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| **The Housing Board****Cambridgeshire | Peterborough | West Suffolk** 3 November 2023: 10.00 am to 12.00 noonHeld online via Microsoft TeamsMeetings will be recorded. These recordings will be kept, in the event any point of detail needs re-visiting whilst we are not producing full minutes. Please let us know at the beginning of the meeting of any objections to recording. |
| **Meeting notes** |
| **Present** | **Apologies** |
| * Heather Wood (HW), South Cambs DC *chair*
* Azma Ahmad-Pearce (AAP), CPCA
* Sue Beecroft (SB), Housing Board Coordinator
* Jon Collen (JC), Huntingdonshire DC
* Bobby Duke (BD), Peterborough City
* Elaine Field (EF), South Cambs DC
* Julie Fletcher (JF), South Cambs DC
* Roberta Fulton (RF), Accent Group
* Iain Green (IG), Peterborough City and Cambs County, Public Health
* Chris Hill (CH), Cambs and Peterborough ICS
* Stephen Hills (SH), CHS
* Charlotte Knight (CK), Cambs County
 | * Ali Manji (AM), Cross Keys Homes
* Karen Mayhew (KM), Homes for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (H4C&P)
* Charlotte McCallister (CM), West Suffolk Council
* Anna Palutek (AP), Cambs and Peterborough ICS
* Matthew Ryder (MR), National Probation Service
* Sarah Scase (SS), Peterborough City
* Pamela Scott (PS), Huntingdonshire DC
* Sam Shimmon (SS), Cambridge City
* Lisa Sparks (LS), Adult Social Care, Cambs County
 | * Dan Horn, Fenland
* Anne Keogh, Peterborough
* Jonathan Bartram, ICB - NHS
* Alex Francis, Accent Group
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| **Previous Notes** |
| Previous meeting notes are available at <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housingboard/> **Please note:** This documents includes brief notes of the latest meeting, and action points.Earlier meeting notes are found in previous action notes, but in the latest version only action notes of previous meetings are included. It may be helpful to refer to an older set of notes to see the context for the actions, but this approach helps us minimize the papers needed and keep an eye on previous actions and progress.So only on the meeting notes when an item is presented, are brief notes (not full minutes) of the discussion. Actions for each item follow which are numbered. These are then updated and progressed at the following meetings. Once actions are “done” they are removed. Key to the table:* Bulleted points, brief notes, not full minutes. If more detail is needed, please contact elaine.field@scambs.gov.uk
* Numbered items = actions. When action is complete and reported back to the following meeting, it is removed from the table.
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|  | Items | Lead | To do | Doing | Done |
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|  | 3 November 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: **Homelessness Annual Review** |  |  |  |  |
|  | JC had shared a paper with Housing Board and updated on Homelessness trends, looking at Statistics 2022/23:* 7 housing Authorities across the sub-region. LA’s submit their returns, which are combined to enable figure for the sub-region. Data and information is sent to DLUHC.
* There is differences between LA’s in terms of their trend direction and ways of working, Sub-Regional Homeless Group will look at that in more detail.
* Early intervention and prevention work is key in the Homeless timeline. Prevention duty stage, then relief stage is if homelessness is not prevented. If not resolved then go to historic homeless duty. These statistics are when they have come into the point of contact.
* 7% increase in total number of people coming in at prevention / relief stage 2022/23.
* 2,864 prevention duties were triggered, increase of 15% (5% nationally). Positive that people are coming early.
* Relief duty stage, 2,468 2% increase (9% nationally). Fewer people coming to us at point of crisis, and more coming a pre-crisis stage.
* At main duty stage 1,105 8% increase (3% nationally).
* During lockdown significant reductions in figures. However upturn in people coming straight in at relief, Everyone In campaign.
* Causes of Homelessness – family and friends unable to accommodate any longer (823) 29% increase on the previous year. End of private sector rented tenancies (961) 40% increase. No fault evictions Section 21 notice, seeing significant numbers, now the largest cause of homelessness. Other reasons non-violent relationship breakdown (down 18%), domestic abuse (down). At relief duty stage family and friends (18%) down from last year. Domestic abuse. Evictions from social tenancies (107) 55% increase from previous year. JC described reasons for the figures.
* Outcomes: prevention duty stage 50% of all were successful and accommodation secured within 6 months (53% nationally). At relief duty stage 30% of outcomes successful (36% nationally). Within 56 days, after that progress to main duty stage which is whether we accept main duty (56% last year) or a non-priority need decision, would continue to work with them but not main duty.
* Household make-ups: Single men (29%), Single parent with dependent child (28%). At relief duty stage single men, double number of any others. Also single adult female.
* Temporary accommodation, c.100,000 households in temporary accommodation, seeing that figure increasing significantly. This financial year 776 at the beginning. Previously, a significant upward trend 17% increase across sub region.Of those in temporary accommodation, starting to see use of bed and breakfast increasing (also nationally).
* Pressures: increasing demand from s21 notices, renters reform bill delays, homes for Ukraine guests, closure of Afghan bridging hotels, asylum seekers increasing numbers of decision sand evictions from Home Office accommodation.
* Limited options: private rented sector unaffordable, difficulties accessing social housing, affordability assessments, risk assessments, etc. Insufficient numbers of temporary accommodation.

HW presented on Rough Sleeping in the sub-region:* Much funding for rough sleeping. Nationally, 2,893 people estimated on one night in June to be rough sleeping (18% increase) 29% of those were new people. Between April and June 3,238 people moved into medium or long term accommodation. HW discussed figures locally: East Cambs, South Cambs, West Suffolk and Fenland reduction. Cambridge City and Hunts static. Often a flow of rough sleepers even though similar figures, different people. Also intrenched rough sleepers, with complex needs. No recourse to public funds affects this.
* Shared objectives from 2021: More joint working with partner agencies and improve system, improve access to private rented sector, ways to increase numbers of available accommodation.
* HW discussed Cambridge City, Fenland and West Suffolk local achievements. Fenland have people with high complex needs but seen some good outcomes via Changing Futures.
* Challenges ahead: Pressures around affordability and the cost of living, the need for services to support people who have multiple complex needs, asylum seekers and refugees and concern some could become rough sleepers. HW discussed ability to afford essentials, figures have increased. Use of temporary accommodation has increased. HW mentioned ideas to help with asylum seekers and refugees.

**Questions and discussion:*** Peterborough finding positive results from providers and accommodation units. General homelessness, singles are presenting who have a high level of multiple complex needs.
* IG discussed pharmacy services where medication is needed, homeless population is sometimes not near a pharmacy, therefore taxi costs for daily supervised consumption, and some people missing appointments and turning to illegal street drugs. Issues where homeless people are and what services are available locally to them, temporary pharmacies are not allowed.
* SB mentioned prevention and relief and private sector housing, largest at prevention stage, for social housing and families the opposite is true – could we publicise to give early warning of evictions, could discuss at Homelessness Strategy Group. Health and Wellbeing Strategy, an action from that is concerns regards children in B&B. Duty to Refer project, looking at national statistics on this, appears majority come through the probation system, health and other partners much smaller figures. Could use statistics to look at various partnerships, and could work with Planners and Enablers. Complexity of need, cross over with Changing Futures project, ensure joining up with system wide programme.
* SH thanked HW and JC for the presentation, very clear. A link with housing benefit falling behind market rent, lobbying issue. Links too with our other strategic concern around building new social homes. Some Housing Associations not taking people with affordability challenges and complex needs, which is worrying. Could discuss this further with peers.
* Early release from prison, people with complex needs, there is a pathway out of prison for prison leavers. MR chairs the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Group for offenders. There is a lead in Peterborough Prison who sits within the criminal justice system that leads on that pathway for the prison, ongoing review of how that pathway works. Review group being set up. Looking at DTR’s and how that pathway is working. Largest referrer through DTR system to Housing Authorities is the criminal justice system. Understanding odd cases and why happening, piece of work on people not engaging in prison assessment system. Group set up, led by MR’s colleagues in criminal justice where we should be reviewing and refining in light of what evidence is telling us. IG added, the pathway is leading to more work. Public Health seeing people with complex needs putting pressure on pharmacy services.
* KM wants to ensure Housing associations are contacting authorities at prevention stage and of any other problems, KM can be told and pursue. Affordability assessments, this is around affordable built properties. Need different types of accommodation, smaller and at an accessible level – through Enabling / Development route? Housing associations who have facilities within authorities, hostels, etc, could these be used as a permanent place to provide medication? HW and KM to discuss this further, anyone else welcome.
* Cambridge City looking at temporary accommodation, voids are an issue currently, impacts number of families in TA. Could look at that more strategically. A summit held via District Councils Network around lobbying, this week, a letter has been sent, HW will read the letter and ascertain if this can be shared.
* JF thanked HW and JC for the presentation. Enabling role, could work more jointly in terms of enabling and housing options, seeing similar concerns regards lettings policies and financial issues. Could we strengthen through Home-Link SLA and s106 agreements could we strengthen work there to ensure properties more affordable. South Cambs looking at a percentage of social rent within developments. Also need to consider different rent levels, and that they go to the people who need them the most, allocations. Also, more home ownership products.
* CH advised, held oversight primary care meeting this week, pharmacy sites were a concern. Affordable accommodation is an issue for Pharmacists in Cambridgeshire. Holding a recruitment campaign, including around the world.
* JC advised, in terms of complex needs people. Housing First Team that sits with chronically excluded adult team at County, should have 6 units of accommodation, biggest problem is securing the units for clients. Ask RP stock holders how we engage in that process? That RP’s have an open mind working with that client group to find more units of accommodation for those. SB can attend any of those RP / HA meetings, or others from Changing Futures which used to be called chronically excluded adults meetings. LS added many HRS homeless providers finding problems finding accommodation for those with complex needs, mental health issues, and problems accessing wrap around support.
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|  | HW to send Sarah Scase invitations to sub regional homelessness meetings. | HW | ✓ |  |  |
|  | KM will share slides with RPs | KM | ✓ |  |  |
|  | A summit held via District Councils Network around lobbying this week, letter has been sent, HW will read the letter and ascertain if this can be shared. | HW | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Hold a session between Housing Enablers Group and Homelessness Group to look at ideas and concerns. | HW | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 2: **Update from October Health and Wellbeing Board** |  |  |  |  |
|  | IG updated:* Priority 3 of the Health and Wellbeing Board is the Housing Skills and Health chapter, went to October Board and paper well received, the Peterborough Telegraph had picked up parts from the report, put an article in about cold damp mouldy homes initiative. IG thanked the Housing Board for being supportive, now need to set up task and finish groups that we haven’t done yet, cold damp homes, duty to refer, etc. Members and DPH appreciated the report, will probably bring a paper back to this Board at next meeting where the gaps are (January). CH added, thanks to the Housing Board, particular SB, DH and IG. Important ICB are sighted on this. Need to understand portfolio of estates within ICB. Housing Forum to be held on 7 November to discuss.
* SB added, there is thinking about early preparations for a second Housing Summit to be held. Still actions from first Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
* SB working currently on Key Worker Accommodation report, will then circulate.
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|  | IG to bring a paper back to Housing Board in January on gaps as stated above. | IG | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **Updates around the table** |  |  |  |  |
|  | * CH updated, last time met we discussed Breaking Barriers Innovations and links around social mobility and working with people who have spent criminal convictions. Update is trying to commission BBI and Anglia Ruskin University working on this. Start to understand where we may be able to open up opportunities for our local population particularly those with spent criminal convictions. Meeting with Anglia Ruskin next week, need to commission programmes by March next year, CH will come back and update to Housing Board.
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|  | Item 4: **AOB** |  |  |  |  |
|  | * IG currently producing a needs assessment on the built environment, called a Healthy Places JSNA, stakeholder event on 21 November. Pulling together the evidence base on what makes a healthy environment etc, fits with priority around new build. Will then give recommendations expect to be delivered though Local Plans or Housing Strategies, work is ongoing. Will take finished JSNA to Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2024.
* PS advised that Hunts is hosting its first Registered Providers Forum in November, to discuss items hitting Housing Associations and picking up climate strategy and retro fit, and health and wellbeing, repairs, etc.
* BD added that Peterborough is starting to refresh its Local plan. Commissioned new housing and economics needs assessments, out to tender, appoint start of December for that. Looking to complete draft report c. March /April 2024.
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|  | 6 October 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **The new Supported Housing Act** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.
 | SH will collate information on other legislation and bring back to December Housing Board. | SH |  |  | ✓ |
|  | All to send DH names to attend initial meeting, will then organise that. Update, dates suggested via doodle poll. | All |  | ✓ |  |
|  | Item 4: **Housing/homeless referrals/enquiries coming through to Adult Early Help** |  |  |  |  |
|  | LS to send information to SB and IG who can coordinate on behalf of Housing Board.  | LS/SB/IG | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 1 September 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: **Financial models for NHS staff accommodation** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.
 | IB to send to Housing Board a brief outline of financial models for NHS staff accommodation. | IB |  |  | ✓ |
|  | KH will circulate models to HA’s and invite IB to discuss with at their meeting. IB noted still in conversation with treasury. | KM | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 2: **The new Supported Housing Act** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item deferred to October Housing Board. |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **Piloting a checklist for Damp, Mould & Excess Cold:** observations from frontline staff |  |  |  |  |
|  | IG to circulate the checklist. | IG | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 4: **Housing Board in-person meetings discussion** |  |  |  |  |
|  | All to think about once per year in person meeting and a hybrid friendly building to use. | All |  |  | ✓ |
|  | Item 6: **AOB** |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB to think about invitation to MP’s to attend main Housing meetings. | SB | ✓ |  |  |
|  | IG to update at October Housing Board on ICS economic modelling. | IG | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 4 August 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: **Devolution Deal Part 2, relating to Affordable Housing** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.
 | Any questions for PS send, and if any groups for him to attend let him know to get message out. | All | ✓ |  |  |
|  | KM will share Paul Staines’ slides on devolution deal part 2, affordable housing with RP’s (emerging discussion only). | KM | ✓ |  |  |
| 1.
 | SB to share Paul Staines’ list of who is on working groups with Housing Board. Update. Was not able to go out to externals. | SB |  |  | ✓ |
|  | 7 July 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 2: **Housing and Health actions as part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Any housing needs assessments surveys send to IG.  | All/SB | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Any volunteers to get involved in these actions please let IG know. | All | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 14 April 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **Health and wellbeing strategy** and action planning for housing theme |  |  |  |  |
|  | DH to send IG a document launched recently updating guidance around disabled facilities grants. | DH | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 4: **Migrant / refugee working group** - proposal to link this countywide group into the Housing Board network |  |  |  |  |
|  | JE to ask County housing colleagues to contact, via their landlord forum, mentioning access for Ukrainian move ons. | JE |  | ✓ |  |
|  | 2 December 2022 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 3: Future accommodation needs for specialist housing (Lisa Sparks & Guy Fairburn) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Want to work with Guy on the Cambridgeshire figures once available, following the Peterborough model  | GF/CSHG | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 4 February 2022 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 2: Suicide Prevention Strategy Joe Davies (Suicide Prevention Manager for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) |  |  |  |  |
|  | Add suicide prevention info to the Housing, MH and SA toolkit once strategy developed further / agreed. | SB |  | ✓ |  |