

Topic:	Health & Wellbeing Board Prevention Programme – Healthy Housing
Meeting Date:	9th June 2016
Board Member:	Tony Goodwin, CEO Tamworth Borough Council
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Report Type:	For Information

1. Introduction and Background

- District and Borough Councils deliver a wide range of housing related services that have a direct impact on health and wellbeing including;
 - the provision of good quality neighbourhoods and housing accommodation through their planning functions;
 - the prevention of homelessness;
 - assisting vulnerable people to live safely and independently at home including the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs);
 - Ensuring homes are safe and warm including preventing falls and tackling cold homes and fuel poverty.
- In 2015, the Board agreed a programme of prevention and early intervention work, which included developing an integrated approach to housing and health.
- The scope included:
 - Develop a Staffordshire approach for the role of housing in Health and Wellbeing
 - Learn from the Tamworth refresh of the Healthier Housing Strategy
 - Advice and input now arranged with Public Health England
- Housing has also been recognised as part of the Staffordshire County Council Business Plan and is part of the Health and Care Directorate plan
- Housing has previously been discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board, with a presentation from Stafford Borough Council on 10 October 2013.

2. A new approach

- In December 2015 a Housing and Wellbeing Group was convened, to develop approaches on shared priorities and to share knowledge and learning.

- The group involves representation from every District in Staffordshire, including Stoke on Trent. The East Staffordshire membership is virtual, but all other Districts are represented physically at this group
- Work with Districts has emphasised the need for a twin track approach; firstly to recognise the need each District has to manage its own business; second to draw out the areas where greater sharing and cooperation is helpful and achievable
- Following scoping with Districts, three priority areas have emerged, which are:
 - Improving the delivery of aids and adaptations (including DFGs) to prevent falls, support carers and facilitate hospital discharge
 - A coordinated and consistent approach to tackling cold homes and reducing fuel poverty
 - Preventing and delaying hospital admission and supporting Hospital Discharge including effective mechanisms for joined partnership working between support agencies (Let's Work Together)
- Action Groups have been set up to develop the workstreams as follows
 - Aids and adaptations / DFGs – what are the barriers to effective delivery and what innovative models can be explored to overcome these? Scrutiny of existing delivery arrangements including performance and quality standards for delivery. Exploration of the opportunities to prevent or delay the need for a health or care intervention, and an assessment of the wider demand for adaptations and how we can facilitate and manage this.
 - Cold Homes – what is the scale and impact of cold homes and fuel poverty in terms of demand on health care services, how do we target activity to the right homes, what is the cold homes offer across the County and what opportunities exist to draw down external funding?
 - Prevention and Hospital Discharge– what is the scale of the issue, what do we need from the NHS, and what is the realistic Housing offer around the County
- The Group also shares learning from around the County, and has discussed initiatives being developed at a local level including:-
 - The Tamworth approach to their Healthier Housing Strategy refresh;
 - Use of data such as Health Impact Assessments, Stock Modelling and Thermal Imaging to influence effective targeting, for example in Stafford and East Stafford;
 - Innovative approaches to improving health and wellbeing amongst rough sleepers such as the Community Matron in Stoke, Stafford, Newcastle and Staffordshire Moorlands.

- Whilst still in its infancy, this work is helping to inform what the local housing offer to health and social care might look like and invaluable learning is emerging, about what will make the difference:-
 - Home based interventions have the potential to make a significant contribution to the current transformation agenda; shifting services from clinical settings to the community, preventing hospital admissions and facilitating effective discharge.
 - There are good opportunities to work with wider partners, e.g. Public Health England. To learn from others and share local good practice.
 - There are good opportunities to cooperate on data and intelligence, and the Tamworth Housing & Wellbeing profile created with The Insight Team is a model that we could seek replicate across the County. This approach can help Districts to consider their approach to Housing and Wellbeing in a more structured way.
 - If we can link Housing with wider commissioning we can maximise preventative options, although more work is needed to make this happen in a systematic way. We should produce a local “manual” that identifies the work that District Housing Departments can play and highlight the difference that can be made.
 - Housing has yet to feature significantly within the business of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Housing for Wellbeing Group can act as a focus for this, providing a single point of contact for both the County and CCGs. This group can act as a vehicle for improving contact between current partnership structures like Together We Are Better and BCF and Districts.

3. Recommendations

- That the Housing and Wellbeing Group be mandated to share the learning and develop Healthy Housing as an approach across the county.
- That the Health & Wellbeing Board receive periodic reports from the Housing for Wellbeing Group
- That Housing is specifically considered as a key contributor to the integration of health and social care within the Better Care Fund and as an essential element for the delivery of service transformation.
- To note that the Housing for Wellbeing Group will be discussing DFGs