

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON THE HEALTH OF SINGLE PEOPLE		
DATE OF DECISION:	20 JANUARY 2015		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Liz Slater Matthew Waters	Tel: 023 8083 2582 023 8083 4849
	E-mail:	Liz.slater@southampton.gov.uk Matthew.waters@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	Alison Elliott	Tel: 023 8083 2602
	E-mail:	Alison.elliott@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) undertook an Inquiry into the Impact of Homelessness on the Health of Single People between February and July 2014. Its purpose was to consider the impact of housing and homelessness on the health of single people, a significant number of whom have complex needs, 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 wellbeing and access to a settled decent home.

During the review period the Panel heard from a wide range of witnesses and visited a number of the homelessness housing and advice services in the City.

25 recommendations for future actions were included in the final report.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) To receive and approve the proposed responses to the recommendations of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, as detailed in the attached Appendix 1.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet received the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel's Inquiry report on the Impact of Homelessness on the Health of Single People on 21st October 2014 and is required to make a formal response within 3 months. This report details Cabinet's response to the recommendations from the Inquiry.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) undertook a review of the impact of homelessness on the health of single people in the city from February to July 2014. The final report contains a total of 25 recommendations for future action.
4. The report was positive about the current range of options available within the city for single homeless people, and recognised the role of commissioners and agencies in improving outcomes for this group over many years. The Panel heard from a range of agencies during the Inquiry, including local service providers, Homeless Health Care Team and visited a number of the projects in the city. In addition, Homeless Link - a national agency concerned with promoting services to homeless people - provided evidence and were positive about the model and range of services to homeless people in Southampton.
5. The final report provided a total of 25 recommendations on how HOSP viewed improving future services and support for homelessness in the City.
6. Prior to completing the response and action plan, agencies who had taken part in the original report - either by providing formal evidence or through site visits - were consulted. Three formal responses were received from agencies. The responses are included within Appendix 2 to this report. In addition, the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group has been formally presented with the recommendations.
7. In responding to the HOSP report, no recommendations have been rejected. 17 of the recommendations have been accepted, and 8 recommendations have been accepted in part. In the majority of cases those only partly accepted were due to resource implications, which are difficult to quantify or to manage, given the long-term financial issues facing the City Council and other agencies. Other responses are reliant upon outside agencies delivering a greater level of involvement.
8. Since the report was published there have been a number of changes and developments to commissioning intentions and to services. These are reflected in the response, but the City Council has responded to financial pressures by renegotiating prices with providers receiving monies through Supporting People. Significant savings have been achieved, with providers receiving contract extensions in return. The savings have been designed to ensure that existing levels of support are not reduced and to protect services for longer.
9. The response and action plan show a clear and continued commitment on behalf of the City Council to tackle homelessness in the City, within available resources. This includes ensuring services work together appropriately and provide comprehensive responses to identified homelessness needs. The Homelessness Strategy Steering Group will continue to monitor and direct the overarching responses to homelessness in the City, with key agencies represented as appropriate. The Action Plan will form a part of future Homelessness Strategy Steering Group meeting agendas to ensure actions identified are carried out. There is also a further opportunity presented by the next iteration of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy to raise the profile of

housing, homelessness, mental health and wider inequality and the impact these have as determinants of health.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

10. There are no additional financial commitments entered into within the response. Existing commitments are subject to the long-term financial position of the local authority.

Property/Other

11. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

12. Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

13. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

14. None.

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
------------------------------------	------

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Response to HOSP inquiry report and action plan
2.	Consultation responses received prior to completing the response to HOSP inquiry report and action plan.

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None.
----	-------

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
--	----

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.	
----	-------	--