

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

25 September 2023

Recommendations / Information requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:
Housing Support Programme Strategy (Homelessness Strategy) 2022-2026		
<u>Recommendations:</u>		
1	To strengthen the Strategy in terms of support for veterans and Armed Services personnel.	<p>Following discussions at the Scrutiny Meeting on 25th September 2023 further analysis was undertaken in this respect and is highlighted below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2020, 8 homelessness applications were received as a direct result of the applicant leaving the Armed Forces and having no other suitable accommodation in which to reside. • 18 applicants reported to have an additional support need as a result of serving in the Armed Forces • More generally, since 2020, 260 applicants who presented as homeless disclosed to have previously served in the Armed Forces <p>Engagement was also subsequently held with the Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer who shared the consultation with a list of relevant contacts. No direct comments were received.</p>
2	To maximise effectiveness of the Strategy, that the strategic priority objectives be reviewed to ensure that they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound) and set out in the Action Plan and the timescales be broken	The Action Plan has been edited, primarily to include some additional timescales with regards to anticipated timescales for individual pieces of work. Some actions are ongoing and do not

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	down further detailing the year and month in which each action is planned to be achieved, so that progress can be clearly measured.	have a specific deadline by when to be achieved. The final Strategy and Action Plan were approved by Cabinet in December 2023.
3	That the Strategy be made more user friendly and as easy to navigate as possible.	The format of the Housing Support Programme Strategy is prescribed by Welsh Government to all Local Authorities in the Housing Support Grant Guidance.
<u>Additional Information:</u>		
4	A route map setting out the broad working practice model of what happens when someone presents as homeless, including the stages, timescales and type of services offered and where appropriate, average timescales for rehousing.	I have attached two documents, the first of which gives some detail with regards to the key sections of the Housing Wales Act (4a). The second is a brief summary (4b) intended for those presenting to Local Authorities. I hope the Chair and members find these useful, but if they do want anything more specific please let me know.