

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

24 November 2015

Report of the Director of Public Health

HOUSING AND HEALTH JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Purpose of the report:

To approve expenditure to support the housing and health part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and to identify priorities for strategic collaboration on housing, social care and health in the context of Devolution and the Combined Authority.

2. Information and analysis:

As part of developing the health and housing element of the JSNA, a workshop was held in December 2014 which recognised that:

- poor housing and insecure tenure affects physical and mental health and is a driver of health inequalities;
- some groups are more at risk of and from insecure tenure and poor housing conditions eg older people, children, young people and families on low incomes, people with disabilities and/or long term conditions, asylum seekers and refugees, care leavers, ex forces personnel, ex offenders etc;
- the right home protects and improves health and wellbeing, enables people to manage their health and care needs, enables social connectedness, facilitates integration of health and care services in the home, and allows people to remain in their own home for as long as they choose;
- building/finding and retaining the right homes for all sections of the population has the potential to generate considerable savings to the local health and social care system.

The workshop also identified some key local challenges:

- lack of a shared understanding of population current and future housing needs
- not enough affordable homes to go round
- many homes needing improvement, especially in the increasingly large private rented sector
- lack of connected pathways for vulnerable people to find and retain a decent home
- pressures on public sector finances; including cuts to DCCs adult social care housing related support budget
- impact of welfare reforms on housing needs

And opportunities to:

- Prioritise joint action where it best meets population needs and has greatest impact eg on affordable warmth
- Capitalise upon government funding opportunities to provide for specific population housing needs
- Strengthen pathways between health, social care and housing sectors to maximise timely and effective housing support
- Maximise best use of publicly owned land and property
- Raise the profile of the economic , social and environmental benefits of coordinated action on housing and health
- Create healthy homes and neighbourhoods, with the potential to generate wide ranging economic, social and environmental benefits.

Following the workshop, resources (£19,000) from the Public Health grant, were identified to commission a time limited piece of work on housing and health. Public health officers have worked closely with strategic housing colleagues within the districts and boroughs to develop the scope and brief for the commission. During this process, the opportunity to strengthen collaboration and identify shared priorities in context of Combined Authority/Devolution was identified as an additional key aim. The work will be undertaken between November 2015 - March 2016.

The scope of work covers the full breadth of the housing and health agenda ie:

- Building new homes/affordable homes
- Housing conditions
- Energy – fuel poverty
- Risk of/homelessness
- Housing allocations
- Supported housing

The work is sponsored by Derbyshire Housing Strategy Group and Derbyshire JSNA Board. In addition to commissioning an external consultant, it was decided that we would seek an individual with local strategic housing expertise from the District teams, to work with Public Health and the external consultant. It is envisaged certain of the tasks outlined below will be delivered directly by the external consultant drawing on the local expertise and resources; other tasks will be the responsibility of the local 'secondee', with the external consultant providing oversight and acting as a critical friend. It was felt that this arrangement would capitalise upon local expertise and strengthen local shared understandings and relationships, whilst also providing an authoritative statement of our local position, challenges and opportunities and agreed priorities for future action.

Deliverables

Task	Lead for delivery
Collation of intelligence on current and future population housing needs: of all sections of population, especially those most at risk of and from insecure tenancy and poor housing	Local Strategic Housing Officer
Rapid review of evidence base on cost effective housing and health interventions	External Consultant
Review of local promising housing and health practice	Local Strategic Housing Officer
Review of multiagency working across health, social care and housing, county and district levels – to include desktop review of Derbyshire district housing strategies	External Consultant
Collation of stakeholder views on priorities and opportunities for local action	Local Strategic Housing Officer
Facilitation of stakeholder workshop to identify shared priorities for action on housing and health in context of Combined Authority/devolution agenda	External Consultant
Final report capturing outcome of workshop	External Consultant

Whilst the focus is the needs of Derbyshire population, stakeholders will include those that work across county-city boundaries. Derby City public health and housing partners are committed to working collaboratively as the work develops. Close collaboration with transformation work on the Disabled Facilities Grant, the housing development company and with adult care will also be essential.

Written quotes were invited from three organisations with a strong track record of achievement on housing and health, and from district and borough strategic housing officer teams. Expressions of interest were received from Gill Leng Housing Services as external consultant, and from the Strategic Housing Officer at Erewash Borough Council. These submissions were evaluated by public health officers on 28 October. Both applications were felt to be extremely strong, well 'above the line' and excellent value for money.

The following budget allocation is recommended for approval:

External consultant:	£9,900
Local strategic housing officer:	£8,600
Project budget:	£2,500
Contingency:	£3,000

3. Financial considerations

An allocation of £19,000 has been previously agreed from the Public Health Grant for this work. It is proposed that this be increased by £5,000 from unspent public health grant monies previously allocated to Amber Valley Borough Council for housing and health.

4. Other considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Background papers:

None

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

8. Officer's recommendation:

To approve the allocation of the funding (£24,000) as set out in the report to develop the housing and health JSNA and to identify priorities for collaborative action on housing and health in the context of the Combined Authority and Devolution.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health