

DECISION-MAKER:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD		
SUBJECT:	HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL INQUIRY REPORT: THE IMPACT OF HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ON THE HEALTH OF SINGLE PEOPLE		
DATE OF DECISION:	3 RD DECEMBER 2014		
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None.			

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) undertook an Inquiry into the Impact of Homelessness on the Health of Single People between February and July 2014. During this time the Panel heard from a wide range of witnesses and visited a number of the homeless housing services. The final report of the inquiry, attached at Appendix 1, was agreed at the HOSP meeting on 25th September 2014 and submitted to the Cabinet on 21st October.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the contents of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel Inquiry Report and identifies whether there are any issues where the Board might be in a position to assist the Executive in responding to the recommendations of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry Panel.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As the body responsible for the strategic oversight of health issues in the city, the Health and Wellbeing Board may be in a position to assist the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care in responding to the recommendations of the scrutiny inquiry.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Not to respond. This was rejected on the grounds that housing and homelessness are majority contributors to poor health and health inequalities which the Health and Wellbeing Board is keen to address.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. The Impact of Homelessness on the Health of Single People Inquiry Terms of Reference and Inquiry was undertaken by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) with information presented to 5 meetings from February to May 2014.
4. The recommendations are grouped under the following key themes:
 - A strategic city-wide approach to homelessness
 - Raising awareness and recognition of homelessness issues and protecting valued services
 - Improving service delivery
 - Monitoring and reviewing critical services
5. The final report of the Inquiry is attached as Appendix 1. It contains 25 recommendations in total, summarised in Appendix 2, which if implemented the Panel believed would help to maintain balanced communities in Southampton.
6. Although the Inquiry's recommendations were all seen as important to maximise access and improved health outcomes for single homeless people, the Panel identified that the following issues should be considered a priority for long-term sustainable improvements for single homeless people in the City:
 - Maximising the quality and availability of single units and shared accommodation for single people in the system through the Housing Strategy and working with landlords (Recommendations iii, xviii, xx, xxi)
 - Continued transformation through early help, and improved outcomes for children who are looked after and care leavers (Recommendations xii, xiii)
 - Review mental health support and services to ensure early intervention is a key focus and transition into adult services is integrated with substance misuse services (Recommendations xvi, xvii)
 - Consider invest to save opportunities including a 'dry' hostel option and 'Housing First' model (Recommendations ii, xv).
 - Increase awareness and expand the Homelessness partnership (Recommendation vi, vii, viii)

The related **recommendations*** have been highlighted throughout the report.
7. The report was presented to the Cabinet on 21st October to consider the Inquiry recommendations and to formally respond within two months of the date of receiving the final report. Its response is scheduled to be reported to a Cabinet meeting in January 2015 for approval.
8. The Health and Wellbeing Board has an interest in this topic, having

previously had debates on housing and mental health. The Board is now offered the opportunity to assist the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care to identify where members of the Board, and the organisations they represent may be able to respond to the issues raised in the scrutiny inquiry recommendations.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

- 9. Any future resource implications arising from this review will be dependent upon whether, and how, each of the individual recommendations within the Inquiry report are progressed by the Executive. More detailed work will need to be undertaken by the Executive in considering its response to each of the recommendations set out in the Inquiry report.

Property/Other

- 10. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

- 11. The duty to undertake health overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 required Health and Being Boards to act in the best interest of improving the health of an area.

Other Legal Implications:

- 12. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 13. None.

KEY DECISION? /No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Final Report – The Impact of Homelessness on the Health of Single People Inquiry
2.	Summary of Recommendations

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

