

DECISION-MAKER:	HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		
SUBJECT:	INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON THE HEALTH OF SINGLE PEOPLE: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND INQUIRY PLAN		
DATE OF DECISION:	23 JANUARY 2014		
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			

BRIEF SUMMARY

On 21 November 2013 the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) agreed to undertake an inquiry focussing on prevention. This report introduces the Inquiry into the Impact of Housing and Homelessness on People's Health and outlines the draft terms of reference and inquiry plan, including five meetings from February to May 2014, and a number of visits to key services and providers in the city.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) That the Panel discuss, amend and approve a final version of the attached draft terms of reference allowing for sufficient flexibility and the availability of suitable witnesses.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the HOSP to commence the evidence gathering process.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. There are numerous options that could be included within the attached draft terms of reference. The version attached reflects the feedback from services who will be engaged in the inquiry.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. On the 21 November, HOSP considered the opportunity of undertaking a prevention inquiry for the city and examined the possible issues that an inquiry would add value to.
4. They agreed, to give further consideration outside of the meeting to develop an inquiry on one of the following issues:
 - Self care
 - Malnutrition in hospital and other settings
 - Increasing physical activity
 - Housing, homelessness and health.

5. It was agreed that the issues around housing, homelessness and health in the city offered the best opportunities for an inquiry. The rationale behind this being:
 - The impact of quality of housing on health
 - A higher than average proportion of private rented accommodation in Southampton
 - High cost of healthcare intervention for homeless people
 - Evidence of homelessness having a major impact on life expectancy
6. Panel members are invited to discuss, amend and approve the draft terms of reference. The approved plan will then provide the structure to the subsequent meetings of this review allowing for flexibility and the availability of suitable witnesses.
7. The draft outline project plan identifies that the inquiry will be conducted over 5 meetings of the Health Panel. It is envisaged that each of the inquiry meetings will last for approximately two hours, however the given the intensive nature of the issues and high number of services and organisations who will need to give evidence. With this in mind, a number of visits to key organisations and services will also be arranged to ensure a more detailed understanding of the issues. A schedule of additional visits will be sent out the panel members once the terms of reference and inquiry plan are agreed. 1-3 members will be invited to sign up to a each visit to ensure they are manageable and do not pose an undue burden on members' time..

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

7. Resources to support the scrutiny review will come from existing budgets.

Property/Other

8. N/A.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

9. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

10. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

11. The outcome of the scrutiny review may contribute to the following priorities within the Council Plan:
 - Improving health and keeping people safe
 - Helping individuals and communities to work together and to help themselves.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Draft Terms of Reference
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Dependent upon forward plan item
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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