



INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	5 SEPTEMBER 2017	8
UPDATE ON THE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2013-2018			

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.

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.

In 2016/17 Fylde BC completed 80 Homeless Applications and all of these households were found to be homeless or threatened with homelessness within 28 days. Prior to taking a homeless application Housing Services would have worked with clients to prevent homelessness. In 2016/17 Housing Services dealt with 280 housing advice enquiries. Of households threatened with homelessness 24 were able to remain in their own home and 28 were assisted to obtain alternative accommodation.

Limited progress has been made during the year, the main issues being the slow implementation of financial cuts to Supporting People at Lancashire County Council and awaiting information and guidance for the new Homelessness Reduction Bill.

Progress made includes

- Continuation of tenancy training
- Implementation of Trailblazer projects
- Homelessness Partnership Agreement reviewed
- Continuation of NSNO (No second night out)
- Continuation of Invest to Save
- Lancashire Probation protocol implemented
- 16/17 year old protocol with Children's Social Care reviewed and implemented
- Continuation of the bond guarantee scheme

From 01/04/2017 Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool have been successful in DCLG Homeless Trailblazer Funding for a period of two years. The objectives of the funding are:

1. Tackle individuals not engaging with support available and continuing to lead chaotic lifestyles;
2. Target support for vulnerable groups whom it is often difficult to engage with, for example rough sleepers;
3. Tackle reducing crime and anti-social behaviour with a view to preventing homelessness.

As part of the project a Fylde Homeless Forum is to be established in September 2017 who will progress future actions under the Homeless Strategy 2015-18.

Work will begin this Autumn to produce a new Homeless Strategy ready to meet the statutory deadline of 31st July 2018 and to ensure the authority meets the requirements of new legislation laid down in the Homelessness Reduction Bill.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

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

LINK TO INFORMATION

[Fylde Coast Homeless Prevention Trailblazer](#)

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