

DECISION-MAKER:	HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL		
SUBJECT:	INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ON THE HEALTH OF SINGLE PEOPLE: MEETING ONE – SETTING THE SCENE		
DATE OF DECISION:	20 FEBRUARY 2014		
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report provides details for the first meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) Inquiry examining the impact of housing and homelessness on the health of single people.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care will give a brief outline of the administration's strategy for responding to homelessness health. There will also be two presentations, followed by questions from the Panel. The presentations will highlight

- The national picture of homelessness health, including key issues and drivers for change (Sarah Gorton, Homeless Link, South East Regional Manager)
- Southampton's perspective of the health of single homeless people, including a profile of those in need and the model for tackling their health and resolving their situation. (Liz Slater - Housing Needs Manager; Matthew Waters - Commissioner for Supporting People and Adult Care Services; Pam Campbell - Consultant Nurse, Homeless Healthcare Team)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) The Panel is recommended to consider the information provided by the Cabinet Members and presentations and use this, alongside the appendices, as evidence in the inquiry.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Panel to consider the evidence in order to agree findings and recommendations at the end of the inquiry process.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Not to proceed with inquiry. This option was rejected as the Panel have agreed to undertake the inquiry given the current high demand for single accommodation alongside the fact that single homeless people are less

likely to be in priority need. It is widely known that homelessness, especially rough sleeping, has significant and negative consequences for an individual's health. Many studies have found strong correlations between homelessness and a multiplicity, and increased severity, of both physical and mental health conditions.

3. However, despite this increased morbidity, homeless people consistently miss out on the healthcare they need. As a result, health problems are left untreated and health deteriorates. When homeless people do access health services, they are likely to do so in an unplanned way (for example through accident and emergency) and to be in a state of chronic ill health. This results in longer stays in hospital and multiple readmissions, and has clear cost implications. The Inquiry aims to consider the impact and barriers to single homelessness people accessing healthcare and make recommendations that aim to reduce blockages in the system and prevent future increasing demand on services, within existing cost constraints.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

4. The final Terms of Reference for the Inquiry were approved by the HOSP on the 23rd January 2014, subject to a minor amendment. The final Terms of Reference and Inquiry plan are attached at Appendix 1.
5. The purpose of the Inquiry is to consider the impact of housing and homelessness on the health of single people, a significant number of whom have complex needs, and live unsettled and transient lifestyles, and to examine the difficulties that their everyday life presents to deliver a preventative and planned approach to improve their health and well being and access to a settled and decent home.
6. The first meeting of the Inquiry aims to help the Panel to understand the national picture and local issues for the health of single homeless people and the model of support for their health needs.
7. The first half of the meetings will be presented by Sarah Gorton, Homeless Link, South East Regional Manager, who will give an overview of the national picture for homelessness health, highlighting key trends and drivers for change alongside good practice examples and opportunities for invest to save. Homeless Link National Audit on the Health and Wellbeing of People who are Homeless is attached at Appendix 2.
8. Homeless Link is the only national charity supporting people and organizations working directly with homeless people in England. They represent homelessness organizations among local, regional and national government. As the national collaborative hub for information and debate on homelessness, they seek to improve services for homeless people and to advocate policy change. Through this work, they aim to end homelessness in England.
9. Sarah Gorton is regional manager for the SE, covering Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Her role as regional manager is a link for all the agencies working on single homelessness and rough sleeping in the area, promoting good practice and working with local authorities and partner agencies to work effectively to prevent rough sleeping.

10. The second half of the meeting will examine the local perspective for the health of single homeless people. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care will first make brief statements outlining the administration's approach to this issue.
11. This will be followed by a presentation to the Panel on the strategy for reducing homelessness in the city, the profile of health needs and health issues for homeless people in the city and the model for supporting people who are homeless. This presentation will be given by:
 - Liz Slater - Housing Needs Manager;
 - Matthew Waters - Commissioner for Supporting People and Adult Care Services;
 - Pam Campbell - Consultant Nurse, Homeless Healthcare Team
12. The Homelessness Prevention Strategy and Review 2013-18 alongside the Homelessness Services Model of Provision are attached at Appendix 3, 4 and 5.
13. The Panel is invited to have a discussion on the changes to the national and local Welfare Reforms and their potential impact with the Cabinet Member for Resources and those giving evidence.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

13. None

Property/Other

14. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

15. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Other Legal Implications:

16. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

17. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
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Appendices

1.	Final Terms of Reference and Inquiry Plan for The Impact of Housing and Homelessness on the Health of Single People
2.	Homeless Link National Audit on the Health and Wellbeing of People who are Homeless
3.	The Homelessness Prevention Strategy 20013-18
4.	The Homelessness Prevention Review 2013-18
5.	Homelessness Services Model of Provision

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.	Yes/No
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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)

1.	None	
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