

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>UPDATE ON HOMELESSNESS PERFORMANCE</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>OLDER PEOPLE AND SOCIAL CARE, ADULTS</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

## **Wards Affected**

County-wide

## **Purpose**

To provide an updated report on the progress towards the achievement of national performance indicator targets and other local performance indicators for Homelessness Services. The performance rating system being used in the new integrated corporate performance report has changed, and explanation of the ratings is shown at **Appendix A**.

## **Recommendation(s)**

### **THAT**

- (a) the report on Homelessness performance be noted;  
and;**
- (b) areas of concern continue to be monitored.**

## **Key Points Summary**

- Local Area Agreement indicator for NI156 is red flagged as below target.
- Measures are being taken to improve the outlook for this indicator.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- To update Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee Members on Homelessness Performance.
- To ensure Scrutiny Committee are kept apprised of homelessness pressures and performance.

## Introduction and Background

- 1 Strategic Housing performance on homelessness is monitored against the National Indicators (NI) that was introduced from April 2008 and a number of former Best Value performance indicators retained as local indicators. Regular reports are sent to the Government of the West Midlands and the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- 2 Scrutiny Committee resolved on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 that a report on homelessness within the county be brought to committee on a six monthly basis and analysis of the key statistics has been carried out and is presented within this report and shown graphically in **Appendix A**

## Key Considerations

### Local Area Agreement

- 3 Strategic Housing has a target in place under Local Area Agreement (LAA) National Indicator, NI 156 – Number of Households in Temporary Accommodation. The target for 2009/10 and 2010/11 is 82 households in temporary accommodation.

### Homelessness Update

### Highlights

- 4 **NI 156 (LAA)** – There continues to be pressure on the Homelessness and Housing Advice services. The number of households in temporary accommodation has increased steadily during 2009 from 98 at the end of March to 118 at the end of September. This compares to 111 households at the same time last year. It should be pointed out that although this figure is well below target, the total number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of December 2009 had decreased to 97 and activity is taking place in order to decrease this figure further and achieve the target for 2009/10 of 82 households by the end of the Financial Year. In addition the total amount of households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation has decreased to 4 on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
- 4a Improvement in this National Indicator is being achieved through the following activities:
  - Review of Service Level Agreements to facilitate move-on from supported housing schemes.
  - Enabling direct access by other support agencies to temporary supported housing schemes reducing numbers requiring accommodation under the Housing Act 1996.
  - A more robust approach to casework, and use of prevention tools such as the Prevention Fund and Rent Deposit Scheme.
- 5 **Local Indicator (BVPI 213) Homelessness Prevention** - The number of households assisted under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act has increased from 536 in 2008/09 to 621 in 2009/10. The proportion of cases in which homelessness was prevented rose from 43% to 47%. Overall homelessness was prevented in 397 cases during 09/10 compared to 289 in the previous calendar year.
- 6 **Acceptances and Decisions** – In respect of the number of people presenting as homeless per quarter (i.e. decisions made), the number has increased as the year has gone on from 94 at the end of Quarter 1 to 110 at the end of Quarter 3. The number of acceptances has reduced slightly. Looking at this years position overall, compared to the same period last year, while the number of persons presenting as homeless has risen from 272 to 307 between January 2009 and end October 2009, the number of Acceptances has decreased from 182 to

174.

- 7 **Eligibility and Reasons for Homelessness** - The largest proportion of households accepted as eligible in the 2009/10 financial year come from the 'Lone Parent with Children- Female Applicant' category with a total of 73 households accepted as eligible. The main reason for homelessness was "parents no longer willing or able to accommodate" which accounted for 53 households. Violent breakdown of relationship resulting in homelessness resulted in 32 applications, and termination of private sector accommodation accounted for 29 applications that were accepted.
- 8 **Accepted Priority Group** - The largest vulnerable group presenting and being accepted as homeless during 2009 so far is the 'Families with children' group with 101 acceptances. This figure is slightly lower than for the same period last year (106 households).
- 9 As at 8<sup>th</sup> January 2010 Homelessness Prevention Officers were dealing with 426 active prevention cases. This represents a significant number of cases and is due in part to changes in service delivery including improving face-to-face access for customers to Housing Advice Service.

There are a variety of other homelessness statistics that are collected on a quarterly basis and are submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government. This report gives a summary of some of this data, for further information contact Chris Jones by email at [chris.jones@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.jones@herefordshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01432 261596.

## Community Impact

- 10 Not Applicable

## Financial Implications

- 11 None identified

## Legal Implications

- 12 None identified

## Risk Management

- 13 None identified

## Consultees

- 14 None identified

## Appendices

- 15 Appendix A.: Homelessness Key Performance Report

## Background Papers

None identified