

INFORMATION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	8 SEPTEMBER 2015	12

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 strategy runs from the 31st July 2013 – 2018. The previous Strategy ran from the 31st July 2008 – 2013.

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

Priority 1: Maximise existing partnerships to effectively use current resources (both internally and externally)

Priority 2: Preventing Homelessness

Priority 3: Increasing the supply of settled accommodation including access into the private rented sector and implementing a pilot policy to discharge the homeless duty into the private rented sector.

Progress has been good towards meeting the priorities listed in the Action Plan under Priorities 1, 2 and 3.

- Under Priority 1 membership of the Forum has been widened and guest speakers are invited that meet the information needs of a range of partners, for example DWP gave information on reasons for benefit sanctions and there is now a regular slot on the Agenda where organisations can report directly back to DWP on emerging difficulties or issues when working with clients in receipt of Universal Credit.
- Under Priority 2 regular Hyndburn Homes have updated the group on their experiences of running a Passport to Housing course which has informed the development of Tenancy Ready Training delivered in Fylde under the Lancashire Single Homelessness Initiative funding.
- Under Priority 3 a commitment to monitoring the Rent Bond Guarantee scheme operated by Face 2 Face YMCA on behalf of Fylde BC has been made by the Forum with regular updates on clients housed. There is a need to explore further ways to implement the private sector offer policy to discharge the homelessness duty the private rented sector.

As the Strategy is half way through the five year period, at September 2015 meeting of the Fylde Homeless Forum, the current Action Plan is to be refreshed in order to focus the work of the group on taking forward actions which have not been delivered.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Monitoring of Homelessness Strategy Action Plan via the Fylde Homeless Forum. Minutes and updates 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

Updated actions to the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan July 2015 available at Fylde BC website, Fylde Homeless Forum page.

<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

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