

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 will be the role of housing in improving health and wellbeing.

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

During the review the Committee will consider evidence of the relationship between housing, health and wellbeing in the context of current and projected local needs and activity on both housing and health.

This report sets out the proposed schedule and itinerary for the evidence gathering sessions of the review.

Background

On 1st July 2016, Care, Wellbeing and Learning OSC agreed a report setting out the proposed scope of the review.

The OSC review working group has proposed a timetable for members to hear evidence from key partners, including staff from Gateshead Council and The Gateshead Housing Company.

Review Structure and Timetable

The scoping report agreed by OSC on 1st July 2016 set out housing related issues that are known to have an influence upon health and wellbeing.

It is proposed that the review considers how these housing and health issues are considered and reflected in local practice according to the three themes of Gateshead Council's Housing Strategy 2013-18. These are:

- Housing standards
- Housing supply
- Housing support

In addition to hearing evidence from Council and Gateshead Housing Company staff, it is proposed that further expert evidence will be provided by Gill Leng, Public Health

England's National Home and Health Lead, and Peter Smith, Head of Policy and Research at National Energy Action, the national charity seeking to end fuel poverty.

How will the evidence be structured?

It is proposed that the evidence gathering sessions, based on the three themes of housing standards, housing supply and housing support, will be delivered according to the following schedule:

<p>1 November 2016</p>	<p>Improving health through Housing Supply – the right homes in the right place</p> <p>Health context – ensuring the supply of good housing that people want and can afford in the places they want to live, now and in the future, meets a fundamental requirement – the availability of suitable housing.</p> <p>Two presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for future housing need • Working with the existing stock
<p>6 December 2016</p>	<p>Health and Housing Standards</p> <p>Health context – the standard of housing (ie. condition, management and energy efficiency) has a significant impact on physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Two external speakers (TBC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gill Leng, National Home and Health Lead, Public Health England • Peter Smith, Head of Policy and Research, National Energy Action <p>Two presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and improving standards in the private sector • Outside the front door – housing and place
<p>24 January 2016</p>	<p>Health and Housing Support</p> <p>Health context – housing support services can help people to live in their own homes, and can maximise opportunities to improve health and minimise harms.</p> <p>Two presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing support services for people with social care

	needs – supporting independence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing support and advice services
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Speakers will be drawn from Economic and Housing Growth, Development and Public Protection, Health and Social Care Commissioning and Quality Assurance,

Member engagement

At their meeting on 1st July 2016, OSC members requested that they themselves also provide evidence based upon their experience of dealing with housing and health related issues.

To do this, it is proposed that members be invited to a focus group session, to be held subsequent to the evidence gathering sessions. Members unable to attend the focus group will be invited to provide written evidence by way of questionnaire.

Site visits

It is proposed that members be offered the opportunity to visit relevant housing developments. Details of these will be shared once confirmed.

Recommendation

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree:

- The approach, content and timescale as set out in this report

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