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| **The Housing Board**  **Cambridgeshire | Peterborough | West Suffolk**  12 July 2024: 10.00 am to 12.00 noon  Held online via Microsoft Teams  Meetings 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 * Danae Evans (DE), Cambs & Pet IDVA Service * Alex Francis (AF), Accent Housing * Iain Green (IG), Peterborough City and Cambs County, Public Health * Stephen Hills (SH), CHS * Ali Manji (AM), Cross Keys Homes * Ana Palutek (AP), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICS * Matthew Ryder (MR), National Probation Service * Sam Shimmon (SS), Cambridge City * Lisa Sparks (LS), Adult Social Care, Cambs County * Heather Wood (HW), South Cambridgeshire DC | * Jonathan Bartram, NHS * Jon Collen, Huntingdonshire DC * Jo Evans, Fenland * Elaine Field, South Cambridgeshire DC * Julie Fletcher, South Cambridgeshire DC * Sarah Hebblethwaite, Peterborough City * Chris Hill, Cambs and Peterborough ICS * Matt Oliver, Peterborough City * Helen Reed, Cambridge City * Sarah Scase, Peterborough City * Pamela Scott, Huntingdonshire DC * Neil Sloan, Cambridgeshire Police * Cristina Turner, OPCC |
| **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](mailto: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 |
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|  | 12 July 2024 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: **Domestic abuse policies, support, and links** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Danae Evans, Safe Accommodation Programme Manager, IDVA Service:   * Last attended Housing Board November 2023, small changes to strategies mentioned then have been adopted. * Presented slides entitled Safe Accommodation Strategies 2024-2027. This Housing Board is mentioned as part of those, DE requested more feedback from this Board on sharing data, who relevant contacts are, needs assessments, reviews, etc., in order to ascertain gaps, what to focus on and information sharing on domestic abuse and the impact on Housing providers.   DE discussed:   * What the strategies want to achieve, identification of local needs, gypsy and traveller community (DH advised 64 pitches in Fenland), consistency and support. * Dispersed safe accommodation provided across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and the property contents. * Target hardening, providing additional home security to domestic abuse survivors within 48 hours of referral. * Housing IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) across Cambs and Peterborough, located within Housing offices and linked with Housing Associations. DH mentioned a possible Fenland location discussion for an IDVA, and other topics. * Flexible funding, applied for to meet survivors’ urgent and immediate needs, available to clients of IDVA service and other domestic abuse organisations in the area. * Managed reciprocals. Social housing moves within the region, for special circumstances. * Raising awareness of domestic abuse within the private rental sector. No recourse to public funds, survivors sometimes dependent on their abusers financially. Continue to fund refuges in Cambs and Peterborough. * Shared Lives Project for survivors with learning disabilities. Two Eastern European IDVA’s available with Polish and Lithuanian as their first language. Removed DAHA from strategies, as doing well elsewhere. Removal of Housing First IDVA role as not financially viable, but developing links with those working with survivors who are rough sleeping. * The delivery of the Safe Accommodation Strategy. DE thanked Housing Board for the work done with, and for, survivors. * IG mentioned a Public Health Intelligence Team based in Peterborough, with a focus on housing and public health, contact IG for Peterborough City data. * HW advised that South Cambs have developed a safe space room at their Cambourne offices (which is bookable) for interviews involving traumatic situations. * Link shared in meeting chat: [Domestic violence and abuse - Family Rights Group (frg.org.uk)](https://frg.org.uk/get-help-and-advice/a-z-of-terms/domestic-violence-and-abuse/) |  |  |  |  |
|  | HW and IG to discuss data which DE might need for the Safe Accommodation Strategies; how different partners can help. | HW / IG | ✓ |  |  |
|  | All to let SB know if signed up for the Homes for Cathy commitment and also if DAHA accredited, for the Housing Providers list. | All |  | ✓ |  |
|  | SB carrying out an audit of needs assessments, therefore any needs about DA or violence against women and girls, let SB know. | All |  | ✓ |  |
|  | Item 2: **Home-Link annual update** |  |  |  |  |
|  | HW shared slides onscreen and discussed:   * Looking at Allocation framework over the last year. Home-Link system used, each LA manages their own properties but there is a central Manager (Sharon Lock) and Admin Officer who manage partnership, overseen by Sub-Regional Home-Link Management Board, chaired by HW. * HW talked through summary of 2023/24 achievements, annual statistics and forward plan. * Achievements: Reviewed charging structure for partners, provided Information Governance recommendations, commenced testing of new lettings platform (new user form, enhancements to method of placing adverts, password reset facility, guidance on advertising and shortlisting Section 106 properties). * Statistics: End of March 2024 - 12,074 live applications (more data/trends/level of detail, in report). During 2023/24 let 3,572 properties (increased from last year particularly in Hunts due to new builds, approx. 1/3 of those advertised). IG mentioned that recommendation of the Healthy Places JSNA is to provide one electronic resource for interpreting population demands/moves in relation to GP practices and registering, etc. CoSMIC (Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee at CCC) was noted. * Forward plan: Completion of Information Governance recommendation, introduction of new CBL platform and procurement of new contract for CBL and HPA2. |  |  |  |  |
|  | HW to look at turnover of older properties, and new builds meeting high level of demand comparison (could use Diamond Affordability analysis model which includes graphs on housing stock, relets and new build). | HW | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **Discussion following General Election** |  |  |  |  |
|  | * Mayors visited Prime Minister, link into Autumn statement with Chancellor requirement to develop a local growth plan quickly, Councils asked to submit nominees for that. Given steer in terms of thoughts around helping to inform the Local Gov plan. * Infrastructure delivery framework project, and pitches for funding was mentioned. * Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) had prepared a document setting out their key thoughts. * CPCA have new documents in progress; shared ambition, state of the region, IDF and others. Need senior Officers’ direction. CPCA will carry out pitches. Meeting to be held regards Best Value, AAP will feedback on that. * Clear decisions on grant funding needed in order to deliver affordable rented homes, which was discussed further. * Supported Housing Licensing aspect regulation was mentioned. Some areas have set up clearance schemes to check eligibility. Overdue for consultation, need to encourage heavy response to that from the non DWP sector. Shared in chat: [12703\_19-Towards-the-National-Care-Service.pdf (labour.org.uk)](https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/12703_19-Towards-the-National-Care-Service.pdf) * Government pushing for growth, Northstowe mentioned in opening speech. Growth project in Cambridgeshire may remain but with more local engagement as part of the process. Greater Cambridge is one of the biggest growth areas. * New Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Matthew Pennycook - reports of him being knowledgeable, well briefed and well versed on the issues. * Looking out for news on the Household Support Fund, the Decent Homes Standard, the Renters Reform Bill implementation and the Leasehold Act. * Turnaround in local MP representation was noted, which may show an impact going forward (Sam Carling mentioned). |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB to explore setting up a colleague group/chat room, for updates following the General Election. | SB | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 6: **AOB** |  |  |  |  |
|  | * It was noted that Cambridge City Council had received a regulatory judgement from the Regulator for breach of the Rent Standard. Not currently in breach of that as corrected rents from April, now working through calculations of historic refunds. In order to come out of that, it would likely involve an in depth Inspection under the new regulatory regime, and a look to replace the judgement with those inspection results. Discussing the future of local government for Cambridge consultation, was mentioned: [Share your views with Cambridge City Council about the current structure of local government - Cambridge City Council](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/news/2024/07/08/share-your-views-with-cambridge-city-council-about-the-current-structure-of-local-government) * A Housing and Health (second) summit to be held on 29 July at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Liz Watts, CEO to host as SRO. To review achievements and look at forward plans. * Joint Health and Wellbeing Board event to be held on 19 July at New Shire Hall. * Changing Futures workshop on 16 July regards developing a trauma informed system, focussing on different partners across the area working together better. * IG will represent Peterborough only at Housing Board going forward, from 1 September. * Link to draft Housing Board Service Level Agreement added here: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housingboard/> |  |  |  |  |
|  | 7 June 2024 |  |  |  |  |
|  | *Notes to follow from Sue Beecroft* |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: Cuckooing |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 2: Domestic abuse policies, support, and links |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 3: Health and Wellbeing action plan update |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 4: Housing Board updated annual plan |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 5: Financial Capability Forum |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 6: AOB |  |  |  |  |
|  | 10 May 2024 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 1: **End Furniture Poverty** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Claire Donovan of End Furniture Poverty to send details of Furniture Flex organisation, and how it operates to SB. | CD | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 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 | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 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 to update the Housing Board Work Plan. | SB |  |  | ✓ |
|  | Item 3: **Cambs County Strategic Commissioning Intentions** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 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 | ✓ |  |  |
|  | 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** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Any thoughts, connections or perceptions regards the Financial Capability Forum, feedback to SB | All |  |  | ✓ |
|  | Item 5: **Sub-Regional Funding and Options** |  |  |  |  |
|  | SB to prepare a document on Sub-Regional Funding Options going forward, and share with partners. | SB |  |  | ✓ |
|  | 1 March 2024 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Item 2: **Housing Board planning for 2024/25** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 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. | IG | ✓ |  |  |
|  | Item 3: **AOB** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 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** |  |  |  |  |
|  | DH to arrange a meeting to work on the dispersed accommodation model, understand how it works. No dispersed accommodation in Fenland and Cambridge City currently, any support with extending that welcome. | DH All |  | ✓ |  |
|  | Feedback requested 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 to Danae Evans (taking to Council March 2024). | All |  |  | ✓ |
|  | Item 2: **Update from October Health and Wellbeing Board** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Please all contribute to the Peterborough, and the Cambridge City & South Cambs, Housing Strategy upcoming consultations. | All |  |  | ✓ |
|  | Cambridgeshire Business and Financial Plan going to Committee on 16 January, LS to share the papers in HB meeting chat. | LS |  |  | ✓ |
|  | Item 2: **Update from October Health and Wellbeing Board** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 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 4: **AOB** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 6 October 2023 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 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 | ✓ |  |  |