

Developing a Homelessness Review

Background

Under Section 50 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 a local housing authority must periodically carry out a homelessness review for its area, and formulate and adopt a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review.

The Council must adopt a homelessness strategy in 2018 and a new homelessness strategy in every fourth year after that.

Key Objectives

The review should examine the main causes of homelessness as identified through data and how these causes will be addressed. It should focus on the key themes of preventing homelessness, securing accommodation and providing support.

It must also review the resources available to the authority, other public authorities, and voluntary organisations.

Full analysis is required of:

- factors contributing to homelessness in Cardiff
- household types/households with diverse needs
- likely future levels of homelessness and the resources available to meet the needs and for prevention.

A Partnership Approach

While council officers within People and Communities directorate will be responsible for carrying out the review, it will be developed in full partnership with both internal and external partners to ensure that priorities are fully understood.

A consultation exercise with stakeholders will be conducted seeking their comments on the homeless services in Cardiff. Partners will also be invited to take part in stakeholder meetings.

Engagement with homeless people is also vitally important. Homeless clients will be consulted about:

- their own views on their situation (including the reason they became homeless)
- their experience of services and 'what works'
- any barriers to service
- any suggestions for improvements

Overview of Review

It is proposed that the homelessness review follows the structure as follows:

- Introduction
- Advice and Assistance
- Prevention
- Accommodation & Support
- Key Findings

An initial draft outline of the review has been set out in Appendix 1; this will however be informed by the consultation and results of the fact finding analysis.

A draft timetable has been set out in Appendix 2.

1: Introduction	<p>Define homelessness</p> <p>Set out the national and local policy context and refer to appropriate legislation, strategies and policy documents particularly the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and Ten Year Homelessness Plan.</p> <p>Set out the aims of the review.</p> <p>Set out and analyse trends through a review of data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main causes of homelessness in Cardiff • Current demand for homelessness services • Projected demand for services • Overview of resources available
2: Advice & Assistance	<p>Set out the advice services currently available, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hubs • Housing Options Service • Young Persons Gateway 53 • Voluntary Organisations <p>Analyse data relating to footfall, signposting and advice.</p> <p>Through service user engagement and partner consultation examine good practice and where improvements can be made in relation to the advice and assistance provided.</p>
3: Prevention	<p>Identify prevention work that is being undertaken.</p> <p>Analyse data to establish how prevention work has changed under the new act.</p> <p>Identify through data/consultation with partners/service user views where services are currently targeted, the success of prevention work and what further work could be done.</p>
4: Accommodation & Support	<p>Review current supply of accommodation and how it is used to meet the needs of homeless clients, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing (Council and Housing Association) • Temporary Accommodation

- Supported Accommodation
- Emergency Accommodation
- Hostels
- Private Rented Sector

Map current and future demand through:

- Waiting List Information
- Local demographic data
- Core Data

Temporary Accommodation:

Analyse average current length of time that is spent in TA through core data.

Review the role of the Private Rented Sector:

- The current support for private landlords
- Relationship between the Council and Private Sector Landlords

Specialist Pathways / Gateways:

- Young Persons
- Prisoner
- Mental Health
- Hospital Discharge
- Single Persons

Support

- Supporting People Funded Services
- Role of Third Sector Organisations

5: Key Findings

Set out the key findings from the review.

Stage 1

Date	Item / Event
March / April 2018	<p>Engagement and consultation with internal and external partners. Send comments form and enquire about becoming part of stakeholder group.</p> <p>Begin to analyse data and draw out key findings.</p>
April / May 2018	<p>Engagement with service users. Questionnaires / customer journey mapping and case studies to be collated.</p> <p>Collate and examine partner comments and set up stakeholder group.</p> <p>Complete analysis of data and draft Introduction</p>
May/June 2018	<p>Collate all information including service user views, partner comments and draft remaining chapters of review.</p>
July / Aug 2018	<p>Draw out key findings and strategic objectives.</p> <p>Draft Review Report/Presentation</p>

Stage 2

Date	Item / Event
Aug/Sep 2018	Draft Homelessness Strategy
Oct 2018	Stakeholder Consultation.
Nov 2018	Final Draft
Dec 2018	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Approval and Publication</p>