

Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following recommendations	Response/Comments	RAG Status
18-Mar-19	Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022	<p>The Committee recommend that the strategy includes services provided by Third Sector Organisations, to present members of the public who are facing possible homelessness with alternative options for assistance and supply citizens the opportunity to choose the most appropriate choice for them.</p>	<p>This can be incorporated</p>	<p>Amber</p>
		<p>Although the Committee are mindful of the resource required to improve collaboration and communications with Bridgend County Borough Council staff and external organisations, Members recommend that Officers explore best practice for inter-agency working with reference to homelessness. The Committee further recommend that a mechanism is created to share referrals made with each agency to outline what support is being supplied and could also be required in the future.</p>	<p>We do have a quarterly Supporting People and Homeless forum which providers, internal departments and external organisations attend. We could not share referrals between agencies as there are GDPR implications. We would need consent to share this information. Welsh Government are currently developing a wales wide street homeless database which 3rd sector and the Authority will have access to. This will enable each organisation working with the individual to understand who is providing support and whether there are any gaps.</p>	<p>Amber</p>

<p>Members raised concerns regarding the issues relating to the effects that may be encountered with 'employed' homeless people being placed in emergency accommodation. Firstly with placements being amongst other individuals who may sustain more vulnerable and chaotic needs and secondly in relation to the high cost implications of residing in temporary accommodation, which could lead onto financial difficulties for an individuals on a low income.</p>	<p>We have a varied range of temporary accommodation. Whilst we do have 24 hour supported hostel type accommodation, we also have independant accommodation which are private rented properties leased to a housing association to manage. This consist of houses and flats. Persons who do not have high support needs are referred to these placements. We acknowledge that the rent in temporary accommodation is higher than the market rent and local housing allowance rates. In circumstances where an individual or household is working, and thus not entitled to housing benefit, we would charge the applicant their eligible local housing allowance amount and pay the difference. Unless an individual is priority need (is vulnerable) then temporary accommodation would not ordinarily be secured.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Members recommend that a programme of rota visits are launched for the temporary accommodation options provided by the Council, which will offer the opportunity for Elected Members to meet with people who reside in these establishments and listen to their views.</p>	<p>This can be arranged</p>	<p>Amber</p>

<p>The Committee also voiced their apprehensions relating to the safety of citizens who are housed in Houses with Multiply Occupancy (HMO's). As previously mentioned, Members reiterated the differing needs of individuals and the necessity to ensure that individuals are housed in-line with their requirements and support network. Therefore Members recommend that the Council create a HMO Strategy which outlines the effect of incorrect allocation of housing and looks to engage effectively with registered and private landlords to mitigate these issues.</p>	<p>These properties are independent of the council and BCBC do not allocate housing in the private rented sector. Decisions on tenancies are undertaken by the landlord and managing agent. HMO policy/Strategy is a planning matter</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>To encourage communication, Members recommend that the Housing Department look to explore the opportunity to create 'Strategic Housing Forums'. When discussing the membership of the potential Forum, the Committee recommend that in addition to the inclusion of any relevant partners, that thought is given of involving letting agents as well as private and registered landlords.</p>	<p>As per above, there is a quarterly SP and Homeless forum. We also have a quarterly landlord forum. Letting agents are invited to this meeting. The Bridgend Housing Partnership meetings are also due to be reinstated shortly. This partnership consists of the most senior management of the RSL's and Authority's .</p>	<p>Amber</p>

<p>The Committee recommend that there is a continuation of care and monitoring of service users that have previously presented as homeless, as many of the previous issues, especially relating to substance misuse and mental health could be re-occurring.</p>	<p>The Authority don't provide an assertive outreach service which would enable a continuation of care to be provided by the Housing Solutions Department. However, there are a number of agencies which do provide a community based service. The Wallich are funded directly by Welsh Government to provide a Housing Solutions service and a Rough Sleeper Intervention Service. Both these services will engage individuals in the support and agencies relevant to their needs. Likewise, Pobl have a floating support service on a much larger scale which operates 6 days a week supporting citizens of the borough. They also deliver our homeless 'floor space'. This has an engagement worker attached to the service which will again provide daily support to persons using that service. The supporting people team also fund mental health and substance misuse services in the community.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Following discussions in relation to the Local Authority owned hostel accommodation in Brynmenyn, Members raised grave concerns regarding the suitability of the facility and the possible regression with children's learning skills, such as toilet training due to existing shared bathrooms. Therefore Members recommend that strict timelines are implemented for the hostel options appraisal and further recommend that the</p>	<p>This is being followed up currently and future report to be made when information available</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Additional Information</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members requested to receive the percentage of people who present as homeless but don't continue with support offered. 	<p>In 2018/19 there were 1320 households that presented as homeless of which 215 households (17%) did not continue with support offered. Reasons for not continuing with support include where the household is unreasonably failing to cooperate with the Local Authority, where the household has withdrawn their application, where there has been loss of contact after numerous attempts or where the household refuses an offer of accommodation.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When discussing the Homelessness Presentations, Members requested to receive the precise recording of all presentations including children in each household. In addition the Committee request that the information includes citizens that have presented that reside outside the borough; 	<p>Please see "Presentations by Family Type" tab. Information on citizens that have presented that reside outside the borough is not available as the authority area presenting from is not recorded. It is not possible to analyse by addresses, as household addresses change a number of times, and many homeless applicants may present with no fixed abode.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With reference to one of the greatest reason for homelessness – 'parent no longer able or willing to accommodate', Members requested to receive statistics on how successful mediation is currently to ensure funding is being spent in the most efficient way; 	<p>In 2016/17 the mediation service received 117 referrals, 70 young persons returned or remained at home (60%). In 2017/18 the mediation service received 129 referrals, 57 young persons returned or remained at home (44%). In 2018/19 the mediation service received 104 referrals, 54 young persons returned or remained at home (52%)</p>	<p>Green</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members asked to receive further information from the Education Directorate in relation to school transport to and from Brynmenyn hostel to ensure that continuity of education is ensued; 	<p>It is fairly unusual for children (under the age of 18) to be placed in Brynmenyn hostel. However, when children are placed there, transport is always provided to ensure whatever educational establishment they are attending, that their placement is maintained while they are accommodated in the hostel.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee asked to receive a breakdown of the 41% of people for whom the Council had a 'final' duty to house that had a negative outcome - along with an action plan to mitigate the outlined reasons; 	<p>A breakdown of the 41% is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 16% became homeless intentionally from suitable temporary accommodation (15 households) b. 10% voluntarily ceased to occupy suitable temporary accommodation (10 households) c. 10% refused an offer of accommodation via the Common Housing Register (10 households) d. 2% unreasonably failing to cooperate (2 households) e. 1% deceased (1 household) f. 1% refused an offer of temporary accommodation (1 household) 	<p>Green</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist Members with monitoring the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy, the Committee requested to receive timelines against the aims and objectives outlined within the Homelessness Strategy and for the establishment of multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Delivery Group. 	<p>Further to the completion of the consultation, a plan will be developed to deliver the strategy which will incorporate timelines.</p>	<p>Amber</p>

	Members agreed that when in receipt of the above additional information the Committee will decide as to whether the data and statistics should be included within the Strategy or if Members wish to make further recommendations in relation to it.		
Supporting People Grant	The Committee note the increasing numbers of presentations from men experiencing domestic abuse and were pleased to hear of options being explored for a refuge for men only, although Members did query where the facility would be placed if a joint service with other Local Authorities is employed.	Service users needs will be the determining factor of any provision and a range of options will need to be explored to respond to these needs.	Amber
	Additional Information		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee request to receive timelines that are being adhered to in relation to the options for a hostel for men. 	Service users needs will be the determining factor of any provision and a range of options will need to be explored to respond to these needs. Further information to be provided when available	Amber
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the Supporting People Grant Spend Category detailed in the report, Members note the line 'Women experiencing Domestic Abuse' and queried whether this should state people experiencing domestic abuse which would include women, men and LGBT. The Committee further questioned whether the percentage presented on page 40 only totalled women experiencing domestic abuse. 	This will be reviewed	Amber
	Future Work		

	Following the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy, Members have requested to receive a further report on the Supporting People Grant and provide an update in relation to what steps have been implemented as recommended by the Independent Review undertaken.	Added to the FWP	Green
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