

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2015

### 34. Homelessness Strategy

The Board considered this report which provided an opportunity to comment on the draft Homelessness Strategy for Swindon 2016 to 2021, which is a statutory requirement as set out in Schedule 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002.

Mike Ash, Head of Housing and Community Safety, introduced the report and noted that the draft Strategy aims to meet one of the actions of the Housing Strategy 2015 for Swindon to achieve the Government's Gold Standard for homelessness service. The Board also noted the four priorities for action which are: ensuring victims of Domestic Abuse are appropriately housed; improving partnership working to support homeless people with complex needs; preventing homelessness for people with care needs; and ensuring best use is made of social housing to minimise homelessness.

Following the presentation of the report and the draft Homelessness Strategy attached at Appendix 1, Board members asked questions and made observations on the following issues:

- Potential links between those in temporary accommodation and those with housing debts.
- Possible causes behind the recent increases in the numbers of homeless people.
- The linkages between the Housing Team and the Police, with particular regard to those begging and rough sleeping.
- The rights of referral to the homeless refuge in Swindon.
- The potential impact on housing availability of the proposals to increase stamp duty on Buy-To-Let and second homes.
- The level of engagement of those with complex needs in to the Strategy, and ensuring their experiences of accessing services are reflected in it.
- The need for improved partnership working and information sharing in this area, particularly to address repeat problems.
- The Public Space Protection Order about to be launched in the town centre.

Resolved – (1) To note the draft Homelessness Strategy and the priorities it sets out.

(2) **To recommend to Cabinet and the Governing Body of the Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group that they approve the draft Homelessness Strategy.**

(3) **To recommend to Cabinet that they amend the Allocations Policy to offer a proportion of social housing voids in a targeted way to homeless households as set out in Priority 4 of the Draft Strategy.**

**35. Swindon Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy 2015-2020**

The Board considered a report on the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2015 – 2020 for Swindon which supersedes the previous NHS Swindon Sexual Health Strategy 2010 – 2014. The Council has a duty to improve the sexual health of its population under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the new Strategy will provide strategic focus to achieve this duty.

Cherry Jones, Director of Public Health, introduced the report and noted that the Strategy has been developed as agreed by this Board at its meeting on 7 January 2015 (Minute 23, 2014-2015 refers). The Strategy recognises that good sexual health is important throughout the life course, and that safeguarding is essential. It aims to balance future demand against high quality supply with diminished resources, and has set out the vision for sexual health and wellbeing in Swindon with priority outcomes.

Following the presentation of the report and the draft Swindon Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2015 – 2020 attached at Appendix 1, Board members asked questions and made observations on the following issues:

- The issue of setting out 16 – 24 year olds as ‘young people’ within the Strategy when in safeguarding terms it is 18 – 24 year olds. The Strategy will be amended to reflect this.
- Working to encourage primary care services to report any suspicious circumstances when children are presenting with sexually transmitted diseases.
- The reporting mechanisms for giving updates on progress towards actions in the Strategy.
- The lack of baseline figures in the action plan which will now be included for ease of reference.
- The percentages and associated numbers of people being diagnosed late with HIV in Swindon between 2011 and 2013.

Resolved – (1) To endorse and support the Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2015 – 2020 for Swindon.

(2) **To recommend to Cabinet and the Governing Body of Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group that they adopt the Swindon Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2015 – 2020.**