

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Review of the role of housing in improving health and wellbeing – progress update

**REPORT OF:** Director of Public Health

### SUMMARY

Care, Health & Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the focus of its review in 2016-17 was the role of housing in improving health and wellbeing.

The aim of the review was to recommend key housing actions that would have the greatest impact on improving health and wellbeing.

This report provides a summary update on progress against those recommendations to date.

### UPDATE

Recommendation	Update
1. Review the actions set out in the Housing Intervention Action Plan, and, where appropriate, provide Public Health support to assist in maximising the benefits to health arising from delivering elements of the Plan. The evidence presented in the review identifies priority candidate elements with the greatest potential to improve health and wellbeing, further detailed below.	Progress on delivery of the Housing Intervention Work Plan (HIWP) is being updated by Development, Transport and Public Protection (DT&PP), and Public Health contribution to this is in place.
2. Ensure that improving health and wellbeing is reflected in the production of local development plan documents ie. Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP).	Consultation on the draft MSGP concludes at the end of August, Public Health is a consultee. The intention is that the draft MSGP will be reported to Cabinet in October.
3. Review how health and wellbeing is reflected in Council Letting Policies and The Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC) support services (ie. health criteria, preventative interventions).	A review of the Council's Strategic Tenancy Policy will be undertaken as part of the of the Housing Strategy review (due for completion July 2018), and existing letting policies are under review, by the Council and the Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC).

	<p>The review will consider the impact of legislative changes (Welfare reform, Universal Credit) on both the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan and how this will impact upon current and prospective tenants.</p>
<p>4. Assess the current range of Council private sector housing interventions to maximise their contribution to health and wellbeing (including energy efficiency programmes, private landlord accreditation, Selective Landlord Licensing, financial assistance programmes, falls prevention, Making Every Contact Count).</p>	<p>This is a work stream of the Housing Intervention Work Plan (HIWP). Progress on delivery of the HIWP is being updated by DT&amp;PP, and Public Health contribution to this is in place.</p> <p>This will also form a key element of the review of the Housing Strategy (due for completion July 2018).</p>
<p>5. Undertake actions to ensure that the greatest proportion of Council housing is maintained to a standard that secures the health and wellbeing of residents within the context of changes to revenue and capital funding.</p>	<p>Following on from the Decent Homes Investment Programme, a rolling programme of Stock Condition Surveys is under way to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Inform future investment priorities and ensure properties are maintained and free from hazards</li> <li>b) Inform the asset strategy to support the sustainability of the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's housing stock.</li> </ul> <p>An Asset Strategy Steering group has been established, which will endorse re-investment decisions and consider options appraisals on estates or properties where it is deemed necessary.</p>
<p>6. Determine the circumstances where the Council seeks to ensure that high design and space standards are delivered, including accessibility.</p>	<p>The Council has procured a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (final draft received August 2017) that will provide an evidence base for development of planning policies aimed at securing good space standards.</p> <p>The Council is committed through</p>

	<p>the Core Strategy &amp; Urban Core Plan to secure good design within new development. MSGP policies will also support this objective.</p> <p>The intention is that the draft MSGP will be reported to Cabinet in October.</p>
<p>7. Determine the need for, location of and processes to deliver adequate levels of supported, specialist, and older persons housing</p>	<p>This forms a work stream of the HIWP. Progress on delivery of the HIWP is being updated by DT&amp;PP, and Public Health contribution to this is in place.</p> <p>A review of specialist and supported accommodation needs, and options for delivery is progressing. This is being undertaken jointly across Care Wellbeing and Learning and Communities and Environment, and with TGHC.</p> <p>A comprehensive health needs assessment on homelessness and complex needs was concluded. The findings and recommendations were presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board and TGHC Board. Leadership Team (ie. Service Directors) are now considering the implementation of the recommendations.</p>

### Recommendation

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note and comment on the six monthly review update.

The Committee is asked to receive a further progress update in six months' time when recommendations will have been further progressed.

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