

INFORMATION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	6 SEPTEMBER 2016	9
UPDATE ON THE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2013-18			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires Housing Authorities to publish a new Homelessness Strategy within a period of five years from the day on which the last Homelessness Strategy was published; The current Fylde BC Homelessness Strategy runs from the 31st July 2013-18. The previous Strategy ran from the 31st July 2008-2013.

In April 2013 Government announced a new Gold Standard that local authorities should work towards when undertaking their local homelessness services. Ten challenges were set and theses form the basis of the current Homelessness Strategy and these include;

- A corporate commitment to prevent homelessness which has buy in across all local authority services
- offering a comprehensive prevention service, with advice and support for single people as well as families in need
- working with local agencies to provide employment, education and training opportunities
- develop a suitable private sector offer for all client groups
- not place any young person aged 16 or 17 in Bed and Breakfast accommodation
- adopting a local No Second Night Out scheme to help prevent new rough sleepers from becoming entrenched into a street lifestyle

The current Homelessness Strategy has three priority areas that have been taken forward in the action plan, monitored by the Fylde Homelessness Forum.

1. Maximise existing partnerships to effectively use current resources
2. Prevent homelessness
3. Increase the supply of settled accommodation including access into the private rented sector and implement a pilot policy to discharge the homeless duty into the private rented sector.

In September 2015 and June 2016 workshops were held with the Homelessness Forum to refresh the action plan and pull out areas where there was least progress. This will inform the work of the Homelessness Forum moving forward through 2016/17. During 2015/16 work on the Fylde Homelessness Forum has been limited due to staffing resource issues within the Housing Department to run the Forum.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Monitoring of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan is via the Fylde Homeless. Minute and update are available on Fylde BC website page Fylde Homeless Forum.

<http://www.fylde.gov.uk/resident/housing/homelessness-housing-advice/fylde-homelessness-forum/>

LINK TO INFORMATION

<http://www.fylde.gov.uk/resident/housing/homelessness-housing-advice/fylde-homelessness-forum/>

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

An annual strategy action plan update is presented to Members each September during the life of the strategy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact: Kirstine Riding - kirstine.riding@fylde.gov.uk