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**Update on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Action 2.4: Audit of Housing Needs Assessments**: **Health and Wellbeing Board Action Plan Deliverable for collation by Q1 2023/24**

**Introduction**

* This Health and Wellbeing Board Action is cross-cutting. This task involves a stocktake of the existing and current work within the housing arena which can be fed back to the Public Health, and wider partnerships.
* The project sponsor is Iain Green; the working group comprises of Sue Beecroft and David Norton (Senior Public Health Manager in Iain’s team).
* We have reframed the project as

‘An Audit of Housing Needs Assessment: A collation of information available about housing needs assessments, existing and ongoing across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with identification of any gaps and overlaps’.

* The scoping for the project is set out at Appendix 1; there is no suggestion that existing or current work is in any way wrong or incomplete, we are checking and making it easy to locate assessments by geographical coverage, time periods and topics.

**Our approach to this deliverable up to End Feb 2024**

1. Establish an overview of the components of overall housing need that would, if available and assembled, provide a picture of housing need to support robust and joined-up discussions of housing provision requirements (this work has been substantively completed)
2. Develop a proposed methodology for collecting all existing housing needs assessments/ relevant components (and some other wider housing data) from each stakeholder and
3. Report this work to March 2024 Housing Board meeting for feedback, suggestions and further stakeholder assistance.

**Next Steps and our ask of you**

* The Housing Needs Assessments that we propose to scope into the audit for collection, and why, is set out at Appendix 2. **Do you think that there is anything else we should include?**
* We will be contacting your leads, separately, to go through the ‘audit’. **We plan to make the request to meet before the end of March.**
* At the Housing Board we would like to confirm **who are the right people for us to meet with.**

**Appendix 1 - Scoping**

**Aim**

Review the extent and scope of current Housing Needs Assessment work across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

**Objectives:**

* Establish what current housing needs assessment work has been carried out – and is in progress for each of the eight administrative bodies (the ICS, Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Cambridge City Council, South Cambs DC, East Cambs DC, Huntingdon DC, Fenland DC).
* Explore the extent to which the current housing needs assessment work in each reflects relevant criteria and groups primarily identified from published sources (statutory and some non-statutory guidance).
* Identify any significant overlaps and gaps that are apparent in the assessment work collectively and at the individual authority level (clearly explaining our basis for assessing *significance*).
* Provide a summary statement of key findings from each assessment and make initial recommendations for stakeholder engagement and further work.
* Include these in a report to H&WB board with recommendations for future work if appropriate.
* Inclusion of the assessments (subject to any necessary permissions), that have been collated, on a web page at <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housing/local-housing-knowledge/needs-assessments/>

**Appendix 2- Assessments that we propose to scope into the audit, for collection, and why**

We propose to collect and collate all assessments/components that would sit under the following headings:

|  |
| --- |
| Housing need assessments components completed for: |
| 1. Housing need |
| 2. Standard method |
| 3. Affordable housing |
| 1. Specialist provision. Could include  * Homes for Older People * Homes for people with mental health needs and autism * Homes for people with learning disability |
| 5. Student housing |
| 6. Private rented sector (could include HMOs) |
| 7. Self-build and custom house building |
| 8. Isolated homes in the countryside for essential rural workers |
| 9. Boat Dwellers |
| 10. Assessment of the size and type of housing needed |
| 11. Health/Social care sector worker housing |
| 12. Other, could include (if not covered in the list above)   * Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment * Housing affordability assessment * Assessments of health needs of homeless people |

We have identified the first eight headings through a review of English and Scottish guidance (and created supporting tables within which the source of each heading is captured, together with key definitions/descriptors).

Headings 9 and 11 are included to reflect some particular demographic factors within the county; heading 10 reflects general demographics. The inclusion of an ‘Other category’ is to ensure that we do not lose the opportunity to capture other assessments that we had not anticipated.

The ‘Specialist Provision’ heading at 4 derives from the Scottish guidance and includes people who ‘*may have similar needs, despite their individual illness, health condition or equality characteristic’.* In that guidance, Students are included within that category. We propose to consider them under the separate ‘Student’ heading (as in the English guidance) as both Peterborough, and Cambridge (in particularly substantial numbers), have student populations.