

Agenda Item No: 5 (c)
Report To: Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board
Date: 18th October 2017
Report Title: Housing and Health
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Organisation: Ashford Borough Council, Head of Housing



Summary: Report to provide an overview of progress on housing and health, a new priority for the Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board.

Recommendations: **The Board be asked to note the contents of this report and provide feedback as appropriate**

Purpose of the report

1. The Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board, at its last meeting in July 2017, identified Housing as a priority area. This report provides an overview of progress made since that meeting and expected outcomes.

Background

2. At the last meeting, the Board was advised of the council's aspiration to develop a Health and Housing Strategy to sit under its wider Housing Framework. This aspiration acknowledges the huge potential that housing has to play, not only in supporting the provision of safe and healthy homes, but also as a setting for the delivery of the preventative health agenda. Central to the strategy will be the aspiration to support local care as developing through the health transformation agenda.
3. For this piece of work to be meaningful, and to develop some realistic and achievable actions, it was agreed that input and active participation would be required from colleagues in both health and social care.
4. It was suggested that a workshop would be a useful starting point to discuss what the main issues are and where can housing, health and social care can come together for the benefit of the resident(s).

Progress to Date

5. Contact has been made with colleagues in both health and social care with a view to identifying issues that need to be covered, examples of good joint working in this area and the identification of appropriate projects.

6. The format of the workshop has been developed and the initial focus is likely to be on how housing can assist the health transformation agenda. It is planned to consider some successful housing and health case studies in order to identify potential projects for our locality.
7. It was originally planned for the workshop to take place in October, however, we are awaiting availability dates from colleagues which means the workshop has been delayed.
8. In addition to the workshop, the chief executive is discussing with KCC adult social services the future housing provision for our aging population and how we can better responding to the preventative health agenda within the housing arena.

Conclusion

9. It is early days for this priority but the potential benefits to our population's health are enormous. There is clear evidence of the links between housing and health and the developing local care plans are emphasising the importance of appropriate housing provision.

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