

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD  
21 MAY 2019****HOUSING UPDATE – PROGRESS ON THE JSNA ON  
HOUSING AND HEALTH AND THE MOU ON HOUSING,  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

---

**Board Sponsor**

Dr Frances Howie Director of Public Health

**Author**

Tim Rice Senior Public Health Practitioner

(Please click below  
then on down arrow)

**Priorities**

Mental health & well-being	Yes
Being Active	No
Reducing harm from Alcohol	No
Other (specify below)	

**Safeguarding**

Impact on Safeguarding Children Yes  
Supports policy that will safeguard children

Impact on Safeguarding Adults Yes  
Supports policy that will safeguarding children

**Item for Decision, Consideration or Information**

Information and assurance

**Recommendation**

1. **The Health and Well-being Board is asked to:**
  - a) **Note the progress on the housing and health JSNA and**
  - b) **Note the progress being made against the MoU on housing, health and care.**

**Background**

2. A new housing and health JSNA is being finalised and is due to be jointly considered and finalised with key partners, including the local Housing Authorities. This will focus upon the impact of housing conditions, affordable warmth homelessness and rough sleeping on the local population and make recommendations for system wide approaches and actions.

3. As the Board is aware, there is a drive to promote closer working between housing and health through the national MoU and set out below is a short resume of progress against key headline outcomes.

4. MoU on Housing and Health: Previous reports to the Board have highlighted the approach that is being taken in relation to the MoU on housing, health and care. National oversight of the MoU focusses on several indicators of success and while there is no requirement to do so, locally, we consider that it is useful to assess how we are progressing across the system against these headline indicators of success. Set out below is a brief commentary of what has been happening in Worcestershire in this context.

5. *Better Strategic Planning*: The inclusion of housing and homelessness in key strategy and planning processes for health, social care and local government is becoming more regularised in Worcestershire. There is local agreement that housing will play a more significant role in the STP and a revised STP document in summer will describe in much greater detail the role housing plays, particularly with regard to strengthening the prevention agenda. Housing is now explicitly included in the remit of the STP Prevention Board and there is growing synergy between the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership and the STP. New joint commissioning approaches such as the Independent Living Project (ILP), a collaboration between the District Councils, the County Council and the CCG's, highlights how strategic planning across key agencies is being developed. There is also extensive co-operation between the sectors on the review of the countywide homelessness strategy and support for a high-level task and finish group aimed at tackling rough sleeping.

6. *Better understanding of the Preventative Role in Housing*: There is a stronger recognition of the role a stable and secure housing situation plays in keeping people healthy and independent and preventing ill-health or injury. The STP will in particular focus on the preventative aspects. There is a strong evidence base of the preventive role that housing plays and the new housing and health JSNA will assist in demonstrating where the key focus should be taking place.

7. *Greater collaborative care*: There is joint action on housing's contribution to different care pathways. There has been agreement by Worcestershire Chief Executive and Leaders Board to support cross Authority approaches to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness. A particular focus will include how commissioners and providers of drug and alcohol services and mental health services can support new approaches, including piloting a Housing First project. Local Housing Associations are finalising a project which will highlight their "offer" on health and wellbeing and how they can better support social care and the NHS meet their objectives through their housing development and management expertise and resources.

8. *Better use of Resources*: The current recommissioning of an ILP, led by Worcestershire Local Authorities and the CCG is endeavouring to change the way in which services are currently delivered. The focus will be on maintaining older peoples (and some children's) independence at home, reducing hospital admissions and improving hospital discharge. The intention is for a better utilisation of resources, including the Better Care Fund, to improve health through the home, prevent illness, manage demand and deliver service improvements. There is a strong joint focus

upon enabling people to remain independent at home, reduce hospital admissions and facilitate safe and effective discharge from hospital.

9. *Improved Signposting:* Frontline professionals need to know which services and interventions are available across the sector locally and how to refer people into these. The social prescribing pilot has highlighted that housing is a key issue that is highlighted by patients attending GP surgeries and this is something that can now increasingly be supported through enhanced partnership working at locality level. Several public bodies, including social services and the NHS now have a duty to refer people who are or at risk of homelessness to the Local Housing Authorities and it will be important going forward to consider how cross agency briefings and training can be improved to better aid this collaboration. A forthcoming Strategic Housing Partnership workshop in June will focus on the issues of homelessness and rough sleeping for those in the criminal justice system and will include briefings by a range of agencies on their housing duties and current roles.

10. *More Shared Learning:* Professionals are beginning to receive appropriate multi-disciplinary training to better prevent ill-health and promote good health and wellbeing through the home. A MECC briefing by Public Health at the Strategic Housing Partnership on how agencies can support their clients through structured brief discussions on their health and wellbeing, has been well received, with at least one of the major Housing Providers looking to adopt this approach as part of their training programme.

11. Appropriate, safe and good quality housing is recognised by the Board as a major determinant of health and a key preventative factor in improving the local populations health and wellbeing. The production of the housing and health JSNA and the increasing focus on the MoU principles, demonstrates strong progress in Worcestershire and provides a platform for the key agencies and their partners to integrate their policies, working arrangements and investment going forward.

## **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

12. N/A

## **Privacy Impact Assessment**

13. N/A

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

14. N/A at present

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Tim Rice, Senior Public Health Practitioner

Tel: 01905 01905 843107

Email: TRice@worcestershire.gov.uk

### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Public Health) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.