

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING DELIVERY TASK GROUP

Minutes from the Meeting of the Homelessness & Housing Delivery Task Group held on Tuesday, 11th February, 2020 at 2.00 pm in the Meeting Room 2-1 - Second Floor, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

PRESENT:

Councillors Mrs C Bower (Chair), J Collop (substitute), J Moriarty and C Morley

Officers:

D Hall, R Hefford, N Patton

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss L Bambridge and Mrs S Collop.

2 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 November 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

3 **ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

D Hall referred to the email from Councillor Bambridge and outlined the issues raised.

4 **MEMBERS ATTENDING UNDER STANDING ORDER 34**

There were no Members present under Standing Order 34.

5 **FEEDBACK ON HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

D Hall/N Patton provided feedback, a summary of which is set out below:

Event Feedback

- Councillors had attended the December event.
- Feedback currently being evaluated and collated. Copy would be circulated to all who attended.
- Action Plan would be updated in more detail to reflect key items identified and how the need would be met. The Action Plan would continue to be updated on an ongoing basis.

- Single point of contact to be set up to enable customers to be signposted to the correct agency for assistance.

Cabinet Feedback

- Strategy presented to Cabinet on 7 January 2020 and now been adopted.

Communications Plan

- Work ongoing to ensure customers are aware of the strategy. It was noted that the Strategy was published on the Council's website.
- Communications Plan would be updated on a regular basis to ensure that the Action Plan remained meaningful.

D Hall provided an overview of the Local Government funding streams.

The Task Group was informed that a change was required in the assessment of care leavers and the strategy would therefore need to be updated.

Care Leavers (18 years)

R Hefford outlined the assessment process for care leavers (18 years) and explained that the Council's Allocations Policy would need to be reviewed to enable provision for care leavers. The Task Group was advised that there was a countywide offer for care leavers, which included education, an example was given of tenancy and independent living skills course provided by 'Your Own Place' and of the outreach support for 16-24 year olds provided by Benjamin Foundation and commissioned by the borough council.

In response to questions from the Task Group, R Hefford explained that the Borough Council commissioned a number of homelessness services with partners.

Councillor J Collop asked how many care leavers there were in West Norfolk. R Hefford undertook to circulate the information to the Task Group.

Following a question from Councillor Morley on whether the Borough Council received notification of prison releases, R Hefford explained that there was a discharge protocol in place, but the Borough Council had not signed up to but would consider doing so.

N Patton/D Hall/R Hefford provided an update, a summary of which is set out below:

- Cold weather funding announcement 28 January 2020. Borough Council had submitted a bid to ensure there would be enough provision for rough sleepers in severe weather conditions.
- Funding for a mental health floating support worker (full time post).
- £15,000 fund to support rough sleepers with personal budgets. It was noted this was a fund available on one year basis.
- Report currently being prepared on rough sleeping initiative and would be circulated to the Task Group.
- Services which the Borough Council commissioned jointly with Norfolk County Council.
- Support available for people with mental health issues. It was noted that the service was being developed.
- West Norfolk Help Hub.

Reference was made to the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Charity who was one of a number of local charities that helped those residents in the Borough who were in need or hardship. The importance of raising awareness of the charity to support residents was highlight and it was agreed that the information could be shared. Councillor Bower for forward a link to N Patton.

7

DISCUSSION ON EMERGING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPD) - KEY DEVELOPMENT AREAS

D Hall provided an overview of the progress being made with the Task Group to meet the need and deliver affordable housing.

N Patton outlined the work being undertaken by the Council's Housing and Planning Policy teams to produce an evidence base for an entry level exceptions sites policy for affordable housing.

The Task Group was informed that there was a clear opportunity with the NPFF for entry level sites. D Hall advised that entry level exceptions sites had to have affordable housing but did not have to be developed in a specific location and comprise different tenures.

The Government had announced week commencing 9 February open consultation on discounted first homes. The link to the document is set out below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/first-homes>

D Hall/N Patton explained that they would be attending the Local Plan Task Group on 4 March to provide an update on the items set out below:

- The Borough Council's Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- Older People/Housing with Care.
- Accessible and Adaptable Homes.
- Gypsy and Travellers.

8 **DRAFT EMERGING FIGURES ON OLDER PERSONS SPECIALIST HOUSING RESEARCH**

N Patton explained that the draft report not yet been finalised and outlined the remaining areas of work to be completed.

It was noted that two models were required: Sheltered housing and extra care. It was highlighted that the plan must show potential policies to provide a range of specific accommodation for the elderly.

AGREED: Draft report to be circulated to the Task Group when available.

9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be convened when required.

The meeting closed at 3.43 pm