|  |
| --- |
| **The Housing Board****Cambridgeshire | Peterborough | West Suffolk** 10 May 2024: 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** |
| * Dan Horn (DH), Fenland DC *chair*
* Azma Ahmad-Pearce (AAP), CPCA
* Sue Beecroft (SB), Housing Board Coordinator
* Claire Donovan (CD), Head of Policy, Research & Campaigns, End Furniture Poverty
* Iain Green (IG), Peterborough City and Cambs County, Public Health
* Bev Hill (BH), Accent Housing
* Stephen Hills (SH), CHS
* Ali Manji (AM), Cross Keys Homes
* David Norton (DN), Peterborough City and Cambs County, Public Health
* Ana Palutek (AP), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICS
* Pamela Scott (PS), Huntingdonshire DC
* Lisa Sparks (LS), Adult Social Care, Cambs County
* Tom Walczak (TW), Fenland DC
* Heather Wood (HW), South Cambridgeshire DC
 | * Jon Collen, Huntingdonshire DC
* Bobby Duke, Peterborough City
* Danae Evans, Cambs & Pet IDVA Service
* Elaine Field, South Cambridgeshire DC
* Julie Fletcher, South Cambridgeshire DC
* Alex Francis, Accent Housing
* Chris Hill, Cambs and Peterborough ICS
* Laura Hunt, Cambridgeshire Police
* Anne Keogh, Peterborough City
* Karen Mayhew, Homes for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (H4C&P)
* Matt Oliver, Peterborough City
* Helen Reed, Cambridge City
* Sarah Scase, Peterborough City
* Sam Shimmon, Cambridge City
* Cristina Turner, OPCC
* Jane Wilson, Cambridge City
* West Suffolk Council
 |
| **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.
 |

|  | Items | Lead | To do | Doing | Done |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 10 May 2024 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: **End Furniture Poverty** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Presentation from Claire Donovan (CD) - Head of Policy, Research & Campaigns, End Furniture Poverty. Find the slides here:<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housingboard/>* End Furniture Poverty is the campaigning arm of registered charities and social businesses known as FRC Group. Not for profit business launched in 2015.
* Carries out work to improve understanding of furniture poverty, raise awareness, promote solutions and carry out research (published substantial reports). Provide guides, work with other charities and direct advice.
* Definitions: Furniture Poverty - the inability to afford or access basic furniture, appliances and furnishings that provide a household with a socially acceptable standard of living. Furniture insecurity - a household has the items they need but could not afford any replacement. Furniture destitution - a household has none or very few of the items needed or in a long-term chronic situation.
* Figures discussed as to how many people live in furniture poverty, find more data on their website:

[Home - End Furniture Poverty](https://endfurniturepoverty.org/)* Cost of furniture mentioned and implications of using higher purchase or using doorstep lenders. Also, impact of furniture poverty on physical and mental health, and social wellbeing (Extensive Furniture Poverty report). Problems also increase associated costs to the NHS, social care and have a personal toll.

Solutions:* Furnished tenancies, however, 37 Local Authorities have closed their furniture reuse schemes. There is also the grant making sector and furniture gifting schemes.
* Now working with Cambridgeshire on a cross benefit analysis project to interrogate Local Authority cost savings, and across wider public purse as part of conversations with DWP, and the wider value of crisis support. The Household Support Fund was mentioned, and encouraging social housing sector landlords to step up.
* Benefits to the landlords and benefits to the tenants was discussed, rental agreements, and how many social rented properties are let furnished.
* Final report on flooring published, looking at how and why landlords should be providing flooring.
* Ongoing project with the Public Health Team at Liverpool City Council, working with landlords on how to put a scheme in place, hoping to start in Manchester also, happy to do in Cambridgeshire. Embarking on national campaign to try to look at legislative change to force landlords to provide at least 10% of their stock as furnished.
* CD happy to have follow up meetings and conversations to discuss specific areas.
* SH advised that Cambridge Housing Society (CHS) work with Cambridgeshire County and administer the Local Assistance Scheme for them. CHS is actively looking at furnished tenancies and floor covering, project happening to explore everything set out. Also, Liverpool developed a new furniture scheme called Furniture Flex.
* Social rented Housing Associations’ policy was discussed, data captured, e.g. Citizen Housing in the West Midlands and Thirteen Group in the North East are providing flooring in new relets.
* Cambridgeshire furniture poverty was mentioned, particularly children without beds.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Claire Donovan of End Furniture Poverty to send details of Furniture Flex organisation, and how it operates to SB. | ClaireDonovan | ✓ |  |  |
|  | SH to share with Housing Board, details of CHS Local Assistance Scheme when complete. | SH | ✓ |  |  |
|  | IG to look at general data for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. | IG | ✓ |  |  |
| 1.
 | Look to key housing provider forums to present to (includes own stock Cambridge City and South Cambs DC). | SB/DH | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 2: **Draft Housing Board Work Plan 2024/25** |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB updated:* Draft Housing Board work plan circulated. Collating all subjects to be discussed at Housing Board in the coming year. SB listed some specific projects.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB to update the Housing Board Work Plan. | SB | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **Cambs County Strategic Commissioning Intentions** |  |  |  |  |
|  | LS presented slides:* Document already shared, which is out for comment, called Strategic intentions for delivering accommodation with care and support across Cambridgeshire. On needs for customers who have eligible social care needs (some overlap with extra care). LS presented slides, high level overview. Worked with Strategic Housing Group looking at data (published on website). Linked into County Council ambitions and also part of Care Act market, shaping duties which they have, pulling strands together. Also this links with new Market Position Statement when that is developed.
* Adopted key principles: A focus on co-production and co-design of new services. Explore opportunities to use County Council own land or assets. Accessible and community focused services. Local staffing and support capacity.
* Key needs, gaps and options was discussed.
* Demand profiles (link in document and slides) which will be reviewed regularly to ensure they reflect changes in demography, policy, and taking account of new developments up coming. Ultimately will try to develop a pipeline of accommodation for when people are coming forward.
* LS discussed slides showing example of growth accommodation type for older people, additional supply required of extra care units 2021-2036, projected growth needed for specialist accommodation.
* DH advised, good to reference the link to ensuring any scheme does not have an impact on housing benefit subsidy and implications. SH added that is crucial to get Housing Benefit right, CHS is trying to experiment with identifying what would otherwise be general needs houses, where they can take two or three tenants. SB mentioned the Planning element.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | LS to share Cambs County Strategic Commissioning Intentions slides.  | LS | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Feedback any comments on the ‘Strategic intentions for delivering Accommodation with care and support across Cambridgeshire’ document with LS. | LS | ✓ |  |  |
| 1.
 | LS to send a list to DH, of contacts within Cambs County with whom we can start Strategic Commissioning Intentions discussions. | LS | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 4: **AOB** |  |  |  |  |
|  | * IG discussed that **Public Health across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough** are separating, back to two Local Authorities, mirrors what is happening with Social Care and other County Council Directorates. New structures will be implemented. Jyoti Atri who was Director of Public Health left, also Emmeline Watkins, who was Deputy DPH for Peterborough. Val Thomas is now Interim DPH for Cambridgeshire, until recruited to.
* SB discussed **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Financial Capability Forum**. A group of agencies that get together, who look at financial capability, benefits, changes in DWP policies and various projects, mailing list of c.200. The person who runs that from CHS, Sue Reynolds, retires in July. The need for a replacement person was discussed. SB asked the Housing Board on any thoughts, connections, perceptions regards this forum. Can have a quick summary and then an open discussion and talk to the County. Would be good to include housing providers too.
 |  |  |  |  |
| 1.
 | Any thoughts, connections or perceptions regards the Financial Capability Forum, feedback to SB  | All | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 5: **Sub-Regional Funding and Options** |  |  |  |  |
|  | DH, SB, PS and HW stayed on for this item, whilst the others left the meeting.* Funding was discussed for this year. Peterborough had decided to stop funding part of the work of the Housing Board, but will continue funding Cambridgeshire Insight and Hometrack. Also CPCA could possibly contribute to the Housing Market Bulletin.
* It was agreed to use the reserve funds to cover costs, and ensure contribution figures are shared early in order for partners to budget effectively. Would also prepare a Service Level Agreement. The Housing Board name and logo design was mentioned, and subgroups discussed.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB to prepare a document on Sub-Regional Funding Options going forward, and share with partners. | SB | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 1 March 2024 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: **Update on Health and Wellbeing ‘audit of housing assessments’ project** |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB and DN updated:* David Norton (DN) works with Iain Green within the Public Health team. DN had prepared a template for an audit of housing needs assessments, including in response to calls from across Health, for them to gain a better grasp across the assessments which overlap with housing issues. In order for us to review that we have everything we need, is there anything new to add? Various topics specified; recent homelessness health audit carried out (guidance for that). DN working on how do you set some parameters to carry out consistent audit. Can be added to and developed over time.
* Now wish to compile a list of questions in terms of, if an assessment is needed, will we produce a survey, written, telephone, or via Teams call.
* DH mentioned an event in recent months at South Cambridgeshire DC offices in Cambourne with Health partners, where it was noted there is a need to break down what everyone has and does in an more understandable way. DN, JB, SS, and MR happy to take part. AF will mention to her team at Accent Housing.
* Harder to reach groups was mentioned, prison leavers and other groups. Other groups, particularly armed forces personnel, those leaving military service, who can have health and housing related issues, the severely ill group.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 2: **Housing Board planning for 2024/25** |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB had provided a document to assist this discussion and shared it onscreen. Looking at Housing Board’s priority areas for the coming year. DH listed the key items for each priority. The group discussed ideas.**Priority 1:** Deliver new homes and communities to support economic success:* There is a piece of working being carried out by the CPCA linked to large infrastructure projects across the patch which may also be relevant. Could invite a guest from CPCA to Housing Board for that, the infrastructure paper is being written now.
* Land availability, analysis regards changes in land availability over time, types of land and relationship with water, etc. DN
* The Planning process - if it is consistent and maximises on what can be done.
* The move to the Community Infrastructure Levy and implications was discussed.
* Housing market bulletins, a key finding from the survey carried out by Cambs and Peterborough ICS was that there is lack of information as to what is available for them. Who would be creating the bulletins etc? SB advised, approaching 60th edition of the bulletin, which show the number of sales, average prices of properties and rents, tenures, districts and housing costs. Publicly available. SB will attain a jargon buster for housing.

**Priority 2:** Ensure homes and services support better health and wellbeing:* Development of the new ICS is opening up new opportunities. Could we do more on this as a group?
* Strands of work supported under the Regulation of Supported Housing Act, could some of this sit under that? Supported mechanisms joined up with supporting this group, need, fill in the gaps, etc.
* Changes Futures programme concept.
* Focus on work looking at high intensity use of A&E services and wider determinants of health.
* Disabled facilities grants, and changes made. How difficult it is to secure homes which are adaptable or accessible on new sites.
* Wellbeing and happiness, and what research is out there regards that, particularly housing solutions. Surveys carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council on larger new developments. Work carried out in relation to where things have not gone well in new developments in Cambridgeshire.
* National Planning Policy Framework sections from December 2023, gives best underpinning for public health.
* Surveys carried out after the Covid pandemic, effects of lockdown, and housing design in terms of happiness.
* Guidance regards moving to self-contained settings and push on health and wellbeing side.

**Priority 3:** Improve standards in existing homes and encourage best use of all homes:* Connections better between the private sector and County Council group. Interfaces with some of the actions, of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy action plan for housing.
* Empty Homes a big priority in Fenland.
* Work currently on sharing links everyone’s information on HMO regulation and management. Staff link back to health and wellbeing messages that ICS and public health might want to pass on to residents in HMO’s.
* Renters reform bill, one part is looking at landlord database sets. How we as a Board look at implications on what the bill is asking in terms of LA’s engaging over what they set up regards landlord database sets, and streams of work that teams may be responsible for. DH discussed further.
* Hoarding and Cambridge City Council carrying out tenancy audits, a significant piece of work. Hoarding has significantly increased since the Covid pandemic. Some work has been carried out regards working up the hoarding protocol, may need to reflect on that work again, and wider links into ICS pressures (there is a Board which looks at hoarding).
* Mental health needs in this area was discussed. South Cambs have funded work via their Mental Health worker to look at hoarding and safeguarding issues.

**Priority 4:** Identify and meet housing need, extend housing choice and tackle homelessness:* DTR. Action from the health and wellbeing strategy, looking at statistics on how many agencies are making referrals and how that compares to people applying as homeless, can bring this data to Housing Board.
* Key lines of enquiry, where support is needed, how can we help, where work has broken down look at case studies and their impact.
* Annual review of homelessness on the Housing Board agenda already.
* Veterans and care leavers was mentioned. Care leavers are a protected characteristic, the Board discussed Ofsted in relation to this. There is a care leavers protocol within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, being reviewed currently with housing authorities.
* Current consultation on allocation of social housing via Government, could be implications of that.
* Also covers other models, build to rent, rent to home buy, etc. Other unusual community led models was mentioned, self-build, etc. New models coming forward would be looked at, shared learning.
* Housing First model, complex multiple support care leavers, etc, a preventative approach. Interfaces closely with Changing Futures work. DH discussed funding regards this.

**Priority 5:** Understand housing costs and the cost of living crisis in our area, and tackle the impact of both:* Household Support Fund coming to an end. Pressure in system to sign post and get support for people. Work in individual Districts could be captured.
* At South Cambs there are two Income Maximisation Officers, developed tenancy training for people (to start trial of those) to understand better their budgeting responsibilities (those who have not had a tenancy before). Care Leavers Team are interested in this training. HW can share the practice if required.
* Financial capability forum, a regular topic discussed around when homes are first let to people who are destitute and no funds for carpets, etc. Links into conversations at South Cambs, their Ukraine visitors benefitted from a South Cambs furniture package, had discussed if can offer that out to wider groups, ongoing work needed, as affects budgets. Also people who don’t take up the benefits they are eligible for, a data project. Housing Board could look into these. SS shared a link in the meeting chat: <https://endfurniturepoverty.org/>
* Could have an overview of District low income family tracker, to locate people who do not claim benefits, targeting particular groups on benefit uptake. Will ask a representative from that group to present at Housing Board. Also ask Graham Saint, Strategy Officer, Cambridge City, to explain what LIFT does.

**Priority 6:** Provide housing with a low impact on the environment, which is energy efficient, and which limits our carbon footprint:* Cambs County Council carried out a project which maps the energy performance certificate of all homes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, should help highlight areas of poor energy performance.
* Links to damp, mould and condensation in homes. Cambridge City starting to help pilot an easy to use tool for anyone who visits a person in their own home in order that they can find help if there is damp, mould or hoarding, etc. Links to affordability and not heating properties. Health implications due to poverty was discussed, Fenland looking at this.
* AAP had made contact with a company who could attend Housing Board to discuss retrofitting. Looking at social stock and housing association stock (deal with private tenants too at a cost), looking at better carbon omissions, AA will enquire.
* Fenland had submitted two bids for Clarion for the social housing decarbonisation programme. Clarion could attend Housing Board to discuss learning.
* Accent Housing had been involved in some sustainability pilots on retrofits, AF could share those with Housing Board.
* Damp and mould, have information sheets for tenants, AF could also share. Fenland have those too. Could add all information sheets on the insight page.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | AP to test out the housing market bulletin and feedback. Update: Not a manageable bulletin, any other ideas from Housing Board colleagues would be gratefully received. | AP |  |  | ✓ |
|  | SB to investigate quality of life surveys carried out by Cambs County Council, and post Covid pandemic surveys. Update: Some of the information available but not all, IG will find what is available and send to Housing Board. | SB | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **AOB**  |  |  |  |  |
|  | * DH asked the Housing Board members of any interest in taking on the Chair of this meeting, to contact him to discuss. DH is happy to step down, had been carrying out this role for a few years.
* AAP asked if wish to invite the new CPCA director to Housing Board. DH advised will send meeting invites and add her to the email distribution list.
* **C&P ICS Housing Need Survey Evaluation Report.** CH updated; survey carried out previously regards how NHS workforce feel about their accommodation. Attained a picture on what workforce is thinking about that, international staff too. Fed back to SB. Now need to understand our own estates portfolio within the ICB and acute trusts, can do this with the Estates group. Also how do we get a map of what is out there for the next 3 – 5 years. Have challenges on workforce retention, especially cost of living. Housing Board has representatives on the Accommodation Forum. Travel and expenditure could be an issue too, CH discussed further studies on this. SB mentioned a new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment called Healthy Place which will involve a mapping of all the larger housing development sites across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
* **Government plans on asylum seeker housing.** SS updated, specifically in relation to announcement regards various homes for Ukraine schemes, changes to existing schemes. All the changes will impact on the number of refugees which can come to the UK from the Ukraine, and risk to Local Authorities and charities, and increased risk of homelessness. SS will forward a briefing paper on this to SB to share, also relevant letters that came out from central government, could discuss as a team if required. Need to lobby Government and pick up with LGA or District Council’s Network. Any District Council support would be welcome. DH discussed the dispersal programme.
* **Cambs County strategic commissioning intentions.** Lisa Sparks will update atthe April Housing Board meeting. JC added, the commissioning standards of the County will be key in terms of new regulation of the Supported Housing Act, need to be clear as a Board that the Act is putting emphasis on the Districts and Cities leading on strategies, working closely with County.
* BD thanked Housing Board for reading or commenting on the Peterborough draft Housing Strategy. Comments due by midnight 4 March.
* Need a Chair for the April Housing Board meeting as DH sends his apologies.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Housing Board members to contact DH if interested in taking on the Chair of this meeting. | All |  | ✓ |  |
|  | Invite the new CPCA Director Judith Baker to Housing Board, send meeting invites and add to distribution list. | SB/EF |  | ✓ |  |
|  | SS to send SB briefing paper and relevant letters regards Homes for Ukraine Scheme changes, for sharing with Housing Board. | SS/SB |  | ✓ |  |
|  | 12 January 2024 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: **Safe Accommodation Strategy review and the VAWG needs assessment** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Danae Evans (DE), Safe Accommodation Programme Manager, Cambs & Peterborough, Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Service (IDVA) presented slides:* Under DLUHC, had introduced the Safe Accommodation Strategy for a 3 year period. Now reviewing that and made changes, welcoming feedback particularly from housing providers and those supporting survivors of domestic abuse within accommodation settings. The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) needs assessment also fed into this.
* DE thanked Housing Board colleagues for supporting the Safe Accommodation Strategy, positive joint working.
* Domestic Abuse Act set out the statute to prepare the strategy, first published October 2021.
* Identification of local needs was discussed, still a challenge around provision of easily accessible safe accommodation and provision of therapeutic support for survivors and children. Need to look at cultural competency amongst service providers in addressing complex circumstances, ensuring ongoing support and training provided, across housing tenure. Ensure provision across urban and rural areas. Also look at how we can collate domestic abuse data collectively, particularly around housing, local needs and domestic abuse.
* DE discussed Safe Accommodation Strategies across the UK which are making a difference. Domestic abuse still a significant issue, 32,000 survivors of domestic abuse reporting to police in this area. Issues with crimes against property high, and impact on children still high. Increase in IDVA referrals.
* DE discussed successes and stated positive figures. Housing Teams are welcoming IDVA’s. Managed reciprocals a focus going forward. Supported DAHA. Flexible funding available to cover many issues for survivors of domestic abuse, used in a wide range of support. 87 children referred to therapeutic support. Delivered webinars and local landlord forums and steering groups within the private sector, wish to continue that. All also available to survivors who have no recourse to public funds.

*Proposed changes going forward:** Adults with learning disabilities can be particularly impacted by domestic abuse, finding safe spaces for them to be able to disclose or seek support is vital, therefore introducing Shared Lives Project.
* Funding an Eastern European IDVA in Cambridgeshire.
* No longer focuses on DAHA as work is underway.
* Removed Housing First IDVA role from the strategy, however, do want to increase links with those working with survivors of domestic abuse.
* Develop a feedback mechanism, gaining views when looking into the commissioning of services.
* Delivery of 2024-27 strategy overseen by Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City, to be agreed by Cabinet and overseen by other partners, including Housing Board. Action plan generated when strategy published.
* Feedback required from Housing teams, providers, organisations and agencies about the strategy, particularly how we can collate domestic abuse data information from housing better, feedback ideas and resources to DE. HW added that the Local Authorities try to standardise what is sent regards data, can also look at qualitative as well as quantitative work. SB can help with sourcing data.
* SB mentioned disability housing and adapted housing. Also, Changing Futures and those with multiple disadvantage, DE will contact Tom Tallon regards this.
* JB mentioned how Health could also support. Therapeutic support is outside the NHS, but have Health IDVA’s. DH can link DE in with that for Fenland people via the hospital they attend in Kings Lynn, although cross border.
* DLUHC are interested in hearing from stakeholders and other organisations who are involved in this strategy.
* JC (Hunts) mentioned the housing IDVA, co-located, works well with the team. JC discussed dispersed accommodation and acquiring properties, advised that is the forum to help. DE discussed further and areas in the district where work is being done on that. No dispersed accommodation in Fenland and Cambridge City currently, any support with extending that welcome. LS mentioned that when homelessness services were retendered, there was a requirement in there to provide self-contained provision for females, DE discussed that further and would be interested going forward, HW happy to input to that. KM added that when the model is ready, could distribute to the RP groups.
* Private Sector Housing Group – DH can link DE in with Jo Evans at Fenland regards this sector. Best way to engage is private sector forums, and housing standards teams. Private sector part of the conversation.
* DE can come back to Housing Board at a later date to update on the strategy.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | DH to arrange a meeting to work on the no dispersed accommodation model, understand how it works (also links regards self-contained accommodation). No dispersed accommodation in Fenland and Cambridge City currently, any support with extending that welcome. | DHAll |  | ✓ |  |
| 1.
 | Feedback requested asap from Housing teams, providers, organisations and agencies about the Safe Accommodation Strategy review, particularly how we can collate domestic abuse data information from housing better. Feedback ideas and resources to Danae Evans (wish to take to Council March 2024). | All |  | ✓ |  |
|  | Item 2: **Update from October Health and Wellbeing Board** |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB updated:* Discussed at previous Housing Board meeting, that there was a housing update at the Health and Wellbeing Board, particularly looking at the accommodation needs assessment. The Public Health Team were collating a list of all the different assessments that related to housing (that list is now on the Cambridgeshire Insight page) clarifying all the areas of housing needs assessed and if there were any gaps. Further updates from Iain Green of Health, possibly February meeting.
* KM mentioned the single version approach to housing needs assessment, in particular in relation to damp, mould and condensation. IG had wanted to pilot something to be used by LA’s, and could therefore be used by Housing Associations. A single approach would be great across all sectors. SB updated that there has been a pilot pushed out in Cambridge on damp, mould and condensation particularly focused private sector housing. Iain Green also trying to push this with Health visitor partners, again possible update at February meeting.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **Reminder of Housing Board planning session for 2024/25** |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB updated:* Each year in February or March we normally discuss what we want to cover in the following year at the Housing Board meetings, within the 6 priority areas, to re-think or prompt further thoughts. Spread of themes, invite guests to Housing Board and share good practice.
 |  |  |  |  |
| 1.
 | SB to discuss the approach for the Housing Board 2024-25 planning session at the February meeting, then add that item to the March agenda. | SBEF |  |  | ✓ |
|  | Item 4: **Updates around the table** |  |  |  |  |
|  | DH – Fenland:* Fenland focus, is in relation to purchasing properties for the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF), trying to purchase 29, still need to find 2. DH explained how LAHF funds had worked for Fenland, LAHF 1 offered 9 properties, 8 for Ukraine families and 1 for Afghan family. LAHF 2 offered 5 properties, 4 for Afghan and 1 for general needs homelessness, also requested a further 15 general needs/homelessness, to be secured by end March 2024. More have been offered to Fenland by LAHF which need to be applied for. HW commented on the South Cambs DC properties bid.

HW – South Cambs:* Internally at South Cambs DC carrying out work on developing training offer and making small bespoke videos regards safeguarding in South Cambs. Also, there is a County cuckooing policy that has been developed, HW had added text for the words regards allocation of properties in that, however, the draft policy, feel that it should focus wider and not just on housing allocations, and needs a more robust housing engagement. The Board discussed. HW to invite Shelley Ward, Police, Crime and Commissioner Team who is developing the policy, to Housing Board to discuss. SB added that some text had gone into the Mental Health Substance Misuse toolkit regards cuckooing.

HR – Cambridge City:* Cambridge City and South Cambs are consulting on their Housing Strategy, going out on 22 January for 6 weeks. Looking at doing a workshop for RP’s, as some content is around new development policies.

BD – Peterborough:* Peterborough are working on their Housing Strategy and going to Cabinet on Monday for permission to go out to consultation on 22 January.

LS – Cambs County:* Cambridgeshire Business and Financial Plan going to Committee on 16 January, LS will share the papers in this meeting chat.

Cm - West Suffolk:* West Suffolk looking at their Housing Strategy, at early stages, looking at finalising the accessibility of GTAA. Also commissioned an update for the affordable housing chapters, to inform the Local Plan, published in coming weeks. DH and CM discussed recruitment for Local Plan preparation and viability documents.
 |  |  |  |  |
| 1.
 | HW to invite Shelley Ward, Police, Crime and Commissioner Team who is developing the County cuckooing policy, to Housing Board to discuss. Update at March meeting: To go on work plan for the year (HW will ask if requires sooner). | HW |  |  | ✓ |
|  | Please all contribute to the Peterborough, and the Cambridge City & South Cambs, Housing Strategy upcoming consultations. | All | ✓ |  |  |
| 1.
 | Cambridgeshire Business and Financial Plan going to Committee on 16 January, LS to share the papers in HB meeting chat. | LS | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 5: **AOB** |  |  |  |  |
|  | * AP updated on the needs assessment for ICS workers. Latest version of report sent to their Communications Team for final accessibility check. Some suggested changes provided by SB; Chris Hill is applying those.
* AAP advised that CPCA have a new Executive Director for Place and Connectivity, Judith Barker.
* SH updated that Cambridge City Cllr Lewis Herbert asked if anyone wants to produce a radio show to go out in a few weeks’ time, on the need for affordable housing in Cambridge City. Send SH any suggestions. HR to discuss with SH. SB about to launch the latest Housing Market bulletin.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Send SH any suggestions for a radio show regards the need for affordable housing in Cambridge City. | All | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 1 December 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Cancelled. |  |  |  |  |
|  | 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.
 |  |  |  |  |
| 1.
 | 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. Update: follow up summits and meetings around that. | 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.
 |  |  |  |  |
| 1.
 | IG to bring a paper back to Housing Board in January on gaps as stated above. Update: To bring to February Housing Board. | 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.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 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.
 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 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 |  | ✓ |  |