

TITLE OF REPORT: **Review of the Role of Housing in Improving Health and Wellbeing – Second Evidence Gathering Session**

REPORT OF: **Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health**

Summary

This report gives details of the evidence gathering session that will take place on 6th December 2016 and outlines the framework for future sessions. The views of the Committee are being sought on the evidence presented and the future plans outlined.

Background

1. Care, Health & Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the focus of its review in 2016-17 will be the role of housing in improving health and wellbeing.
2. The first evidence gathering session held on 1st November 2016 explored issues regarding health and the supply of housing with respect to the existing stock and anticipated future housing needs.

Purpose of this session

3. This is the second in a series of evidence gathering sessions being undertaken for this review. The purpose of this session is to examine the role of housing standards in Gateshead with respect to issues regarding:
 - the condition of the private housing stock (both physical condition and conditions of management in the private rented sector)
 - fuel poverty and affordable warmth

The aim is to highlight particular issues regarding housing standards, how these impact upon health and wellbeing, and issues and challenges in maintaining and improving standards.

Two national level external speakers, experts in their fields, have been invited to provide evidence, details as below.

4. The second evidence session will include the following presentations, each of which will be of 10 minutes duration, followed by questioning from the Committee:-
 - Impact upon health and wellbeing of standards in the private housing sector / Place shaping, housing and health – Peter Wright, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager, Development and Public Protection
 - Affordable warmth, fuel poverty and health - Peter Smith, Head of Policy and Research, National Energy Action (NEA)
 - Health and Housing – Gill Leng, National Home and Health Advisor: Health Equity and Mental Health Division, Public Health England

Issues to Consider

5. When considering the evidence outlined above the Committee may wish to consider the following:
 - Are members satisfied that enough is being done at the local and national level to secure improvements in standards of housing, so that local people's health and wellbeing will improve?
 - Are members satisfied with what is currently being done to prevent and react to poor standards in the private housing sector, and that full use is being made of existing opportunities?
 - Are members satisfied that the whole system, both nationally and locally, is moving towards sufficiently improving homes and their surrounding environment?
 - Are there any issues that members would wish officers to address to secure improvements in this field?
 - Do members have any other suggestions for different ways of working that could create beneficial improvements in the interaction between housing, local environment and communities?

Future evidence gathering sessions

6. It is proposed that future evidence gathering sessions cover the following:

January

- How housing support and advice services maintain and improve health and wellbeing

February

- Focus group to collate evidence from members

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that the Committee:

- Gives its views on the evidence presented.
- Agrees the proposals outlined at section 5 of the report as the focus for future evidence gathering sessions.