

Record of Officer Decision

Transformation Project - Vulnerable Adults Support - Torbay Council Response to Crisis Evaluation of Housing First/Mental Health Support

Decision Taker and Date Decision Taken:

Director of Adult Services and Housing on 27 June 2018

Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision:

The report into feasibility of adopting Housing First in Torbay (commissioned by Nationwide Foundation from Crisis) was considered and supported by the Mayor's Executive Group and the Housing Committee. This report evidences success of Housing First in eradicating rough sleeping elsewhere and preventing vulnerable people escalating into acute need for services.

The report and Crisis' recommendations are informed by engagement with a range of stakeholders and homeless people, as well as the review of current homelessness systems and pathways in Torbay. Central Government funding of £28m has been allocated to Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool to implement Housing First. There is likely to be further funding available to test the approach in smaller authorities, including coastal areas, as part of wider support for these areas which would contribute to Torbay's ambitions. There have also been further positive exploratory discussions with other potential funders.

Housing First will run alongside a more robust partnership approach to anti-social street activity in Torquay. In this way making best use of the Authority's tools and powers together:

- to support people to access and maintain housing, access mental and physical health and social care support where appropriate, engage in employment and training and participate fully in their local community;
- prevent health and social care needs of vulnerable rough sleepers and homeless people escalating through targeted early intervention and homeless prevention support; and
- To address anti-social street activity in Torquay town centre, including use of enforcement action, to support regeneration and prosperity of the area.

Decision Taken:

- (i) that the Council supports introduction of the full housing first proposal including, a fully dispersed accommodation model and relocation of the hostel service, subject to:
- Multi agency support;
 - Securing funding from central government and/or external sources, in addition to earmarked Adult Social Care (ASC) reserves; and
 - Due diligence on financial modelling.

This option to include a business case to relocate services from Leonard Stocks and move to a dispersed accommodation model.

- (ii) that in the case that funding cannot be secured, option 2 (set out in the exempt report submitted to the Housing Committee on 25 June 2018) would be progressed which includes:

- Preparing a business case for a social lettings agency; and
- Implementing a team to support people with the most complex lives integrated with other social care pathways. This additional resource, subject to business case approval, to be resourced from earmarked ASC reserves.

Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken:

In response to increasing numbers of vulnerable people in Torbay with complex health and social care needs and the need to find a sustainable solution for those complex mental health and other issues by stabilising accommodation in the first instance.

Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected and Background Papers:

Three options were considered:

Option	Description
1	As is, no change to current service delivery, pathways and governance.
2	Prepare a business case for a Social Lettings Agency and implement a team to support people with the most complex lives, integrated with other social care pathways. This additional resource, subject to business case approval, to be resourced from earmarked ASC reserves.
3	Full system change to Housing First to support vulnerable people including, fully dispersed accommodation and re-location of hostel service, subject to business case approval, to be resourced from earmarked ASC reserves and through additional funding bids.

The Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Executive Lead for Housing and Executive Lead for Adults Services and Children recommended to the Elected Mayor that option 3 be adopted and that in the case that funding cannot be secured that option 2 is approved.

Details of any conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer taking the decision or by any Member of the Council in delegating responsibility for any specific express delegation:

None

Implementation:

This decision will come into force immediately.

A copy of this decision and any supporting documentation considered by the Officer taking this decision may also be available for inspection by the public at the Council's offices or posted upon payment of any copying and postage charges. Any member of the public wishing to take up either of these options is asked to please ring (01803) 207087 or email governance.support@torbay.gov.uk

Signed: _____ Date: 27 June 2018
Adult Services and Housing