

Title: Housing First Strategic Update

To: Housing Rental Company **On:** 21st February 2018
Committee

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1. Key points and Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the following areas of work:
- Work associated with the Torbay End Street Homelessness Campaign (TESH)
 - Successful joint bid to the Nationwide Foundation for study into system change to Housing First in Torbay
 - DCLG rough sleeper grant funding

2. Work associated with the Torbay End Street Homelessness Campaign

- 2.1 The Torbay End Street Homelessness Campaign is part of a wider European End Street Homelessness Campaign, a movement of cities across Europe working together to end street homelessness. Other member cities include Glasgow, Croydon, Brighton, Sheffield, Barcelona, Valencia and Brussels, Athens and Bratislava.
- 2.2 The campaign work centres around the following principles:
- **Housing First:** Working towards ensuring homeless people are housed in permanent, safe, appropriate and affordable housing with the support necessary to sustain it.
 - **Knowing who's out there:** Getting to know every homeless person by name by going onto the streets to find them and assess their needs.
 - **Tracking progress:** Regularly collecting person-specific data to accurately track progress toward ending homelessness.
 - **Improving local systems:** Building coordinated housing and support systems that are simple to navigate, while targeting resources quickly and efficiently to the people who need it the most.
 - **Learning from and sharing with others:** to help the campaign make the biggest difference to those who are homeless.

- 2.3 TESH now has the following local membership: Torbay Council, the Police, Westward Housing, Shekinah, Torbay Street Pastors, PATH Torbay, The Haven, TOWNS night-shelter, the Living Room, and the Unleashed Theatre Company. We are meeting with following organisations this week with a view to them joining TESH: Homemaker, Care and Support SW.
- 2.4 TESH has recently run a second 'Connections week', where volunteers from the community go out on to the streets and conduct an in depth survey with people who are street homeless. Our first Connections week ran in April 2017, and 29 people were surveyed. Of those, 13 left the area, and 16 were subsequently housed. The second Connections week attracted 15 new volunteers who went out on the streets of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham and also into night shelters run by TOWNS, and to the evening drop in run by PATH at Roebuck House. 40 people were surveyed during the week. 1 was found to be already accommodated. Those who gave permission had their surveys handed to the outreach team and will be contacted. The full findings from the Connections week will be presented on the 23rd February at 5pm at Endeavour House.
- 2.5 A communications plan is being prepared to cover TESH work, and other aspects of the Council's work around rough sleeping.
- 2.6 Work with local businesses around a re- launch of the Killing with Kindness Campaign in partnership with TESH is being undertaken by colleagues in Community Safety

3. Successful joint funding bid to Nationwide Foundation

- 3.1 Shekinah, in partnership with Westward Housing and the Council, have been successful in a bid to the Nationwide Foundation. The bid enables the partnership to commission Crisis, the national homelessness charity, to undertake a study into the feasibility and business case for transforming the system around rough sleeping in Torbay to a Housing led and Housing First system.
- 3.2 Housing First is founded on the principle of housing being a basic human right and provides permanent accommodation for people straight from the street coupled with the availability of intensive open ended support. The model has no preconditions of addressing wider social care and support needs. Housing First is particularly aimed at people who have the highest needs.
- 3.4 A Housing led approach can be described as 'rapid provision of appropriate accommodation, with support as needed to ensure sustainable tenancies' This approach, which entails less intense support, would be applicable to everyone who is rough sleeping.
- 3.5 Finland is the only country in Europe that has seen a decrease in rough sleeping, and uses a Housing First approach. There has been growing interest in Housing First from the UK government, with Sajid Javed visiting Finland to look at their system in 2017, and £1.8million in funding being allocated in 2017 to Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham to pilot Housing First.
- 3.6 The Crisis work in Torbay will look at the operation of the current system and

examine what would be needed to transform the system into a Housing First and Housing led system. Crisis will be talking to all interested parties in Torbay, including people who are homeless, in February and March 2018 and will present their initial findings and recommendations at the end of March 2018.

- 3.6 Crisis undertook a similar study in Liverpool, funded by the DCLG, in 2017. A link to the report is attached as Appendix 1.

4. DCLG Rough Sleeper Grant funding

- 4.1 The Council in partnership with Shekinah and Westward Housing are in receipt of rough sleeper grant funding from the DCLG. This began in April 2017 and runs until March 2019 and pays for the outreach/Safe Space team (3.5 workers employed by Westward Housing) night workers for the Safe Space (employed by Westward Housing) and a volunteer co-ordinator (employed by Shekinah) who works with volunteers who support people who are moving from the streets into their own home.

- 4.2 The latest outcomes to be reported to the DCLG are shown below:

Timeframe	People worked with on prevention of rough sleeping	People worked with who are already rough sleep	People who were prevented from sleeping rough	People worked with who achieved an accommodation outcome
April – June 2017	3	19	3	13
July – Sept 17	6	44	6	35
Oct – Dec 17	7	65	6	22
Total to date (April to Dec 17)	16	128	15	70

Appendices

Appendix 1- <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/housing-models-and-access/housing-first-feasibility-study-for-liverpool-city-region-2017/>