

The Housing Board

Cambridgeshire | Peterborough | West Suffolk

Friday 6th September 2019

Swansley Room, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne



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Meeting Notes

1. Present, apologies and previous notes

Present

- Sarah Ferguson (SF), Cambridge City **Chair**
 - Sue Beecroft (SB), Housing Board
 - Sally Bonnett (SBo), East Cambs
 - Jenna Brame (JB), West Suffolk
 - Jon Collen (JC), Hunts
 - Julie Fletcher (JF), South Cambs
 - Iain Green (IG), Cambs and Peterborough
 - Dan Horn (DH), Fenland
 - Nigel Howlett (NH), CHS – RP rep
 - Anne Keogh (AK), Peterborough
 - Charlotte McCallister (CM), West Suffolk
 - Helen Reed (HR), Cambridge City
 - Helen Tonks (HT), CHS
 - Elaine Field (EF), South Cambs **Notes**
- Lisa Sparks
Cambridgeshire County Council
 - Adrian Cannard
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)
 - Vickie Crompton and Sharon Crosby
Standing Together / DAHA
 - Alice Ward and Kate Anderson
Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Apologies

Sean Evans, Peterborough
Suzanne Hemingway, Cambridge City
Simon Phelan, West Suffolk
Carol Pilsen, Fenland
Heather Wood, South Cambs

Previous Notes

Draft notes of August 2019 were approved and are available at:

<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housingboard/>

A review of previous actions is at the end of this document.

2. DAHA update

Vickie Crompton and Sharon Crosby of Standing Together / Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance provided an update. Looking at housing options for victims of domestic abuse. Attended and presented at the European Conference on Domestic Violence, where there was very little about housing. The UK is far ahead in helping in a co-ordinated way and Cambridgeshire is doing well. There is funding available and projects have begun in Stockton-On-Tees, London and Cambridgeshire.

The best option for victims of domestic violence is to stay in their own home to maintain already established links in the local community, there is also issues of economic abuse and rent arrears. Working with landlord bodies and private rented Officers in Local Authorities. The idea is to put DAHA information leaflets in new tenancy packs. A national charity helps Banks and Estate Agents with awareness.

People coming to MARAC are mostly in social housing, 80% of cases are on low income. We can help with people wanting to move areas but maintain tenancy, manage reciprocals. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is the only area outside London using this model (West Suffolk can be involved if required).

There are funds for a Sanctuary Scheme, not means tested, our domestic violence specialist can call the police and they can secure the property.

It would be helpful if the Housing List (Home-Link) could contain information about a person's needs. 60/70% of Housing Associations in Cambs and Peterborough have signed up to the 'make a change pledge.'

At the end of June there were 22 Flexible Funding (started in USA) applications approved, for people who cannot move on due to rent arrears. Also linked into Cambridge Besum Charity and Emmaus.

We are trying to increase the knowledge of Local Authority housing options teams and can provide training (via Lisa Sparks). Might also be useful to make available to Gypsy and Health and Environmental Services teams. DAHA can develop training for housing providers, including West Suffolk. We need to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse, to work with Local Authorities to improve front line response. SF and DH discussed the letters under the Homelessness Reduction Act, and to share, if anyone is doing work to improve these.

The Board discussed work being carried out with people affected by high trauma. DAHA have helped 800 direct victims and over 1000 children.

The Accreditation Scheme was discussed, perhaps more suited to HA's than LA's. CHS has gained accreditation, workshops and much training involved. Funding only until March 2020 for this.

There is a domestic abuse operational group every quarter. Find the flyer here:

<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housingboard/>

Questions:

JC – Build in flexibility in arrears policies for Housing Associations. Providers have arrears teams; do they need to be aware of Flexible Funding. Tailor training for LA's plus Benefit Fraud Officers.

HT and NH – Feed into approach from their end.

SF asked to get out across the network, and if we need to amend the policies.

DH mentioned the European Community.

SB mentioned the previous action, to find standard shared ownership lease agreement. Did locate the Homes England shared ownership standard lease, eventually.

3. Housing and Vulnerable Victims of Sexual Exploitation

Alice Ward and Kate Anderson from Cambridgeshire Constabulary Response, and Response Investigations presented on housing and vulnerable victims of sexual exploitation, in Peterborough.

Proposals in place to reduce vulnerability, problems with people seeking housing support. In Peterborough at least 50 sex workers are recorded, with about 26 working currently, with 18 not housed (sofa surfing). There are many high harm crimes which go unreported, involving violence including rape. A problem solving profile has been identified; those who wish to exit the industry, although sometimes these people live with men who are instigators in the sex industry (housing options difficult). Some offenders exploit sex workers and invite them to their homes then subject them to abuse. It proves difficult to engage with these women, who

sometimes have complex mental health needs (crash beds do not work for this group).

LA's do provide good support to these victims (re housing). Constabulary are proposing to recognise these problems, and in situations where they are living with offenders, that they get the same status as survivors of domestic abuse (trying to highlight restrictions on this segment, leaving hospital, etc.). Looking at Peterborough street sex trade mostly but know there are off street problems in Cambridge. West Suffolk has some off-street problems and is trying to get them away from offenders. There are problems with economic financial control, by men who are not necessarily their partners.

LS mentioned the Housing First model; could put a bid in for Peterborough. But may be an issue with finding accommodation (can meet with Steph to discuss?).

SF can take the paper away and discuss with Sean Evans, Peterborough. We also need to look at finding wider accommodation, make sure there are no barriers. **All to take paper away and share with teams.**

There is a safeguarding need from PCH, had issues with health regards dressing changes and medication needs. Need case plans with local hospitals for people who may be homeless and accessing health care needs. JB advised she can put Housing Board in touch with the contact at Cambridge City who works with Addenbrooke's (Faye).

IG mentioned the 'Improving Pathways' trailblazer work (Helen Brown involved, working with 3 hospitals) issues may be the same. Could take the issue to Health and Wellbeing Board, with Helen and ensuring Cambs Constabulary are invited. **Action DH (speak to HB).**

Bring progress on all back to November Housing Board. Alice and Kate of Cambs Constabulary offered to come back if required.

4. Housing Related Support

LS advised that the outline for the Housing Related Support Strategy has been agreed, completion date March 2020. Redesign work on young people and homelessness, focussed on City at present, need to look at how this translates into rest of County, trying to look at place based. Looking at young people's homelessness services. CHS are meeting with people, hoping to provide a new model in Cambridge City. Going out in January 2020 for live tender date, looking at minimum 5 year contract.

Adult homelessness, external factors to take into consultation. Looking at going ahead without procurement, Cambridge City to join later. Committee Papers, taking children in October and adult in November, and will have a Member briefing. Savings in Cambridge, confident we are hitting the target for year. In contact with Suffolk too. Oxfordshire have worked out a good deal in their area, SF and DH advised it would be good to look at that.

JC asked regards the Commissioning Strategy, if this was combined or County stand alone. SF advised that it is HRS dedicated resources at County currently. Also, the Business Case was taken to CPSB. £50k committed from County. Then look at how to implement the change programme.

5. Non Statutory Strategic Spatial Plan

Adrian Cannard discussed the new version of the Non-Statutory Strategic Spatial Plan, which adds value to existing plans and is not a strategy document. Devolution deal brought much money and helped set up the CPCA. Designed the document to go out and highlight big themes; Housing and how we live, climate change and technology change. Will we be building the same housing in 30 years? Costs. Need to build affordable housing, modular?

Also, to highlight the current CPCA schemes, and road and rail improvements. Will take to CPCA Board at the end of September, then out to consultation, followed by NSF and out to consultation again. Already had feedback from Planning Policy Forum. Need comments from Housing Board asap.

Discussions:

JF - We need to mention the ageing population.

AK - Assistive technology in New Build.

IG - Healthy New Towns publication findings published; in that we could add principles on ageing population living.

SF - Economic development factor is important. Also recognises support services needed. Children's and Older People's services.

SF - Opportunity to build in solutions for vulnerable clients, we need to make these points strongly.

SB - We could express the mental health and green space elements – health and wellbeing factors.

SF - National Housing standards.

JF - Could add Lifetime Homes standard, about homes being accessible and adaptable.

IG - NHS England is looking at the Quality Mark, if a whole development is healthy.

HT – Consideration of Brexit? AC replied that there is uncertainty anyway, there will be long term challenges.

AC advised that a new Officer starts 1st October, named Azma Ahmed-Pearce, working on the Affordable Housing Programme (replacing Alex Francis). Any questions or comments to AC via email (or via the consultation).

6. Funding of sub-regional service and HMA

Note circulated by email.

Most important question for Housing Board is whether Planners are supportive of the approach being suggested, and whether Districts are supportive of the suggested “ongoing” contract with CCRG to maintain and update the consultant's finding.

7. Homelessness Trailblazer and System Transformation Funding Proposal

Start the letter with the fact CPSB has agreed the principles behind this. Good to quote the minutes! Add point about it being a shared endeavour.

SF has made a business case to CCC for the system transformation work. Agreement should come through next week.

DH suggested asking the MHCLG team.

On the tender, discussed whether CCC go out or 3 quotes? CCC working up a spec on the basis of the CPSB paper. Want to learn from other national models. Financial modelling linked to the total pot of funding.

Interested in recruiting a systems change / transformation person. Jamie Irons – finding out if there is a fellows research programme.

LGA housing advisor programme – think you get £50K and are given someone to advise you. The £50K isn't money you can spend on anything else. Consultant has the conversations about Trailblazer to identify the good bits, and what we want to continue doing or to stop.

What happens to Trailblazer 2020/21 onwards will be based on the consultants' findings. Hopefully comes up with a model, associates costs and sources of funds, where we direct out HRS budget.

DH will discuss with MHCLG trailblazer lead.

Fellows research would look at national good practice. **LS will find out more from Jamie about this.**

Paper on funds from different partners.

Funding target for existing team plus the £50K.

Suggest write to everyone with bespoke paragraphs – impact so far and plans for the coming year.

Aware partners might not be able to contribute the whole amount, pool as much as we can, come back to Housing Board in Nov. FDC can look at what best team we can support in 2021+ and discuss with TB board how to proceed.

Could present the table differently – if 21,500 per district – HDC willing to support – put on a separate line or such as pays for the research.

HW – looking to support £10K.

AC – taking a neutral position, can't commit yet.

Who was at CPSB from CPCA? Might want a behind the scenes conversation. S B to identify and let AC know.

IG suggested it's an STP transformation thing and **will investigate.**

25 Oct – business planning process will be starting – won't have the outcome by October – will put on internal programme board for PCC so might be hard to commit by then.

Add to letter: If difficult to commit within the timeframe, when might you be able to let us know (SB).

8. AOB

None.

9. Future Meeting Dates:

All at Swansley Room, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne:

4 Oct 2019, 1 Nov 2019, 6 Dec 2019

#	Agenda item	Action & when added	Lead	To do	Doing	Done
September 2019						
1.	Victims of sexual exploitation	All to take paper away and share with teams (Link has been e-mailed round).	All		✓	
2.	Victims of sexual exploitation	IG mentioned the 'Improving Pathways' trailblazer work (Helen Brown involved, working with 3 hospitals) issues may be the same. Could take the issue to Health and Wellbeing Board, with Helen and ensuring Cambs Constabulary are invited. Action for DH (speak to HB).	DH/HB	✓		
3.	Victims of sexual exploitation	Bring progress on all back to November Housing Board. Alice and Kate of Cambs Constabulary offered to come back if required.	All		✓	
4.	NSSSP	All to send comments to Adrian Cannard on draft NSSSP'	All		✓	
5.	SHMA future	SB to confirm with planners whether they are happy with the approach and funding outlined in note. Update October housing board.	SB			✓
6.	Trailblazer and system transformation - letter	Various changes to letter (SB). Ask MHCLG about possible funding (DH). Find out more from Jamie about Fellows research (LS). Who was at CPSB from CPCA? Might want a behind the scenes conversation. SB identify and let AC know. IG suggest it's an STP transformation thing. Iain will investigate contact and let SB know. Add to letter: If difficult to commit within the timeframe, when might you be able to let us know (SB).	SB DH LS SB IG SB		✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
August 2019						
7.	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	NH to email LR on coroner's 999 requirement – JET service is meant to address people who have fallen within 2 hours. LR will investigate.	NH / LR	✓		
8.	JSNA rough sleeping	Vicky to circulate a draft of the JSNA when ready and bring back to Housing Board in December '19	VP		✓	
9.	Homelessness sys transf	Put together some time to look at system transformation work (not necessarily at board meeting) Produce a diagram of the different work areas? Where is each partner's time best spent?	SF / SH			✓
July 2019						
10.	Allocs policy review	Progress report to come to Housing Board, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to hold several workshops to work through this, over the next couple of months and map out a project plan. Talk to different groups of people. Emailed HW & SC See if can use new devt surveys to see how reliable the overall sample of social housing movers is, i.e. are there enough to draw any conclusions about how the allocations policy 'worked out' on the new development sites. Also, can we capture data on what peoples use of services was before they moved (from e.g. NHS) Emailed AJ Evidence documents to inform a future Housing Board. 	HW / Sharon	✓		

#	Agenda item	Action & when added	Lead	To do	Doing	Done
11.	Military covenant	Vikki to contact Board as and when we can help with the app including housing info, and refer people to the training.	VB		✓	
12.	Military covenant	Vikki will provide what the CPCA project involves.	VB			✓
13.	Military covenant	SB to clarify if the military have the duty to refer.	SB			✓
June 2019						
14.	Home-Link update	HW to add new information i.e. number of bids per property, number of people on register in each District and band, checking accessibility of people understanding system. Add no. of bedrooms, type and who is on the register on Housing Boards' regular update. Any particular questions feed back to HW to include in quarterly report. First update to come to October 2019 report.	HW		✓	
February 2019						
15.	New developments	Investigate the system of numbering and naming of streets, and postcodes – can we help get postcodes set up earlier in the process to facilitate life for new residents? SCDC to share findings from Northstowe with other district teams. SB drafted a report for partners. Dave (Wigan) checking it.	NH to send info to Mike Hill and cc HW		✓	