

# HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

## The Executive

11 August 2022

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Homeless Strategy Report</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>Cllr Fiona Sloman – Executive Councillor for Housing &amp; Licensing</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICERS:</b>	<b>Helen Core – Head of Housing Services</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>All</b>

**Appendix A – Derbyshire Homeless Strategy**

**Appendix B – Countywide Data Report**

**Appendix C – Policy Framework & Legislative Background**

**Appendix D – Good Practice Guide**

**Appendix E – Action Plan**

### **1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 This report outlines to Members the Derbyshire wide Homeless Strategy for 2022-27, which has been developed through close collaboration with all Derbyshire Housing leads for each authority, Portfolio holders, NHS, Police, Probation and voluntary sector agencies

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Executive note the content of this report and support the delivery of the Homelessness strategy county wide.

### **3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 It is a legal requirement to carry out periodic reviews of homelessness in our areas and publish a Homeless Strategy based on these results.
- 3.2 Each Derbyshire authority has previously done so independently, however the pandemic has lead to much more focused and collaborative ways of working, to the benefit of residents and enabling best use of resource to be made.

3.3 To this end a new Derbyshire wide strategy has been developed to solidify the partnership and collaborative working that has developed over the last two years to improve homeless provision for our residents

3.4 By adopting this strategy we will be able to meet the continued challenges ahead such as meeting the needs of those with multiple and complex needs and the coming issues related to the increases in the cost of living.

#### **4. How this Report Links to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 As part of the Corporate Plan aim ‘Supporting our communities to create a healthier, safer, cleaner High Peak’.

### **MARTIN OWEN** **Executive Director (Finance & Customer Services)**

#### **Web Links and Background Papers**

n/a

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#### **5. Background and Detail**

5.1 The challenges we have faced over the course of the last two years has brought about creativity, innovation, improved partnership working and a wide recognition of the link between homelessness and health.

5.2 Through our co-ordinated approach to tackling homelessness and service delivery we have seen improved outcomes for many people across North Derbyshire with long and complex histories of homelessness.

5.3 High Peak Borough Council has an excellent reputation for the way it delivers its homelessness service. We always try to find positive outcomes for our residents regardless of the complexities we may encounter, however, we have for some time faced difficulties linking vulnerable people into the services that they need. Those with enduring multiple complex needs have often had difficulty engaging with drug, alcohol and mental health services because often those services apply rigid rules that lead to people falling between the gaps. Likewise, we have evidence to show that services will often refuse to take people on because they need one problem addressing (drug addiction) before they can access a service (mental health). This leads to a chicken and egg situation whereby people are left without any support service at all.

5.4 The new county wide homelessness and rough sleeping strategy (see appendix 1) has a core aim to break down system blockages, and argues that

a multi-disciplinary approach is needed to make systems work better and that services are flexibly designed around the needs of our customers.

- 5.5 The Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) is now fully embedded and this legislation has enabled councils to do much more for people facing homelessness. The Government are committed to ending rough sleeping by 2024 and this new Derbyshire wide strategy is fully in keeping with the positive spirit of the homelessness legislation and the ambition of the Government's target.
- 5.6 The strategy makes reference to the new Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and contained within the list of priority actions are proposals to increase support and easier access to accommodation for abuse victims.
- 5.7 The strategy has been developed through close collaboration between the Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group (DHOG), Derbyshire County Council, Public Health, NHS, Police, Probation, and wide range of partner agencies including from the voluntary sector.
- 5.8 The strategy is ambitious and our vision is "working collaboratively across Derbyshire to prevent and reduce homelessness – making it everyone's responsibility.
- 5.9 The strategy will meet the vision and aims through the delivery of 4 clear priorities:
  1. Make homelessness everyone's responsibility through a system wide approach
  2. Prevent homelessness and respond through early intervention and personalised solutions
  3. End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness
  4. Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions
- 5.10 The Director of Public Health for Derbyshire is a signatory and the strategy will sit under the Health & Wellbeing Board. This represents a significant shift in how homelessness strategies are implemented. With the strategy sitting within the wider health spectrum this means that we have a huge opportunity to transform housing and homelessness services for the people we serve.
- 5.11 The Derbyshire strategy will serve as the Council's main homelessness & rough sleeping strategy for 5 years.
- 5.12 A project worker post funded via the district and borough councils to deliver on the action plan will be created, hosted by North East Derbyshire District Council. We have received confirmation from Derbyshire County Council that they intend to help fund this post, together with the other Derbyshire authorities. The likely contribution from ourselves will be c. £5000 which can be easily met from existing prevention grant funding.