

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD

10 May 2016

CHARTER FOR HOMELESS HEALTH

Board Sponsor

Cllr Marcus Hart, Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being

Author

Dr Frances Howie, Interim Director of Public Health

(Please click below
then on down arrow)

Priorities

Older people & long term conditions	No
Mental health & well-being	Yes
Obesity	No
Alcohol	Yes
Other (specify below)	

Groups of particular interest

Children & young people	Yes
Communities & groups with poor health outcomes	Yes
People with learning disabilities	No

Safeguarding

Impact on Safeguarding Children
If yes please give details

Yes

Impact on Safeguarding Adults
If yes please give details

Yes

Item for Decision, Consideration or Information

Consideration

Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to:**
 - a) Note the signature of the Charter for Homeless Health by the Chairman, on behalf of the Board**
 - b) Note and commit to the three commitments of the charter, including contributing to a more detailed needs assessment, and to integrated commissioning**
 - c) Ask the Director of Public Health to take this issue to the Health Improvement Group for implementation working in tandem with the development of the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership plan.**

Background

2. St Mungo's, a national charity for homeless people, has asked Health and Well-being Boards across the Country to sign up to their Charter for Homeless Health. This is attached as an Appendix. The aim of the charter is to improve the health of homeless people who have some of the poorest outcomes in our population.

3. Having consulted with Board members by email, the chairman of the Board signed the Charter in February 2016. In order to take this work forward now, it is suggested that the Health Improvement Group be asked to consider how best to embed the priorities from the Charter into work across the County. It is noted that a new Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership plan is at consultation phase and this will also incorporate the county Homelessness Strategy within it.

4. The Charter itself has three commitments and Worcestershire has already made progress against each of these. The first is "to identify need, and to include the health needs of people who are homeless in our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This will include people who are sleeping rough, people living in supported accommodation and people who are hidden homeless. We will work with homelessness services and homeless people to achieve this." In Worcestershire we have a JSNA Briefing on Homelessness with some highlight figures on health. Much more detail was collected some years ago in a public health report which had drawn on the experiences and views of local homeless people and those providing the services. In 2014 and 2015 Health Watch undertook a review of county homeless services and have written an interim report which is available at http://www.healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk/sites/default/files/homelessness_report_-_preliminary_findings.pdf. It would be timely to update on these.

5. The second charter commitment is to "provide leadership: We will provide leadership on addressing homeless health. Our Director of Public Health has a key leadership role to play in tackling health inequalities and will lead in promoting integrated responses and identifying opportunities for cross boundary working." The Director of Public Health will take responsibility for ensuring that homeless health is embedded in work across the County, through the development of a plan by the Health Improvement Group.

6. The third Charter commitment is to "commission for inclusion: We will work with the local authority and clinical commissioning groups to ensure that local health services meet the needs of people who are homeless, and that they are welcoming and easily accessible." Members may recall that in 2014 the South Worcestershire CCG reviewed its services and de-commissioned the Farrier Street drop in service in 2014 and extended some medical services to Maggs Day Centre at no cost. We will ensure that the findings of further reports are fed to commissioners in a timely way.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email:

worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

Frances Howie, Interim director of public health

Tel: 01905 845533

Email: fhowie@worcestershire.gov.uk

Supporting Information

- Appendix – Charter for homeless health