational management of street homelessness and reduce the levels of rough sleeping in the city. This will cover the measures to prevent people sleeping rough, services provided to support people on the streets and approaches to help people move on from rough sleeping.</p> <p>The project will be initiated through a stakeholder Summit – this will establish the objectives for the review and agree the process leading to completion.</p>		<p>Initial Steering Group meeting end June 2015 led by Denise D'Souza, Executive Director of Adult Social Care</p> <p>Stakeholder Summit and objective setting November 2015</p> <p>Delivery of new approach to Rough Sleeping April 2016</p>


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 3 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>The council needs to take action to diversify its 'stock' of hostel accommodation, seeking to spread hostels more evenly across the city, and to offer a range of accommodation options in terms of hostel size and the level of support on offer.</p>	<p>Brian Doughty</p>	<p>Denise de Souza</p>
Council Response (December 2014)		


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 3 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>Recommendation accepted</p> <p>In Autumn 2014 the Council is embarked on a review of its Integrated Support Pathway services, including hostels, which will inform future commissioning from April 2015 onwards. The review will consider the O&S Report and the Single Homelessness Needs Analysis published in 2013 as well as the recently published Homelessness Strategy 2014-19, feedback from partner organisations and from commissioners of Housing, Adult Social Care and Health services.</p>		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>The Council is currently in the design and Commissioning process for accommodation and housing related support services. Tenders have been issued for the Rough Sleepers Team and Floating Support contracts. This will be followed by the tender for a Housing First service following Brighton & Hove’s successful pilot of this intensive support accommodation model.</p> <p>A woman only accommodation and support service will also be tendered in the coming months. This is a homeless service for clients who have trauma associated with DV, sex work, violent family histories, and children taken into care.</p> <p>These services meet the gaps which have been identified within the city.</p> <p>Tenders will follow later in the year for hostel accommodation and supported accommodation.</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)</p> <p>Green </p> <p>Award Tender for Rough Sleepers contract June 2015</p> <p>Award Floating Support contract End July 2015</p> <p>Award Housing First contract End Sept 2015</p> <p>Award Women only accommodation and support service contract by November 2015</p> <p>Tenders for Hostel Accommodation out in November 2015</p> <p>Tenders of Supported Accommodation out in November 2015</p>	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 4 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>We need a more diverse range of supported accommodation available to house single homeless people, particularly those with very complex needs. Whilst this is clearly not going to happen overnight, we would welcome a commitment to move to a model of greater diversity coupled with at least some practical action in the short term.</p>	<p>Brian Doughty</p>	<p>Denise De Souza</p>
<p>Council Response (December 2014)</p>		
<p>Recommendation Accepted</p> <p>The Council continues to review services to ensure that they meet the needs of homeless people. Recent developments include the complex needs project looking at single homeless people who, for one reason or another are unable to reside in hostels. This project looks to provide a self contained property with high levels of support as an alternative.</p> <p>Recent developments in young people's services have seen a new service commissioned to provide accommodation for young men with high needs in the City. This project is currently at the tendering stage.</p> <p>Brighton Housing Trust were successful in obtaining Big Lottery Funds to look at service models in the City with a view to seeing what works and what does not work for this client group. The City Council is a key partner in this project.</p>		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>As mentioned above we have successfully piloted a Housing First model which was evaluated by the University of York. Following the success of the project Brighton & Hove are one of the first local authorities to tender for a Housing First service. This tender includes support for young people with complex needs and will be released in the coming weeks.</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)</p> <p>Green </p> <p>Award Housing First contract End Sept 2015</p> <p>Award Women only accommodation and support</p>	


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 4 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>We are also tendering for a women only service to work with homeless women who have experienced trauma which will be based on successful models of practice from other areas of the UK</p> <p>A HCA bid has been submitted to develop a property in the outer wards of the city to provide a service for older people with substance misuse and physical health issues.</p> <p>We are currently remodelling a large in-house hostel service from a city centre location to smaller accommodation units in dispersed within the city.</p> <p>We are currently remodelling the hostel and supported accommodation services as part of the retender, this includes the remodelling of Band 3 accommodation and the introduction of medium support accommodation. High, Medium and Low support accommodation will be accessible from referral and there will be no bar on entering low support accommodation from point of referral.</p>	<p>service contract by November 2015</p> <p>HCA bid determination date not known</p> <p>August 2015 commence remodelling</p> <p>End of 2015</p>	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 5 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>The council needs to produce a clear map of statutory and non-statutory homelessness services across the city and make it available via its website.</p>	<p>Sylvia Peckham</p>	<p>Geoff Raw</p>
<p>Council Response (December 2014)</p>		

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 5 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>Recommendation accepted</p> <p>The Council is in the process of refreshing the Homelessness pages on the Council’s Website. A mapping exercise is underway looking at all services that are available for those that are in danger of losing their homes or who have become homeless. The Housing Options service is in the final stage of producing “Options On-line” this service will carryout an assessment on a persons circumstances and offer an individual action plan to enable them to take appropriate action and obtain the support they require.</p>		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>The council looks to constantly update the information that is contained on the council’s web pages to enable members of the public to navigate housing pathways in Housing. All of the housing pages have been refreshed</p> <p>The council provides information to individuals based on their need. This comprises an action plan for members of the public would approach the housing service along with information that relates to there area of housing needs. The information that is provided in checked on a regular basis to check that the information that is given is as accurate as possible this involves checking web links and that services are still running</p> <p>The Options online package for on line advice and information is waiting for changes to major policies and the service transformation before it goes live. This is to ensure that it reflects new models of delivery.</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)</p> <p>Green </p> <p>Web pages refreshed</p> <p>Information pages updated at least twice a year.</p> <p>April 2016</p>	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 6 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
Homeless pathways should be revised to allow clients to move directly into band 3 support when it is clear that there is no realistic possibility of them progressing successfully through band 2 support	Brian Doughty	Denise D'Souza
Council Response (December 2014)		
<p>Recommendation accepted</p> <p>This is being considered as part of the Integrated Support Pathway review along with other modifications to the model which will be intended to create greater flexibility and better outcomes for service users.</p>		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>We are currently remodelling the hostel and supported accommodation services as part of the retender, this includes the remodelling of Band 3 accommodation and the introduction of medium support accommodation. High, Medium and Low support accommodation will be accessible from referral and there will be no bar on entering low support accommodation from point of referral</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)</p> <p>Green </p> <p>End of 2015</p>	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 7 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
New and refreshed BHCC housing strategies must explicitly address the housing needs of victims of domestic violence.	Sylvia Peckham	Geoff Raw

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 7 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
Council Response (December 2014)		
<p>Recommendation Accepted</p> <p>The New Homeless Strategy 2014- 2019 was agreed by the Housing Committee in June 2014. This strategy was based on the review of homelessness in the city from 2007-2012. Domestic violence and non-violent breakdown of relationships still feature as one of the main causes of homelessness in the city. For this particular reason victims of domestic violence are considered to be a priority group within the new homelessness strategy</p>		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>The city’s new Housing Strategy 2015 was approved in March 2015. The Strategy incorporates and reinforces our commitments in the homeless strategy and also has a strategic action to:</p> <p>65: ensure that housing support services support survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).</p> <p>The Council’s Homelessness Strategy was agreed in June 2014 this strategy looks to the strategic direction and delivery of service that address the needs of victims and survivors of domestic violence. Specific actions include</p> <p>“Ensure that same sex domestic violence is treated in a sensitive manner and that discrimination does not occur”</p> <p>“Ensure that we are able to deal with people in crisis situations timely and with appropriate support”</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)</p> <p>Green </p>	<p>Housing Strategy completed March 2015</p> <p>Homelessness Strategy Completed June 2014</p> <p>Housing Allocations Review Target date June 2016</p> <p>Funding for GBT refuge spaces successful March 2015</p>

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 7 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>The Council was successful in a bid to provide GBT Male DV accommodation provision from the Home Office under the “Funding to strengthen accommodation based specialist domestic abuse service provision “ This project in conjunction with RISE will provide 2/4 units of accommodation supporting up to 10/12 GBT male survivors of DV. This fills a gap in service provision in this area. The project is operational on the support side and with the accommodation expected to come on stream by the end of September 2015</p>		<p>Accommodation support of GBT DV project End of September 2015</p>


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 8 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>Training for housing staff dealing with homeless applications must explicitly include information on domestic violence</p>		

Council Response (December 2014)

Recommendation accepted

Housing staff routinely have supervision sessions with their line managers and this includes Performance Development Plans(PDP) Part of the PDP process is to identify the training needs of staff. These needs feed into the Training Plans for each service area. Courses are provided as part of the Council’s membership of the BEST &NHSS training programmes to ensure that staff are provided with the relevant skills to deal with cases of Domestic Violence.

Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:
 We have a workforce development plan and in addition are developing the core competencies required for delivering Housing services and will be benchmarking staff against this to ensure they have received adequate training and have those competencies.

Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)
Completed
Amber

 Core Competences for Housing Options July 2015

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 8 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>The Service redesign for Housing will include specific training for all front line officers in the customer interface with the public in the service centre at Barts House and dealing with telephone enquires</p> <p>Community safety are recruiting a DV training and awareness officer who will take the lead on auditing multi-agency training need developing/coordinating training responses</p>	<p>Service Transformation Pilot in Housing Options to include induction including delivery of services to LGBT community October 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p>	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 9 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>New and refreshed BHCC housing strategies must explicitly address the housing needs of LGBT people.</p>	<p>Sylvia Peckham</p>	<p>Geoff Raw</p>

Council Response (December 2014)

Recommendation accepted

The City has one of the largest concentrations of LGBT communities in the country. Homelessness is a significant issue for the LGBT community and therefore this group is considered to be one of the cities Priority Groups within the new homelessness strategy.

Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:
 The city's new Housing Strategy 2015 has 'Supporting our LGBT Communities' as a priority theme. Within this priority, we have strategic actions to:

85. Ensure that as services are reviewed we check that they are accessible and safe for all

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Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)
Completed/green?
Amber


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 9 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>86. Carry out more research in partnership with community groups to identify specific gaps and needs.</p> <p>87. Joint work with Community Safety to resolve housing issues and harassment in a timely manner.</p> <p>88. Investigate potential impacts of 'out of area' placements for LGBT people in relation to local services and support networks.</p> <p>89. Work with sheltered housing providers to ensure that services are accessible for the LGBT communities.</p> <p>90. Support local LGBT agencies who are working with LGBT agencies in other areas where LGBT people are looking to move to Brighton to ensure this is done in a planned way.</p> <p>91. Use the skills in LGBT community groups to deliver improvements to frontline housing services.</p> <p>92. Examine the provision of LGBT specific housing support services in the city.</p> <p>93. Continue to implement Trans Scrutiny Panel Recommendations for Housing and consider the recommendations of the forthcoming Trans Needs Assessment.</p> <p>Action planning to achieve these strategic actions will be happening through 2015 and will involve LGBT stakeholder</p>		<p>Trans Needs Assessment awaiting sign off by the council September 2015</p> <p>Out of area placement being developed to go to Housing Committee September 2015</p> <p>Review of allocation policy and Review of Criteria used for sheltered Accommodation Target June 2016</p> <p>Draft information guide put out of consultation July 2015</p> <p>Reported to the Trans Scrutiny Panel & Trans needs assessment awaiting sign off expected in September 2015</p>

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 9 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
groups	December 2015	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 10 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
Training for housing staff dealing with homeless applications must explicitly include information on LGBT needs.	Sylvia Peckham	Geoff Raw

Council Response (December 2014)

Recommendation Accepted

The City has one of the largest concentrations of LGBT communities in the country. Homelessness is a significant issue for the LGBT community and therefore this group is considered to be one of the cities Priority Groups within the new homelessness strategy

Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:

We have a workforce development plan and in addition we are developing core competencies required for delivering Housing options and will be benchmarking staff against this to ensure they have received adequate training and have those competencies.

- Work with trans groups to provide guidance on gender appropriate guidance for supported accommodation.
- Produce guidance for private letting agents and landlords on protection for trans people.
- Ensure that the assessment of homeless

Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)

Green



Core Competences for Housing Options July 2015

Service Transformation in Housing Options to include induction including delivery of services to LGBT community September 2015


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 10 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>applications takes into account relevant issues for the LGBT community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that information is available to members of the LGBT community who wish to relocate to the City so that it is available for them to do in a planned way. • Ensure that staff receive relevant training on homophobia, transphobia & biphobia. • Ensure that same-sex domestic violence is treated in a sensitive manner and that discrimination does not occur. 	<p>Trans Guide out for consultation July 2015</p> <p>Successful bid to provide refuge provisions for GBT men March 2015</p>	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 11 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>Relevant new and refreshed homelessness strategies (e.g. the Joint Commissioning Strategy for Young people) should explicitly address need with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services for young people with high support needs; • ensuring that there is sufficient specialised housing to support young people; • the need to deliver 'holistic' support to young people (i.e. helping make young people work-ready at the same time as housing them) 	<p>Sylvia Peckham</p>	<p>Geoff Raw</p>

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 11 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
Council Response (December 2014)		
<p>Recommendation Accepted</p> <p>In the Autumn of 2013, the Joint Commissioning Strategy with Children’s Services for young people was approved. One of the key outcomes from this strategy was the development of a ‘positive transitions’ pathway for young people. In April 2014 the new Young People’s Accommodation and Support pathway was launched. This included action on designing the future shape of services to meet the needs of young people and to provide value for money.</p> <p>We are still working through some of the changes, which are may be linked to other areas of the council, but in order to meet the needs of high need young people we have successfully tendered Barnardo’s to provide a supported lodgings service, and we are in the process of tendering a small accommodation based service for high need young males.</p> <p>With regards to ensuring there is sufficient specialist housing we are looking at the services with the intention of remodelling of re-commissioning services to ensure they meet the needs of young people and provide value for money, and provide as much accommodation with support as possible within the constrains of the resources available.</p> <p>The ‘positive transitions pathway’ model is a national good practice model which the Department of Communities and Local Government are promoting local authorities to use in developing their responses to young people with Housing and Support needs. This pathway emphasises ‘positive transitions to adulthood’, which requires an integrated approach from agencies in terms of young people achieving in education, economic independence, being healthy, having positive relationships and being involved in meaningful and enjoyable activities. The Young people’s accommodation and Support pathway in Brighton and Hove have adopted this model with a requirement that agencies work to meet these needs in young people as well as their housing needs, and measure this by using appropriate tools such as the outcomes star.</p>		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>Barnardo’s to provide a supported lodgings service</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)</p> <p>Barnardo’s to provide a supported lodgings service, Contract awarded - July 2015</p>	


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 11 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>The modelling of services for young people is ongoing and we are currently out to tender with the young peoples floating support service which is due to be awarded at the end of July.</p> <p>Young people have also been included in the Housing First tender about to be issued. Other tenders for young peoples services will follow in the coming months and are currently being developed.</p>		

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 12 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>The Council should consider lobbying central Government (on the issue of people who are receiving employability training being required to attend the Job Centre to sign-on), reflecting the concerns of local voluntary sector providers that the rules dictating the ability of Jobcentre + to relax its signing-on requirements are still too inflexible.</p>	<p>Sylvia Peckham</p>	<p>Geoff Raw</p>
<p>Council Response (December 2014)</p>		
<p>Recommendation Accepted</p> <p>Following on from a regional event set up by DWP/Homeless Link in June, the Work and Learning working Group have set up a Task and Finish Group with the Sussex and Surrey DWP Social Justice Partnership Manager and Work Programme providers to improve outcomes for homeless ESA and JSA claimants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP Easement Rules for Homeless people • Upcoming changes to signing on procedures eg online 		

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 12 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWP/Homeless Services Brighton & Hove/ Pilot August-Sept 2014/Proposed Phased rollout October 2014 onwards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying “vulnerable” ESA/JSA claimants on the DWP local market system in order to give flexibility in the work related activity regime • Flagged on system – trigger for JCP Work Coaches/Work Programme Providers to contact named support worker prior to any sanction decision for non-engagement in work related activity • Work related activity undertaken with homeless providers included in claimant commitment (JSA) and Work Related Action Plan (ESA) as part of agreed work related activity requirements. • Homeless/Social Justice Champions at both Job Centres • Consent forms a) Named support worker contacts for homeless clients to be contacted if any issues – b) authorises the named worker to speak on client’s behalf c) Outlines issues/barriers for the client 		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>The Vulnerability Pilot is a co production between the Council, DWP and Homeless link. The Pilot has now been rolled out to supported housing providers and homeless agencies across the city (increased from the 5 original agencies), as well as specialist housing support services in Temporary Accommodation and council housing. Early anecdotal evidence and feedback has been good, achieving positive outcomes for individuals including prevention of sanctions/benefit breakdown, quicker resolution of benefit issues, improved tailored support for benefit claimants.</p> <p>The Pilot has been working with the National DWP Strategy Team as this project has been recognised as being a model of good practice to support</p>	<p>Status</p> <p>Green</p> 	<p>Collection of evidence to inform City Wide Roll out improved outcomes for JSA & ESA Claimants. March 2016</p> <p>Evaluation of Project on improved outcomes for JSA and ESA claimants. March 2016</p>

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 12 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>vulnerable claimants .</p> <p>The project is in the process of collecting evidence to inform further role across the city. The Project will also be the subjected to an evaluation on how this approach supports some of the most vulnerable households in the City.</p>		

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 13 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>New or refreshed homelessness strategies should explicitly address the issue of working with private landlords to maximise the supply of private rented accommodation accessible to homeless people.</p>	<p>Sylvia Peckham</p>	<p>Geoff Raw</p>

Council Response (December 2014)	
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>The success of the private sector matching service that has continued to deliver enabling private landlords to let to households that would otherwise be homeless. This has continued to deliver despite the increasing cost of the private rented sector and increasing competition for accommodation.</p> <p>The council embarked on a comprehensive review</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by January 2015)</p> <p>Green </p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 13 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
on how it commissions temporary accommodation from the private sector. The department has developed a commissioning “framework” all of which are now completed and delivering temporary accommodation to those in housing needs		

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 14 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
The council should explore what can be done to maintain people’s tenancies should they be imprisoned for a short period of time. The aim should be to minimise the number of people with a local housing connection being made homeless as a result of imprisonment	Sylvia Peckham	Geoff Raw

Council Response (December 2014)

Recommendation Accepted

Recommendation accepted

We have continued to work with offenders with a local housing connection who are in HMP Lewes and are on remand or sentenced to less than 12 months. This work is carried by our Housing Options Officer, Offender Pathway post under the Prevention of Offender Accommodation Loss project.


The post holder works to both maintain people’s tenancies where possible, through negotiation with landlords, housing benefit department and DWP.

These tenancies may be in supported accommodation, private rented sector or social housing.


Work is done to ensure that placements in supported accommodation are maintained for prisoners on remand / in custody. Support needs are common amongst this cohort, and are often best met in supported accommodation.

Maintaining these placements allows not only for the bricks and mortar of accommodation to be maintained, but also that support to address need and reduce the potential for future re-offending remains in place.


Of note in the recommendation is that it is questioned whether social housing tenants are able to resume their

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 14 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>tenancies when released. Those on remand can claim housing benefit for up to 52 weeks, and those on short term sentences can claim for up to 13 weeks. This enables a certain amount of flexibility in negotiation with social landlords to ensure that tenancies are kept open where possible.</p> <p>Further of note is that social tenants can nominate a caretaker to their property while in custody, either on short or long term sentences. Throughout the 5 and half years of its existence the Offender Pathway post has worked with prisoners and social landlords to facilitate caretaker arrangements.</p> <p>This post also works towards finding accommodation for prisoners who were homeless on reception to HMP Lewes. Much of this side of the work is focused on referral to supported accommodation. However, we also assist ex-offenders to access private sector accommodation via a deposit guarantee.</p>		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>Actioned and on-going. We have embedded the work of the POAL officer into the Housing options work and are successful at preventing homelessness where people are committed to prison for short sentences.</p> <p>The Department is in regular contact with both the National Offender Management Service for high risk offenders and the newly formed Kent, Sussex and Surrey offender trust. We will look to work with the new trust in developing models of delivery that prevent homelessness and await details of funding that may be available to support this aim</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by lead:</p> <p></p> <p>Amber</p> <p>Await details of funding possibilities July 2015</p>	


Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 15 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>New and refreshed homelessness strategies must explicitly recognise that social care and housing increasingly need to work in an integrated manner, and should establish structures to enable this</p>	<p>Sylvia Peckham</p>	<p>Geoff Raw</p>

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 15 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
Council Response (December 2014)		
Recommendation Accepted See recommendation 1 above.		
Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead: - Refer to Action 1 above .	Status - (note status indicates progress by lead: -  Amber	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 16 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
New and refreshed homelessness strategies should specifically address the support/advice needs of those who have been deemed ineligible for statutory housing support, recognising that this is a significant group of people, many of whom have genuine support needs		Geoff Raw
Council Response (December 2014)		
Recommendation Accepted The Homelessness Strategy acknowledges the wider impact of homelessness in the City and includes those to whom the Council does not have a statutory duty to accommodate. The council is obliged to provide advice on prevention of homelessness to all persons in its area free of charge, The council's Housing Options team includes Advice and Assessment officers who discharge this duty. In addition to this the council has a number of partners in the voluntary		

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 16 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
sector who also give advice and assistance including Downslink YMCA and BHT		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>The council is looking towards a service redesign for the housing needs division within housing. This will look to develop the Housing Options Approach across all services. This piece of work will see officers getting closer to the front end of the service and will also look to stream line assessment and avoid hand offs between officers.</p> <p>This will also look to develop earlier intervention and prevention work with pilot projects with housing staff being placed with children’s services to give earlier housing advice to both customers and children’ service staff</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by lead:</p> <p></p> <p>Amber</p> <p>April 2016 for full implementation</p> <p>Pilot September 2015</p>	

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 17 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
The OSC should monitor the implementation of agreed panel recommendations on an annual basis until the committee is satisfied that all recommendations have been implemented		Geoff Raw
<p>Council Response (December 2014)</p> <p>Recommendation Accepted Recommendation accepted</p> <p>As part of the part of the homelessness strategy the Housing Committee will receive an annual update report of the</p>		

Scrutiny Report Recommendation No. 17 (February 2014)	Service Lead	ELT Lead
<p>activities of the Council and its partners of the progress of meeting the aims and objectives in the area of homelessness. This will include an up date of the recommendations of the Homelessness Scrutiny Panel</p>		
<p>Progress at June 2015 – short commentary by service lead:</p> <p>This report looks at the work across a number of departments that look to mitigate some of the effects of homelessness in the city. This reporting will continue until the overview and scrutiny committee are satisfied that all of the recommendations are fully complied with.</p> <p>This action plan is only part of the overall work that is carried out throughout the year with some of our most vulnerable residents.</p>	<p>Status - (note status indicates progress by lead:</p> <p>Green</p>  <p>2nd Annual Report July 2016</p>	