

Agenda Item No: 5 (c)



Report To: Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board

Date: 18th April 2018

Report Title: Housing and Health

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Organisation: Ashford Borough Council, Housing

Summary: This report provides an overview of the progress in relation to the Housing and Health priority.

Recommendations: The Board is requested to note the contents of the report.

Purpose of the report

1. The Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board identified housing as a priority area in July 2017. This report provides an overview of progress made since that meeting in developing this priority area.

Background

2. During previous meetings, the Board has been 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 housing, health and social care can come together for the benefit of the resident(s).

Progress to date

5. Sadly, it proved difficult to arrange a meaningful workshop at this stage therefore this action has slipped. Since the last Board meeting a useful meeting has taken place between housing and health colleagues and a plan is being formulated to take forward various strands of work identifying where

housing has a significant part to play in progressing health priorities and vice versa.

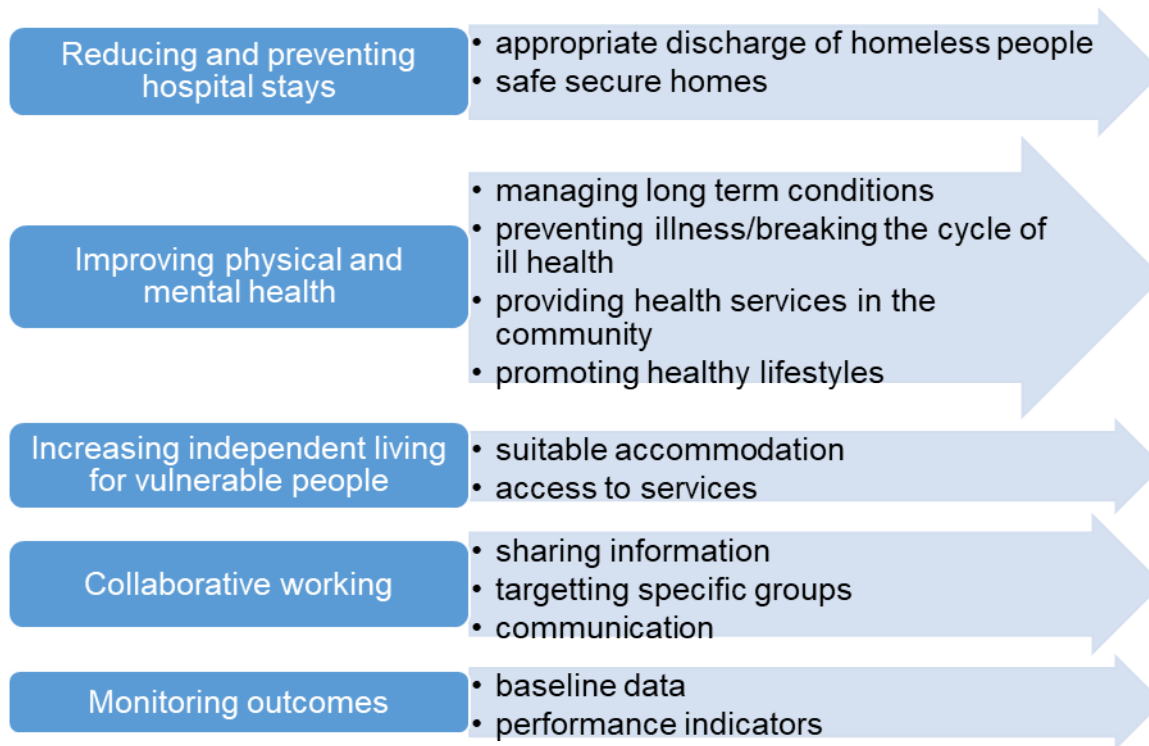
6. Housing have a view that they can help deliver the Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation plan in a number of key areas. Particularly around the local care model (delivering care in or closer to home) and avoiding admissions and reducing length of stay in hospital.
7. The diagram at Appendix 1 identifies some key areas to develop further in the joint Housing and Health strategy. This is very much just a starting point and we will need to continue to develop this work with our health colleagues to prioritise and refine our action plan.

Conclusion

8. It is proposed that we develop joint actions and arrangements around the key strands identified at Appendix 1. At this stage it is recommended that we focus attention on developing these work strands and that we further postpone the idea of a health and housing workshop until such times as we have developed this work further with our health colleagues.

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APPENDIX 1



- Early co-operation to ensure home is suitable for timely discharge
- Suitable accommodation available for homeless people
- Homes fit for purpose to avoid accidents and injury
- Homes warm and free from damp and mould and hazards
- Prevention of homelessness
- Promoting health promotion activities and signposting to services
- Sufficient affordable housing of the right size
- Developing new and refurbishing existing accommodation to meet the needs of vulnerable people to live independent lives
- Sharing of existing facilities (such as sheltered schemes) to deliver health and wellbeing services and tackle social isolation
- Link to other services and voluntary sector to maximise opportunities to reach disadvantaged groups