
TITLE OF REPORT: **Review of the Role of Housing in Improving Health and Wellbeing – Third 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 24th January 2017 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.
3. The second evidence gathering session held on 6th December 2016 heard information on housing standards in Gateshead with a focus on the private rented sector and the importance of “place”. External speakers provided evidence on the relationship between housing and health and in particular the significance of affordable warmth.

Purpose of this session

2. This is the third in a series of evidence gathering sessions being undertaken for this review. The purpose of this session is to examine the role of housing support in Gateshead with respect to issues regarding:
 - the role of housing in supporting independence for those with social care needs, and
 - other housing support and advice services

The aim is to highlight how the Council addresses housing needs identified for those with acknowledged social care needs, and the role of universally available and largely preventative housing support services. It will show how housing support services can help people to live in their own homes, and can maximise opportunities to improve health and minimise harms.

3. The third evidence session will include the following presentations, each of which will be of 10 minutes duration, followed by questioning from the Committee:-
 - Housing support services for people with social care needs : supporting independence – Elizabeth Saunders, Interim Service Director, Health and Social Care Commissioning and Quality Assurance, Care Wellbeing and Learning
 - Housing support and advice services – Peter Wright, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager, Development and Public Protection, Communities and Environment; Paul Gray, Public Health Programme Lead, Care Wellbeing and Learning

Issues to Consider

4. When considering the evidence outlined above the Committee may wish to consider the following:
 - Are members satisfied that the housing needs of people with social care needs are being adequately met?
 - Are members satisfied with the extent of housing support and advice services, and that these are reaching the right people?
 - Are there any issues that members would wish officers to address to secure improvements in this field?

Future evidence gathering sessions

5. It is proposed that future evidence gathering sessions cover the following:
 - February**
 - The proposed date for a focus group to collate evidence from members is 16th February, 2-3.30pm

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that the Committee:
 - Gives its views on the evidence presented.

- Agrees the date and time proposed at section 5 of the report for the final evidence gathering session.