

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**  
**15 MARCH 2016 AT 10.00 a.m.**

**HOUSING AND HEALTH - REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD**

Report of the Director of Public Health

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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To share with the Health and Wellbeing Board the draft work undertaken to understand the role of housing services across Hertfordshire and their links to health and wellbeing.
- 1.2 To enable and facilitate discussion about next steps in the context of the report's recommendations.

**2. Summary and Background**

- 2.1 The role of housing in determining good health and wellbeing is recognised by both the Public Health Board and Health and Wellbeing Board as a clear priority. In September 2015, the Public Health Board requested that work was undertaken to understand the scope and scale of housing services across the county and how these services link to, and may influence, health and wellbeing. The Director of Health and Community Services also led a piece of work by the Housing Local Improvement Network recently on housing and care.
- 2.2 These initiatives, and the recent King's Fund report on the important role of District Councils in health and wellbeing, underline the need for the Board and partner agencies to have a considered approach to the strategic importance of housing for better health.
- 2.3 The current draft report represents the outcome of this project and asks a number of fundamental questions in order to identify gaps and priorities moving forward:
  - How does housing impact health and wellbeing, and what is the Public Health interest?

- What housing services are delivered across Hertfordshire?
- Are there any gaps in those services, that impact on health and wellbeing?
- What role can partners play, in the provision of housing services, to improve health and wellbeing?

2.4 The scope of the project covers the following areas of investigation:

- **Housing Quality:** the health impact of housing that is in poor condition. These are conditions that represent a threat to the health or safety of the occupant and include issues such as poor energy efficiency, trip hazards, damp and mould, fire risks, etc.
- **Housing Availability:** the health impact of the absence of secure accommodation and homelessness. This covers rough sleeping, but extends to the provision of temporary accommodation and support to access stable housing.

2.5 To avoid duplication with work being undertaken elsewhere, the scope of the report does not cover either **Housing Accessibility** (home adaptions, specialist housing, supported living services) or **Housing Supply** (the planning and supply of new housing). However, stakeholder engagement did cover both of these areas and, in particular, there are clear links that can be made with Health and Community Services and its partners in the provision of housing accessibility services.

2.6 The report has not made concrete recommendations. It is assumed that this is for a discussion between partners since this would involve making assumptions about the priorities and resources available to the various stakeholders involved. A further discussion will be held to identify:

- the priorities going forward;
- who will lead on delivery of certain priorities; and
- what resources can be made available to support this.

2.7 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider and feed into the Draft Final version of the report. Various stakeholders who engaged with the work have the opportunity to comment over the latter half of February, with a final report submitted to the Public Health Board for consideration on March 11. Views of Members about which forum/fora to take forward this agenda through would be welcomed.

### **3. Recommendation**

3.1 That Board members consider the proposed next steps within the report and how they can be progressed:

- With due consideration to joining up with other, related, strategic priorities, especially linking with work led by the Director of Health and Community Services; and
  - In the context of no budget or staff resource currently available amongst partners for delivery.
- 3.2 That Board members consider how this work might inform the ongoing Strategy refresh.
- 4.0 Further detail**
- 4.1 Further detail can be found in the attached Draft Final Report.
- 4.2 There are no financial implications at this stage. However, the report highlights a number of areas where further work could be undertaken to either build on existing areas of good practice, or fill gaps in delivery.
- 4.3 Any future work will require resource, either through increasing staff capacity at one or more partner organisation, or through direct project funding.
- 4.4 There is currently no funding identified to support further work.

<b>Report signed off by</b>	Public Health Management Board, Public Health Board
<b>Sponsoring HWB Member/s</b>	Jim McManus
<b>Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report</b>	The influence of housing upon health and wellbeing is such that it will link to Healthy Living, Promoting Independence and Flourishing Communities.
<b>Needs assessment</b> (activity taken)	
<b>Consultation/public involvement</b>	At the point of writing, informal consultation on the draft final report
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	An EQIA has been undertaken, monitored and updated throughout the course of this work and available on request. In summary however, any outcomes of this report are anticipated to have positive implications, but monitoring and further evidence will be required.
<b>Acronyms or terms used. eg:</b>	
<b>Attachments &amp; appendices:</b>	
 Draft final report - Housing and Health ir	

