

## **Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy – delivery plan**

This plan has been developed so that we can deliver against the priorities and actions set out in the Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy. It will be regularly reviewed and updated as we make progress in our priorities and as circumstances change.

In January 2019, and with the agreement of the portfolio holder, this delivery plan has been updated to reflect actions contained in our Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding action plan (see actions 2.11 to 2.17 for details).

We will resource the delivery of our priorities and actions through existing budgets and resources including the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant, and through the use of new burdens funding that local authorities have been allocated to implement the Homelessness Reduction Act. We will also continue to access external funding opportunities through central Government, commissioning and our partners.

This delivery plan review represents the work that has been undertaken after four years of a five-year plan and as such there are a number of areas that remain a work in progress. We have made significant progress towards achieving a number of our actions, but there have also been challenges.

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## Priority One: Homelessness Prevention

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|--|---|--|
| 1.1    | Provide high quality timely advice for all residents on their housing options. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful homeless preventions</li> <li>• Increased use of online resources on the West Suffolk website and homelink page</li> <li>• Monitoring customer contact to establish if online and self-help has affected the number or frequency of contact</li> <li>• Increased use of self-help guides to ensure that those who can, are able to access up-to-date and relevant advice about housing options</li> </ul> | <p>Information now available on our webpages for: rough sleepers, care leavers and young people, domestic abuse, ex-armed forces, hospital discharge, released from prison, older people, being asked to leave accommodation provided by family or friends, evicted from the private sector, relationship breakdown (non-violent).</p> <p>Information to be added for: leaving care; rough sleeping page; leaving hospital; mental health. Add one on relationship breakdowns (homeowner). Regular meeting with leaving care team and 'keeping close'. West Suffolk involved in transition panel. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) specify that care leavers be given priority on the register. Reduced number of care leavers coming through register.</p> <p>Staff training on mediation work with families will be explored. Earlier plans to arrange this training were paused due to COVID-19.</p> <p>We are working closely with colleagues at Suffolk County Council (SCC) to support residents who are at risk of homelessness due to the cost of living crisis, Ukrainian cohorts, Afghan refugees, asylum seekers and those in fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Collaborative Communities Board (CCB) is increasing its focus around this area. We are also looking at how we use the Household Support Fund (HSF) in order to effectively support families.</p> |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|---|---|---|
| 1.2    | <p>Agree a personal housing plan (PHP) for anyone homeless or threatened with homelessness. We will review our casework management system to ensure we can monitor progress and report on the outcomes of advice given.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal housing plans are developed for all housing applicants and successfully lead to the prevention of homelessness</li> <li>• Use Locata to ensure that housing plans are tailored and monitored</li> </ul>   | <p>All PHPs are being completed and the procedures are working. We monitor the number of PHPs through key performance indicators which are reported on a monthly basis.</p> <p>These key performance indicators have now been tailored to local services and are constantly being reviewed.</p> <p>We need to amend the procedure of customers from triage to solutions to create small PHP, especially where there is a registered provider referral this is an interim step to progress the case.</p> <p>In this case, treated as triage so dealt with quickly and closed at triage stage if able to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>This work is ongoing.</p> |
| 1.3    | <p>Identify people at risk of homelessness at an earlier stage and develop interventions to prevent them from being threatened with or becoming homeless.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailored housing options advice information available for those particularly at risk of homelessness</li> <li>• Effective advice and prevention pathways in place to ensure they meet the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act and review to ensure they are effective</li> <li>• Groups who are particularly at risk of homelessness are identified and targeted, early intervention is provided to those who have housing needs, in order to facilitate planned moves rather than crisis management.</li> <li>• Fewer homeless individuals and households, lower spend on bed and</li> </ul> | <p>Target some risk groups, for example through Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).</p> <p>Referrals continue to be received from partners.</p> <p>Housing options interns have been tasked with holding a mutual exchange event to promote housing options that took place over summer 2019.</p> <p>Volume means we cannot be as proactive as we would want to be and engage with third sector.</p> <p>See action 3.4 for further information.</p> <p>Prison discharge being managed through Suffolk Homeless Officer Group.</p>   |

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|        |  | <p>breakfast and temporary accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring to compare with existing statistics and national baseline against the new Act.</li> </ul>  | <p>Hospital discharge – more involvement in strategic approach</p> <p>Referrals coming out of Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).</p> <p>Section 21 - spreadsheet of families and individuals subject to a section 21 notice so know how many people at risk of homelessness. Treated as prevention immediately although there is no statutory duty to do so. Referrals made to West Suffolk Lettings Partnership where needed. Not just about homeless but also those who are struggling. Approach being looked at across Suffolk.</p> <p>This work is ongoing. The caseload is currently stable and no current concerns. However, it is becoming more difficult to obtain properties for private rent so we might see an increase in households contacting us. We are talking to Havebury Housing and Samphire about referrals at early stage before using the Housing Household Support Fund. Discretionary Housing Payment can be used if HSF unavailable.</p> <p>We are predicting a caseload increase of 26 per cent at year end.</p> |
| 1.4    | Identify ways to encourage tenancy sustainment and prevent recurring homelessness by helping people sustain settled accommodation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fewer instances of contact meaning less cost and time spent housing people</li> <li>Effective case management of households to ensure support is in place</li> <li>Timely interventions by the Housing Options Solutions Team to provide effective intervention and signpost to support.</li> </ul> | <p>There is now increased capacity in the solutions team.</p> <p>Welfare issues being monitored through a reporting system.</p> <p>Better use of Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) as evidenced by the statistics. In, 2019 to 2020, 99.5 per cent of DHP spent by year end across West Suffolk. See action 5.7 for further information. 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022 DHP allocation spent and on track for 2022 to 2023.</p>  |

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|        |   |   | <p>Tenancy sustainment training in place with 'Ready, Steady, Rent' for individuals identified as needing additional support to sustain a tenancy.</p> <p>The Suffolk Housing Board is looking at tenancy readiness and more support for young people and carers with funding allocated by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL). This work will have a focus on prevention and the need to see more people who are tenancy ready.</p> <p>A new approach is now being developed to supporting care leavers to ensure they are life ready and not just tenancy ready.</p> <p>The Household Support Fund is being used to support tenants to remain in housing.</p> |
| 1.5    | Provide tailored advice for people at greater risk of homelessness, including young single people, prison leavers, hospital leavers, victims of domestic abuse, people leaving care, former members of the armed forces, people with learning difficulties, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups at particular risk of homelessness are identified and tailored advice and prevention leaflets or pathways identified.</li> <li>• Decrease the likelihood of those most at risk presenting as homeless and requiring the new statutory duty.</li> <li>• Track frequency and referral route for these cases.</li> <li>• Monitor expenditure for those accepted under these risk factors to see the amount of decrease.</li> </ul> | <p>See 1.1 above.</p> <p>Duty to Refer came into force in October 2018 and need to monitor once the legislation has been in place for longer.</p> <p>At a local level work has been undertaken to put systems in place to respond to the Duty to Refer. Additional initiative from central government required to increase duty on some agencies to cooperate with local authorities as not all partners required to do so.</p> <p>Statutory referrals are coming from prison service in particular and mental health services aware, as described earlier we are continuing to work on these referral routes.</p> <p>Referrals also now coming from DHP.</p>    |

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|        | people with mental health issues and gypsies and travellers (also linked in actions around priority three). |  | <p>We continue to work closely with our partners. The duty to refer is limited in its potential to engage local partners as not all are bound by the duty and are not required to co-operate with local partners to co-operate with councils in preventing homelessness.</p> <p>Need to influenced forthcoming tender for prison release accommodation and at least have notice to release.</p> <p>Training for team around new domestic abuse victims of forced marriages, female genital mutilation and trafficking. Two key domestic abuse staff members.</p> <p>We have reviewed our policies and procedures and this demonstrated that we have due regard to the Armed Forces Act 2021. We are strengthening this through staff training, enhancing strategic engagement and awareness of the local armed forces community and improving our webpages.</p> <p>Through the Local Authority Housing Fund, announced in December 2022, we are working with Havebury and Samphire to deliver eight additional units of accommodation for those on Afghan and Ukraine schemes. This accommodation will also help to reduce spend on emergency and temporary accommodation and be a lasting legacy of properties to address local housing and homelessness pressures in the future. See section 4.6 for further information.</p> |
| 1.6    | Develop a prevention toolkit, training and advice to help organisations respond to the                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures a standardised approach to information for all partner organisations.</li> <li>• Reduces cost of information from multiple streams being referred to the correct department.</li> </ul> | <p>Research on a toolkit is ongoing.</p> <p>Homelessness prevention remains high with a high proportion of people staying in their existing accommodation.</p>  |

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|        | risk of homelessness at an earlier stage.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces the risk of information being lost between partners.</li> </ul>   |  |
| 1.7    | Brief the statutory and voluntary sectors of the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) so they can provide the right support and advice.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased knowledge of HRA and approach to reducing homelessness.</li> <li>Improved referral times due to having information on referral process and statutory responsibilities.</li> </ul> | <b>This action has been completed.</b>   |
| 1.8    | With partners, agree clear pathways and referral routes. This will include public bodies that will have a new duty to refer. Implement protocols for information sharing between services working with customers at risk of homelessness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners have access to effective and efficient referral routes for the Housing Options Service, including an online referral form.</li> </ul>  | <p>All in place – email set up with an out of office. Referral form set up and on website.</p> <p><b>This action has been completed.</b></p> |



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| 1.9    | <p>Improve data collection and recording. Use data and predictive analysis to help target resources to prevent homelessness and identify and interact with people in need of advice and support, in order to prevent homelessness from occurring. This will include developing local community based responses in areas with higher levels of homelessness including specialist advice and signposting.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streamline resources and reduce cost at expensive relief stage.</li> <li>• Reduced use of temporary accommodation and build more detailed picture of hidden homelessness in the West Suffolk area allowing for pin pointed strategies in housing and provision for families at risk.</li> </ul> | <p>We continue to use data in order to target resources and provide advice and support where needed.</p> <p>This work is ongoing and a performance framework has been developed.</p> <p>The requirement to report on data and plans to DULHC has increased significantly during the pandemic. We are reporting on the following, some of which are in place due to funding being provided in response to coronavirus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness statistics submitted to DULHC quarterly. Tables are then circulated by DULHC on a quarterly basis so we can benchmark against other local authorities and understand where we need to focus our efforts in terms of prevention, relief and particular needs;</li> <li>• Pilot using PowerBI dashboards to view homelessness data;</li> <li>• Homelessness Personal Data pilot;</li> <li>• Submit an Ending Rough Sleeping Plan to DULHC, setting out how we will work with partners to provide a route off the streets for those currently rough sleeping, how we will use Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rough Sleeper Initiative Year 4 funding to maximise interventions to prevent and relieve single homelessness;</li> <li>• COVID-19: Monthly KPIs to DULHC that report on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rough sleeping delivery plan;</li> <li>- number of rough sleepers;</li> <li>- the number of rough sleepers house in emergency and short-term accommodation;</li> <li>- GP registrations;</li> <li>- the number of individuals previously in emergency/temporary accommodation now in settled accommodation;</li> <li>- delivery against the NSAP.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|        |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19: Between January and March 2021 local authorities were required to submit a weekly rough sleeping survey;</li> <li>• COVID-19: monthly data being collected by DULHC on lettings information for accommodation funded through the 2020 to 2021 Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (formerly known as NSAP);</li> <li>• COVID-19: Homes England 2021 to 2022 Compliance Audit Programme – we have been selected for an audit to ensure that we are meeting Homes England requirements and funding conditions relating to the funding received for NSAP.</li> </ul> <p>Working with the CCG to use the R-Outcomes measures to understand the impact of service delivery (particularly in the new NSAP funded unit) on residents and staff. This will provide a qualitative measure of performance. In addition, the team is supporting two research projects to understand the impact of work in relation to Everyone In: DULHC and University of Suffolk research projects.</p> <p>Alongside Suffolk local authorities, we are exploring options around the LIFT modelling tool that provides evidence to inform decision making around homelessness interventions.</p> |
| 1.10   | Make better use of debt and financial advice to improve prevention work. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Households that are likely to be at risk identified and signposted or referred to relevant advice services</li> <li>• Timely intervention from the Solution’s Team alleviating crisis situations and referring to ongoing support</li> </ul> | <p>Signpost households to CAB and reach services, Vineyard Church, Financial services webpages for advice.</p> <p>Plans are in place to upskill staff to provide basic debt advice.</p> <p>In the meantime, we are referring customers to Suffolk Advice and Support Service (SASS) and to CAB. Customers also referred to the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS).</p>  |

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|        |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locata reporting on stages of homelessness and those prevented due to financial advice.</li> </ul>  | <p>SASS in place until beginning of October 2022 and referrals will then be made to CAB. LWAS will continue until the funding has ended in April 2023 with future funding is yet to be confirmed.</p>  |
| 1.11   | Better align assessment processes with statutory services and explore housing issues where appropriate as a key line of questioning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective use of referral and pathway services</li> <li>• Reduced incidences of crisis management as partners consider housing situation as part of their assessment processes – particularly target hospitals, mental health services and probation.</li> <li>• Reduction in 'relief' stage homelessness cases.</li> </ul> | <p>Fortnightly attendance at hospital for meetings on the delayed transfer of care, which may need to increase as the service develops.</p> <p>Challenges around engagement with mental health. Service manager attends the monthly integrated case management meetings (some of them involve housing). No referrals as yet.</p> <p>Probation – some improved links made with a local senior manager.</p> <p>MAPPA Manager spent time at West Suffolk Council to further improve links.</p> <p>Increased resource for hospital is ongoing working to ensure that General Data Protection Regulation requirements are met.</p> <p>We are looking to work with partners around MASH referrals that are low across Suffolk.</p> |
| 1.12   | Work with partners through the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure that   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced costs and impact on health and care services</li> <li>• Increased stability for households and long term community benefits.</li> </ul>   | <p>Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) received a housing and health update in March 2019 which was well received. Similar presentation made to West Suffolk Alliance.</p>  |

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|        | <p>the health benefits of individuals and families having a settled home remain high on its agenda and that national policy is reflected across local strategic priorities.</p> |   | <p>Team leader in the Housing Options and Homelessness service is now attending Housing Sub-group of the Adult Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>Suffolk Housing Board continues to take a lead on the number of HWB strategy actions through agreed pathways.</p> <p>SHB has recruited a post to liaise with partners around current work.</p> <p>In addition, work through the West Suffolk Alliance is keeping the profile on the importance of housing in health and wellbeing.</p>   |
| 1.13   | <p>Ensure that people in temporary accommodation are supported to access services and ensure that referrals are made to relevant floating support.</p>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces risk of repeat homelessness or impact of existing homelessness on health and wellbeing of the individual or family.</li> </ul> | <p>From April 2019: 40 per cent reduction in Suffolk County Council floating support contract. Will now be made available over the telephone and through drop-in centres.</p> <p>Dedicated resource to ensure that people in temporary accommodation through the new team which is now in place and established.</p> <p>Increased number of people in temporary and emergency accommodation as a result of COVID. Those with multiple or complex needs have limited support options available.</p> <p>Temporary accommodation team now fully resourced.</p> <p>See 2.2 for more details on the NSAP project that is providing accommodation and support for those with multiple and complex needs.</p> <p><a href="#">Discretionary support</a> is being provided through ARP as part of the Council Tax Rebate Grant discretionary scheme to households</p> |

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|        |        |                         | <p>that did not receive help with the increased cost of energy bills through the Government's main scheme.</p> <p>We are working with the Government to deliver the <a href="#">Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding</a>.</p> |

## Priority two: Tackling rough sleeping

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|--|---|---|
| 2.1    | Use dedicated support to work with rough sleepers and try to address the problems that lead to rough sleeping and being at risk of sleeping rough. This will include the development of a 'No Second Night Out' partnership. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in the number of rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.</li> <li>Reduction in evictions from supported housing</li> </ul> <p>Note: report on the outcomes achieved for first three years of Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding is available</p> | <p>RSI resources being used to get rough sleeper service up and running.</p> <p>The rough sleeper team is liaising with partners in Bury St Edmunds on a regular basis with the aim of formalising the approach to reducing the number of rough sleepers. This will be reviewed but it links to the Government's proposal for a Homelessness Reduction Board (which is currently being consulted on).</p> <p>West Suffolk was awarded £453,359 Rough Sleeper Initiative funding in 2020 to 2021 (as part of a joint bid with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils). This means we have been able to increase capacity in the team and recruit to a navigator post.</p> <p>The Government's 'everyone in' initiative asked that local authorities secure accommodation for all rough sleepers within 24 hours. West Suffolk was able to meet this requirement. There are some individuals still rough sleeping but this is not because they were not offered accommodation.</p> <p>We are building on this approach through the 'everyone in' initiative and looking at options to suit individuals.</p> <p>In October 2020, the Government announced a £10 million Cold Weather Fund through which West Suffolk has been allocated <b>£10,000</b> to provide COVID-secure accommodation this winter until March 2021. This funding has been used to provide hotel accommodation.</p> |

| Number | Action | Outcomes and monitoring | Progress as at February 2023  |
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|        |        |                         | <p>In January 2021, the Government announced extra COVID protections for rough sleepers and renters. For rough sleepers, an additional £10 million Protect Plus funding was provided for local authorities to redouble their efforts to accommodate those currently sleeping rough. It was also to help ensure rough sleepers are registered with a GP so they will be contacted about receiving a vaccination in line with priority groups outlined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, thereby being protected from the virus.</p> <p>West Suffolk has been allocated <b>£20,000</b> that will be used to provide temporary accommodation (cabins) and hotel accommodation until 31 March 2021.</p> <p>The cabins have been a valuable resource. It has enabled us to support individuals with chronic needs before they move to other accommodation such as hotels. One cabin is also set aside should it be needed for people who either need to self-isolate, or who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. The use of the cabins ended during June 2021.</p> <p>In May 2021, we were allocated £505,142 Rough Sleeper Initiative funding. This will fund the existing rough sleeper team and accommodation provision. It has also allowed us to recruit an additional navigator role (now in post) and the uplift will allow us to fund five units of accommodation for the housing first model.</p> <p>In June 2022, Suffolk County Council submitted a bid to NHS England after expressions of interest (EOI) were sought from areas for high needs sites for rough sleepers with mental health issues. An EOI was submitted for the Suffolk and North East Essex (SNEE) Integrated Care Board (ICB) area. The bid was unsuccessful, however, the ICB will continue to look at options around</p> |

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|        |  |  | <p>mainstreaming mental health and drug and alcohol support for rough sleepers across SNEE. Options are being considered for the financial year 2023 to 2024.</p> <p>We are engaged with conversations about co-occurring workshop which looks at dual diagnosis funded by ICB.</p>  |
| 2.2    | <p>Implement pathways for tackling homelessness: identifying risks early, promoting self-help and resilience for those able to help themselves and proactive help for those who are too vulnerable to help themselves.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful homelessness preventions resulting in lower risk of persistent homelessness and use of bed and breakfast</li> <li>• Fewer mandatory homelessness case acceptances and lower effect on health and wellbeing services in the area</li> <li>• Monitoring carried out through conversations and access to Positive Pathways leavers and those that become homeless later.</li> </ul> | <p>Rough Sleeper Initiative funding being used.</p> <p>Separate rough sleeper meetings taking place with Home Group, Havebury, Riverside, Cambridge Pringle Group and Anglia Care Trust.</p> <p>Regular housing forum meetings are taking place to address the very individual journeys that are taking place.</p> <p>Increased provision of rough sleeper bed and temporary accommodation with Orwell Housing and Samphire.</p> <p>As part of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) (funding announced in response to the pandemic) £634,099 of capital and revenue funding has been granted to West Suffolk. This will provide three units of accommodation for individuals with low to medium support needs and 11 units of accommodation, being provided by Sanctuary Housing, for individuals with high needs.</p> <p>Alongside this NSAP funding, West Suffolk has received a further £30,000 funding from the West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group to provide personalised care that will be delivered by the Marginalised and Vulnerable Adults (MVA) service. The focus of this will be to provide personalised and coordinate health provision as</p> |



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|        |        |                         | <p>part of a wrap around service for individuals being supported through the NSAP funding. However, the MVA team will proactively seek to support other homeless individuals with complex needs in Bury St Edmunds and the local area and work with partner organisations to support their needs.</p> <p>As of April 2022, the personalised healthcare has been in place for one year. This way of working has resulted in positive outcomes for a number of clients and it has been a successful way of mutli-agency working across the partners involved in NSAP. The personalised healthcare will be funded by the Council for the remaining two years, until April 2024. Therefore, it will remain in place for the remainder of the NSAP provision which will also end in April 2024. We will maintain the well established links that have developed with the CCG through this work.</p> <p>Will continue to respond to any future COVID outbreaks alongside our partners.</p> <p>We are working with local authorities across Suffolk to deliver the Protect and Vaccinate programme.</p> <p>Begun work with West Suffolk Alliance to explore population health of entrenched and complex rough sleepers. The aim to explore a system response to supporting those who are unable to maintain accommodation. The aim is to reduce the number of people sleeping rough from 30 to 15 (including the Babergh and Mid-Suffolk districts) by February 2022 by putting in place quality improvement initiatives.</p> <p>MVA service is being recommissioned so need to understand implications and impact on local services.</p> |

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|        |   |   | DLUHC will provide one year continuation funding for NSAP, until April 2025.   |
| 2.3    | Deliver robust services for those who are homeless. Working in partnership, provide support and stability to people who are homeless, with the aim of breaking the cycle of homelessness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure pathways to accessing support and information are available</li> <li>• Monitor repeat homelessness and identify underlying causes and potential solutions</li> <li>• Reduction of rough sleepers, homelessness and those at risk of rough sleeping and homelessness.</li> </ul> | <p>RSI funding being used.</p> <p>Outputs from the team are being regularly reviewed.</p> <p>There has been a reduction in the number of rough sleepers across West Suffolk. As at autumn 2018, the number of rough sleepers across West Suffolk was 22. 11 rough sleepers were found during the rough sleeper count in May 2019 and 13 in autumn 2019. 14 people were estimated to be sleeping rough following an evidence-based estimate carried out in autumn 2020. In 2021, nine individuals were found to be sleeping rough and in the 2022 autumn snapshot the number was six. A number of the client group have been accommodated in rough sleeper beds.</p> <p>In response to 'everyone in', 197 people were accommodated in West Suffolk between 27 March and 23 February 2021. The Rough Sleeper Outreach Team delivered outreach and telephone support through the pandemic. We are working with Home Group to provide local floating support and Marginalised and Vulnerable Adults support through health outreach to provide support for health needs.</p> <p>The council has managed to reduce the high number of individuals accommodated due to COVID. As at 1 June 2021, there were 14 individuals in bed and breakfast accommodation, 59 in temporary accommodation, 16 rough sleepers accommodated due to COVID and 5 verified rough sleepers (still out).</p> |

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|        |  |  | <p>Support is being provided with third sector including Newmarket Interfaith Forum, Newmarket Churches Together, Bury Drop-in, REACH (Haverhill).</p> <p>Established meeting with third sector partners to support vulnerable people.</p> <p>We provide support with a focus on preventing and relieving homelessness to ensure that more people are able to maintain and secure a settled home. This is demonstrated through the statistics set out for West Suffolk, East of England and England over the last three years, at Annex A below.</p> <p>Begun work with West Suffolk Alliance to explore population health of entrenched and complex rough sleepers. The aim is to explore a system response to supporting those who are unable to maintain accommodation.</p> |
| 2.4    | Work with local authorities across Suffolk and the Cambridge sub-region to improve the service offer and outcomes including for those leaving institutions (for example, hospitals and prisons). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of rough sleepers, homelessness and those at risk of rough sleeping and homelessness. Lower cost per head due to cross system working.</li> </ul> | <p>Working with West Suffolk Hospital around discharge from main hospital and mental health hospital.</p> <p>Lead officer for prison release. As at January 2023, a data sharing agreement is being progressed and we are looking to agree the protocol across the Suffolk Housing Officers Group.</p> <p>Mental health discharges – there is no protocol in place but the current procedures are working – invited to weekly meetings</p> <p>Regular attendance at the 180 cohort meetings (working alongside probation and prolific offenders). Gap between operational and strategic</p> <p>Work is ongoing.</p>  |

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|--|---|---|
| 2.5    | Further enhance coordination across statutory, commissioned and voluntary services to coordinate activity, share information and work together on initiatives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in persistent homelessness.</li> <li>• Reduced spend on bed and breakfast.</li> <li>• Reduced workload for outreach workers and those working directly with the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.</li> <li>• Increased knowledge base to aid prevention work.</li> </ul> | <p>We have worked closely with Suffolk County Council and the new housing related support service will be in place from April 2022.</p> <p>Close liaison with clinical commissioning group personalised care services.</p> <p>Attendance at multi-agency case meetings (as below).</p> <p>We have flagged with the MVA commissioners that we would like to input into any re-commissioning of the Marginalised and Vulnerable Adults services.</p> <p>A Suffolk-wide drug strategy is being developed.</p>  |
| 2.6    | Continue to access external funding to support outreach and prevention activity building on that already secured from government and Suffolk Public Health.    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance, and where possible, expansion of services and key homelessness provision.</li> </ul>  | <p>Significant and ongoing work to bid for external funding and to manage the subsequent monitoring requirements.</p> <p>£25,000 from Sever Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) (Government) which enables us to accommodate people on an emergency basis and work to get them off the streets.</p> <p>Public health has received funding for mental health outreach provision which we are hoping to access.</p> <p>In 2020 to 2021, the following funding has been received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rough sleeper initiative 2020 to 2021 – allocation of £453,359 (joint bid with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils)</li> </ul> |

| Number | Action                                       | Outcomes and monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|--|--|---|
|        |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) – allocation of £174,690 revenue, including Cold Weather Funding – allocation of £41,405</li> <li>• NSAP capital for three units of accommodation for individuals with low to medium support and 11 units for individuals with high support needs - £634,099</li> <li>• Cold Weather Fund – 2021 £10,000</li> <li>• Protect Plus - £20,000</li> <li>• Personalised care – funding provided by CCG to enable MVA to deliver personalised healthcare - £30,000</li> <li>• £9,750 COVID-19 response.</li> <li>• RSI4 funding of £505,142</li> <li>• Suffolk Public Health Contain the Outbreak management fund £60,750.</li> <li>• £137,593 support package to help vulnerable renters struggling due to the impact of the pandemic.</li> <li>• Working with Suffolk authorities on how best to use the £1 million funding from Suffolk Public Sector Leaders for the priority around housing and homelessness. £75,000 has been allocated for developing a Suffolk-wide approach to ending homelessness and rough sleeping.</li> <li>• £669,390 Homelessness Prevention Grant 2022 to 2023 (with exceptional weather allocation £105,841)</li> <li>• £677,920 Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023 to 2024</li> <li>• £687,665 2024 to 2025</li> <li>• £13,176 Domestic Abuse Act new burdens</li> </ul> |
| 2.7    | Continue to provide Severe Weather Emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower risk of homeless fatalities or injury incurred due to weather.</li> <li>• Increased chance of outreach and contact with those less likely to engage with statutory services.</li> </ul> | <p>RSI funding being used.</p> <p>Provision for winter 2021 to 2022 continue to use our own emergency accommodation throughout the winter.</p>  |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|---|---|--|
|        | Provision (SWEPE).  |   | SWEPE in place in December 2022 and monitored throughout the winter.   |
| 2.8    | Help people with entrenched patterns of rough sleeping more holistically through better collaborative working and support tailored to their individual needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of rough sleepers, homelessness and those at risk of rough sleeping and homelessness.</li> <li>Targeted reporting from outreach, third party organisations and customer services.</li> </ul> | <p>RSI funding being used.</p> <p>Putting together case studies and understanding the individual experiences of people is helping to improve the approach to supporting people with our partners.</p> <p>Strategic partners and key staff identified in organisations to ensure joined up conversations. This work continues.</p> <p>The new navigator post is working well with policy on the criminal justice element of homelessness.</p> <p>Continue with quality improvement work through the West Suffolk Alliance which focuses on a system response</p> <p>See 1.9 regarding use of R-Outcomes to understand the voice of the client.</p> <p>Also see section 2.2.</p> |
| 2.9    | Reconnect those from other areas back with their local community unless there is  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased likelihood of those in need of help receiving help from the appropriate services and established support networks.</li> </ul>  | <p>RSI funding being used.</p> <p>Ongoing with funding in place.</p> <p>We are complying with latest Government guidance around failed asylum seekers and EU non-settled refugees.</p>   |

| Number     | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|------------|---|---|--|
|            | a good reason why they should not return.   |   |  |
| 2.10       | Provide effective information to the public about rough sleeping and how they can help if they have concerns.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased public knowledge on referrals and ways to help those threatened with homelessness or those sleeping rough</li> <li>Monitor through online traffic and rate of click through to relevant service area or local authority</li> <li>Effective use of alternative giving schemes to encourage people to support organisations to assist rough sleepers.</li> </ul> | <p>Communications plan in place including social media messaging.</p> <p>Development of our webpages and launch, promotion of the <b>Looking for Change</b> campaign.</p> <p>Looking for Change relaunched 2021</p> <p>A social media campaign took place during November and December 2021 to highlight Streetlink which can be used by the public to alert us to any individuals rough sleeping.</p> <p>Looking for Change campaign launched for 2022 to 2023.</p> |
| 2.11 (RSI) | Recruit and establish Rough Sleeper Outreach Team (1 x Co-ordinator, 1 x Mental Health specialist, 1x Drug and Alcohol specialist, 2 x Outreach and Resettlement) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional capacity to support rough sleepers into accommodation</li> <li>Reduction in the number of rough sleepers</li> <li>Targets for prevention and relief of homelessness identified in bid to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</li> </ul>  | <p>Team recruited and in place.</p> <p>The navigator post was a new role in place from July 2020.</p> <p>Slight increase on outreach and resettlement team to 4.2 FTE.</p> <p>Refocus of roles in this team building on lessons learned. New roles in place for RSI 4 from April 2021.</p> <p>The new navigator role funded through RSI 4 is in post.</p>  |

| Number        | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|---------------|---|---|--|
| 2.12<br>(RSI) | Increase the accommodation options available ring fenced for rough sleepers, including the recruitment of additional support staff. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional accommodation available for rough sleepers in locations across West Suffolk.</li> <li>Appropriate levels of support in place</li> </ul> | <p>Accommodation is available and we continue to look for other options.</p> <p>Ring-fenced rough sleeper accommodation leased from Samphire Housing.</p> <p>NSAP provision now in place for former rough sleepers – 3 units of accommodation at St Andrew’s Street and 11 units at Northgate Street.</p> <p>Two accessible bungalows now available in Brandon.</p> <p>Ten ring-fenced rough sleeper accommodation units including one identified for Housing First.</p> <p>Agreement from Samphire for a further five ring-fenced rough sleeper units.</p> <p>Also see section 2.2.</p> |
| 2.13<br>(RSI) | Extend emergency accommodation provision by the provision of additional night support worker  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional emergency accommodation in place with the appropriate level of support in place</li> </ul>  | <p>Accommodation is available and the provider is managing this provision through existing resources.</p> <p>Through RSI funding there has been an increase in self-contained accommodation. A night support worker was in place for winter 2019.</p> <p><b>Action completed.</b></p>  |
| 2.14<br>(RSI) | Agree, manage and monitor service level   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly agreed level of service to be provided.</li> </ul>   | <p>Regular contact maintained with providers, comfortable with performance levels – service has been provide as agreed with SLAs</p>   |



| Number     | Action   | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023  |
|------------|--|---|---|
|            | agreements with each provider for the use of ring fenced accommodation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk assessments and other mechanisms in place and being used appropriately</li> <li>Performance information provided by accommodation providers.</li> </ul>   | <p>Difficulty in placing very high-risk individuals due to provider service constraints.</p> <p>Work ongoing.</p>   |
| 2.15 (RSI) | Use additional £25,000 fund for provision of SWEP accommodation        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>  | <p>Funding utilised to ensure that rough sleepers were accommodated throughout the cold weather periods and, wherever possible, for longer a longer period.</p> <p>£41,405 received for 2020 to 2021 winter and a further £10,000 through the Cold Weather Fund in response to the pandemic.</p> <p><b>Action completed.</b></p>  |
| 2.16 (RSI) | Undertake rough sleeper counts every two months from September 2018    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that there is an accurate picture of the number of rough sleepers</li> <li>Use intelligence from partners to monitor instances of rough sleeping throughout the area on an ongoing basis</li> </ul> | <p>The rough sleeper count for West Suffolk in autumn 2019 was 13.</p> <p>14 people were estimated to be sleeping rough following an evidence-based estimate carried out in autumn 2020.</p> <p>Following the 'everyone in' initiative, the rough sleeper count as at October 2021, eight individuals were sleeping rough.</p> <p>The physical count will be going ahead in November 2021.</p> <p>See 2.3 for latest figures.</p> |
| 2.17 (RSI) | Work with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local              | Improve understanding of the drivers and impacts of street activity and its links to rough sleeping.  | <p>Launch of the <b>Looking for Change</b> campaign in Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket.</p> <p>A Public Space Protection Order relating to begging has been put in place for Bury St Edmunds.</p>   |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|---|-------------------------|---|
|        | Government and our partners to tackle street activity |                         | <p>Police are attending anti-social behaviour (ASB) meetings.</p> <p>Engaging with police to ensure robust reporting of those who are homeless opposed to those who are begging but have accommodation.</p> <p>Navigator role funded through RSI. Recruited and in place from July 2020.</p> <p>Street drinker activity reduced during 2020 and 2021, although there are still some areas of significant ASB.</p> |

### Priority three: Support for vulnerable households

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and Monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|---|--|---|
| 3.1    | Explore options for the provision of more temporary accommodation to house individuals and families, including those who have experienced domestic abuse. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient availability of temporary accommodation bed and breakfast accommodation to meet demand from households who become homeless in an emergency.</li> <li>• Effective use of move on accommodation to free up temporary accommodation.</li> </ul> | <p>College Heath Road property available. Newmarket Avenue property will be ready in July 2019. Brentgrovel Street secured a 10 year lease.</p> <p>We continue to seek other opportunities.</p> <p>Newmarket Avenue now in use – since October 2019. Managed by new temp accommodation team when in post and further opportunities for leases. Exploring on a case-by-case basis in terms of properties.</p> <p>Current satellite domestic abuse funding finished on 31 December 2019. Agreed a change to that service but we will continue to offer satellite offer to those who have drink and or drug issues.</p> <p>A number of properties are now back in our direct management.</p> <p>See section 2.2 for additional accommodation being provided through NSAP funding.</p> <p>We are now directly managing Newmarket Road. There are two temporary, adapted accommodation units in Brandon.</p> <p>We are supporting partners and Suffolk County Council (SCC) with the requirement for tier 1 local authorities to produce Domestic Abuse (local authority strategies) by 31 October 2021.</p> <p>DULHC is currently consulting on draft statutory regulations and guidance that support tier 1 and 2 local authorities in meeting the new duties around provisions of support and safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse.</p> |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and Monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|---|---|--|
|        |   |   | <p>Under the Domestic Abuse Act, councils are now required to find accommodation for people made homeless through domestic abuse, meaning there is no longer a requirement for victims to be deemed 'vulnerable' before they are given priority need.</p> <p>Additional funding from SCC to identify satellite provision and domestic abuse link worker.</p> <p>We received £32,856 as part of the funding allocations for the Local Authority Domestic Abuse Duty for 2022 to 2023.</p> <p>Exploring options for the re-provision of temporary accommodation from the College Heath Road site. We have sourced an alternative property to the house at College Heath Road, but will continue to use the property on a short-term basis whilst the site is prepared for development.</p> |
| 3.2    | Support the monitoring of housing related support (HRS) to identify resources for those groups that are at high risk of homelessness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased knowledge on referrals and ways to help those threatened with homelessness.</li> <li>• Higher proportion of those arriving in the prevent stage rather than the relief stage to allow for lower risk of repeat, persistent homelessness.</li> <li>• Effective involvement in the recommissioning of HRS services (led by Suffolk County Council) providing a contract which prevents and relieves homelessness.</li> </ul> | <p>Monitoring of this contract remains challenging. Floating support provision has been reduced (see 1.13) however, contract extended until 2021.</p> <p>We have worked closely with Suffolk County Council and the new housing related support service will be in place from April 2022.</p>  |
| 3.3    | Explore the Housing First model and   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning from Housing First pilots</li> <li>• Influencing commissioning decisions to support the Housing First model</li> </ul>  | Local housing providers have indicated an interest in operating the Housing First model. A group of partners including clinical commissioning groups and adult care services have taken place to   |

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and Monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|--|---|--|
|        | <p>continue to influence commissioning decisions, made by other agencies, in order that contacts support the outcomes we are aiming to achieve to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to West Suffolk.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessing funding to implement the principles of Housing First on individual cases.</li> </ul>   | <p>move this forward. Note: looking to provide five units of accommodation to deliver Housing First through Samphire Housing, starting in July 2021</p> <p>Options being explored through West Suffolk Alliance quality improvement work project and Stepping Home project.</p> <p>See section 2.2 for details of personalised care being funded by the CCG and provided by MVA.</p> <p>Housing led support has been made available for people in community.</p> <p>We have made a number of attempts at delivering the purist model of Housing First. We have successfully taken elements of this and services can be accessed to support people in our homes. These interventions have led to positive outcomes.</p> |
| 3.4    | <p>Continue to monitor and review pathways and referral processes for vulnerable groups to ensure that the right level of support is maintained.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to maintain and improve services to ensure they respond to changing needs of people at risk of homelessness or those seeking advice</li> <li>• Monitoring varied out through customer feedback, information of prevention and levels of contact with relevant services.</li> </ul> | <p>New Children and Young People’s services and corporate parenting protocol being developed across Suffolk.</p> <p>Working on prison discharge protocol with Suffolk authorities. Looking at a model used in Norfolk and waiting for confirmation that it works and that we can adopt it.</p> <p>Mental health discharge procedures are working. Currently formal referral routes not in place but we are looking to introduce them. Referral routes from main hospital improving and looking at formal discharge plans.</p> <p>Whilst procedures are in place our work is being affected by the lack of accommodation options available.</p>   |

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and Monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|--|--|--|
| 3.5    | Work with Suffolk partners to ensure that accommodation and support for victims of domestic abuse is appropriate; and add to pre-existing satellite accommodation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued access to satellite accommodation for the most vulnerable and those potentially at risk of further domestic violence.</li> </ul>  | <p>Contract is working well. Another funding bid gone into government.</p> <p>SCC has been awarded £250,000 to extend support available for this group. Continue to work with Suffolk County Council (SCC) to ensure West can access this funding. At the time of writing a funding decision is yet to be made.</p> <p>We are working with SCC on implications of the new Domestic Abuse Bill that is expected to come into force by April 2021. Ongoing discussions about how requirements of the Bill will be out in place across Suffolk, alongside use of the New Burdens funding.</p> <p>SCC has been allocated £1.4 million new burden funding to cover the costs of the new duty on the provision of the support within domestic abuse safe accommodation services for 2021 to 2022). West Suffolk has been allocated funding to provide a domestic abuse link worker and satellite provision. The link worker is very effective at working with people to keep them in their own home, liaising with services and working with victims in temporary accommodation.</p> |
| 3.6    | Identify and share resources, including staff, to support victims of domestic abuse, and rough sleepers.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted resource management and insight to support individuals and families in need</li> <li>Access to schemes and methods of tackling domestic violence and its lasting effects</li> <li>Monitoring carried out through referrals on Locata and Inform, the support plan system used by outreach services.</li> </ul> | <p>As above.</p> <p>We are utilising specialist refugee, Ukrainian and other refugee, asylum seeker support being commissioned through SCC.</p>  |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and Monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|---|---|--|
| 3.7    | Explore opportunities to increase access to mental health services with a view to promoting these services to housing customers.                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure pathways to accessing mental health services for those in need of support.</li> </ul>   | <p>Mental health temporary post in place from end of October 2018.</p> <p>Temporary mental health post in place for a further year, until March 2022, subject to funding from DULHC. Continue to lobby CCG as to why so helpful. Mental health community team – a post will work with hospital, mental health or community.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions with NSFT about mental health post.</p> <p>Suffolk-wide conversations are taking place about the future provision of mental health services, alongside physical health and substance misuse, as Rough Sleeper Initiative funding begins to reduce and may eventually stop over the period 2022 to 2025.</p> <p>Funding approved from Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) to commission a joined up approach to this.</p> |
| 3.8    | Continue to operate the Housing Forum to provide a multi-agency approach to vulnerable customers including rough sleepers and those in supported accommodation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the Housing Forum continues to be fit for purpose and helps the most vulnerable individuals and families in our communities.</li> </ul> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>The housing forum is dealing with people in and out of temporary accommodation but the weekly meeting discusses rough sleepers.</p> <p>Paused during COVID-19. Moved to online from November 2020. In person meetings will restart as part of our early intervention work.</p>   |

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and Monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|--|---|--|
| 3.9    | Continue to hold and attend case management meetings with agencies, including adult and children services, to prevent the most vulnerable families from becoming homeless. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="537 215 1142 279">Fewer of our most vulnerable families or individuals presenting as homeless.</li> </ul> | <p data-bbox="1160 215 1288 247">Ongoing</p> <p data-bbox="1160 287 2161 391">Multi-disciplinary case management meetings taking place with: Multit-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) and child protection Multit-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)</p> <p data-bbox="1160 430 2072 462">Developed strategic partnership approach for rough sleepers.</p> <p data-bbox="1160 502 2161 566">West Suffolk continues to attend when case management meetings held and on child protection invite list.</p> <p data-bbox="1160 606 2094 678">During COVID-19, daily conference calls with police have taken place with police to exchange intelligence.</p> <p data-bbox="1160 718 2139 782">We attend core group and child protection conferences when needed and MASH when needed for a multi-disciplinary approach.</p> |



## Priority four: Increasing accommodation options

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|--|--|---|
| 4.1    | <p>Improve access to good quality private rented housing to expand choices and provide affordable housing options for families and individuals. This includes supporting both tenants and landlords in developing new approaches that are attractive to all parties.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective support is in place to enable more households to retain short hold tenancies.</li> <li>• Increase the supply of good quality housing in the private rented sector.</li> </ul> | <p>West Suffolk Lettings Partnership (WSLP) review needed to identify progress and outcomes.</p> <p>Difficulty accessing the private rented market due to the 30 per cent difference in rent levels and local housing allowance. Currently building a proposal to offer landlords incentives to increase access.</p> <p>End of year report for 2020 to 2021 currently being prepared.</p> <p>Review access to PRS funding bid.</p> <p>Following an analysis of service need, a lettings negotiator has been recruited to increase the number of new landlords and properties we work with.</p> <p>WSLP has taken on four houses in multiple occupation across the district providing a total of 21 beds.</p> <p>This work has continued throughout COVID-19.</p> <p>The team has been actively seeking opportunities to talk to local landlord and estate agents about incentives with the aim of increasing the number of properties to meet demand in the local area. See 4.5 for further information.</p> <p>We have been working with the public health and housing team to ensure that housing we let to our families is of a good standard.</p> |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|---|--|--|
| 4.2    | Work with private sector landlords and developers to maximise the use of resources and opportunities for all vulnerable people across West Suffolk. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring through the private sector offer currently available in the Local Authority area</li> <li>Note: specific actions relating to developers included within the Housing Strategy</li> </ul>                    | <p>Holding landlord forums, online meeting planned for October 2021.</p> <p>Have a positive approach in terms of what the landlords can provide.</p> <p>Landlord forums paused during COVID-19. However, increased capacity in team due to recruitment of new role.</p> <p>Plans are in place to refresh the service and recruit more landlords.</p> <p>WSLP Landlords Forum was held on 18 October 2022 at 6.30pm to 8.30pm. The forum provided an opportunity to discuss barriers, how we can overcome them and work together to create long term sustainable accommodation for more individuals and families.</p> <p>A key speaker from the TV programme Nightmare tenants, slum Landlords, Paul Shamplinia attended to talk to landlords about the renters reform and the abolishment of the section 21 eviction process. A Universal Credit (UC) speaker will also attend to discuss how UC works and direct payments to the landlords.</p> |
| 4.3    | Review effectiveness of the West Suffolk Lettings Partnership to increase access to quality private   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor number of households housed through the West Suffolk Lettings Partnership</li> <li>Increased satisfaction amongst private sector landlords and tenants using the West Suffolk Lettings Partnership</li> </ul> | <p>As 4.1 and 4.2.</p> <p>The statistics show that the reason new properties regularly come on board is through effective relationships with landlords and estate agents.</p>  |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|---|---|--|
|        | rented accommodation.   |   |  |
| 4.4    | Hold landlord forums to engage with private landlords, share best practice and offer advice and support.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor attendance at meetings and outcomes.</li> <li>• Increased input and support from other partners at the Forum.</li> </ul> | <p>Ongoing – continue to monitor its effectiveness.</p> <p>Create more of a link between landlords evicting tenants and a route to WSLSP.</p> <p>At the Forums topics discussed have include: Anglia Revenues Partnership, Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payment, Public Health and Housing, Warm Homes Healthy People, Department for Work and Pensions, tenure and notice periods, legal process and illegal evictions, empty homes, resolving tenancy difficulties.</p> <p>During COVID-19, online landlord forums will be considered.</p> <p>See 4.2 above for an update on Landlord Forums.</p> |
| 4.5    | Focus on sustaining tenancies and provide advice and support to prevent a housing crisis arising in the rented sector and work with landlords and tenants to improve positive outcomes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer families presenting as homeless due to lack of suitable accommodation.</li> </ul>  | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>As at February 2023, total amount of properties under the Guaranteed rent scheme is: 97</p> <p>Total amount of properties under the Rent deposit bond: 131</p> <p>Total amount of Rent in advance – No deposit: 0</p> <p>Total customers out of Temporary accommodation into private rented accommodation between 1 January and 28 February 2023: 3</p>  |

| Number | Action | Outcomes and monitoring | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|--------|-------------------------|---|
|        |        |                         | <p>WSLP have been attending Haverhill market and Bury market to speak to potential landlords and raise awareness.</p> <p>WSLP are aiming to set a date in March 2022 for a Landlords and Agents Forum venue to be confirmed. To discuss barriers and how we can overcome them and work together to create long term sustainable accommodation for more individuals and families.</p> <p>We have visited agents in Bury to introduce ourselves.</p> <p>We now have 194 followers on Facebook, and our highest post reached 1800 views.</p> <p>Welfare Benefits Officer Referrals: April 2019 to April 2020: 166<br/> Welfare Benefits Officer Referrals: April 2020 to April 2021: 99<br/> Welfare Benefits Officer Referrals: April 2021 to October 2021: 106<br/> Welfare Benefits Officer Referrals: April 2022 to February 2023: 166</p> <p>West Suffolk Lettings Partnership Nominations from Triage, advice and prevention:<br/> 1 October 2022 to 28 February 2023: 173<br/> Accommodated: 5<br/> Advice only: 76<br/> In application process: 7<br/> Currently working with to source a PR (including self-referrals, email queries): 16</p> <p>Ban on evictions ended on 30 June 2021, which had been introduced in response to the pandemic.</p> |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|---|--|---|
|        |   |  | From peak of COVID, successfully managed to rehouse all customers who utilised everyone in initiative   |
| 4.6    | Work with registered providers and voluntary sector to increase access to accommodation including lodging schemes; shared accommodation (especially for under 35s); temporary accommodation and tenancies to support move on. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer families presenting as homeless due to lack of suitable accommodation</li> <li>• Increase in variety of housing options and ease of access for single households outside of priority need.</li> </ul> | <p>On hold. Need to look at viable options for West Suffolk.</p> <p>Advice around shared environments on the council’s website. Service continue to provide advice.</p> <p>Looking at room rentals in private rented sector.</p> <p>Nine leased properties from registered providers in 2020, specifically rough sleeper units.</p> <p>Two adapted bungalows provided in Brandon.</p> <p>We are working with partners and responding to the following schemes that are now in place: Afghan citizen resettlement scheme, Homes for Ukraine and Ukraine Family Scheme</p> <p>We have been working closely with the Home Office and the East of England Local Government Association on the full dispersal system that is being introduced, how it will operate in each region and the number of asylum seekers that will be allocated to each area.</p> <p>In December 2022, DLUH introduced a Local Authority Housing Fund for local authorities seeing the greatest challenges in providing move on and settled accommodation for Ukrainian and Afghan refugees. This will provide capital funding for new and repurposed housing in order to address the immediate need of families and individuals currently accommodated in hotels. The lasting legacy from this funding will be the that his housing can</p> |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|---|---|--|
|        |   |   | <p>be used to address future local housing and homelessness pressures.</p> <p>West Suffolk can apply for funding from DLUCH. The local authority, or registered provider partner, would need to contribute a percentage to complete the fund. The council has been awarded a total of £1,055,239 and will work with registered providers to provide a total of eight properties.</p> |
| 4.7    | Continuing to influence the provision of supported accommodation by identifying need and demand.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fewer families presenting as homeless due to lack of suitable accommodation.</li> </ul>  | <p>Working with Suffolk County Council (SCC) on the provision of a new housing related support provision from April 2022.</p> <p>We are looking to work with SCC around mental health and learning disability support and accommodation.</p>   |
| 4.8    | Support Suffolk County Council to manage its existing contracts and influence contracts from 2020 through robust operational feedback (links to action 3.2 above) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the picture of the housing need in Suffolk to ensure we have the correct supply of housing and types of housing around the Suffolk area.</li> </ul> | See 3.2.   |

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|--|--|--|
| 4.9    | <p>Monitor use of bed and breakfast accommodation to ensure use only in emergency situations. Manage move on as soon as possible to and improve outcomes for families and individuals and reduce cost to the taxpayer.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure compliance with the legal standards for use of emergency accommodation.</li> </ul>                             | <p>Process in place regarding bed and breakfast to check before placement.</p> <p>Can only have one night and then have to be seen the following day. If not, the accommodation is lost.</p> <p>Friday is weekend only and then seen on Monday.</p> <p>Not seen a decrease in placements but fewer inappropriate placements. People being seen much quicker.</p> <p>Note we have seen an increase in requests for housing from single people</p> <p>Ongoing and significant increase due to COVID-19 which resulted in engaging with new providers.</p>                    |
| 4.10   | <p>Ensure procedures are followed to manage the use of temporary accommodation and when used, to ensure that plans are in place to manage move on.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce spend on temporary accommodation and reduce the number of people at risk of prolonged homelessness.</li> </ul> | <p>Similar process to bed and breakfast.</p> <p>Most going into temporary accommodation are not going in immediately, it is part of a planned process.</p> <p>January 2019: Issues with bed blocking and rent arrears in temporary accommodation. Support is provided by the solutions team where appropriate. Working with providers to move on as quickly as possible.</p> <p>New temporary accommodation team in place responsible for management of, and changes in, temporary accommodation.</p> <p>We are constantly reviewing temporary accommodation services.</p> |

| Number | Action | Outcomes and monitoring | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|--------|-------------------------|---|
|        |        |                         | New temporary accommodation procured and aim to manage use of bed and breakfast. However, significant impact due to COVID-19. |

### **Priority five: Supporting the implementation of welfare reform**

| Number | Action   | Outcomes and monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|--|--|--|
| 5.1    | Continue to develop the role of our Welfare Support Officer and Income Recovery posts to support people to maximise income and minimise expenditure. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreased likelihood of persistent rent arrears or incorrect benefit allocations leading to decreased likelihood of homelessness.</li> </ul>  | <p>Increased capacity in this team.</p> <p>A review is taking place to understand the outcomes of this team. Data being used to support the review.</p> <p>Update of review in June-July.</p> <p>Monitoring outcomes of team and analysis of team and data.</p> <p>See action 1.4 for more information on tenancy sustainment.</p> <p>KPIs being developed to monitor support in private rented sector.</p> <p>We are building strong relationships with external agencies and utilising different funding streams to support local people during the cost of living crisis.</p> |
| 5.2    | Develop early intervention protocols with registered providers to ensure tenants   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced risk of loss of short hold tenancies and ensure tenants retain their accommodation</li> <li>Monitored through contact made with Customer Services and Housing Options by Landlords and those</li> </ul> | <p>In place for most registered providers (RPs). Some of the RPs who are not local and have a low number of stock not in place.</p> <p>Protocols are in place but they are not being followed as some providers struggling with rent accounts.</p>   |



| Number | Action                      | Outcomes and monitoring                                | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|--|
|        | retain their accommodation. | looking to prevent the loss of a short hold tenancies. | <p>Event taking place in July 2019 to build relationship with RPs and smaller stockholders. A county-wide protocol for how to deal with rent arrears is being developed.</p> <p>Agreement with Samphire to share internal systems, already with Havebury. Event in July 2019. Actions we took to put it in place have worked well and reflected in number of people in tenancies.</p> <p>Ongoing work. There have been low referral numbers due to COVID-19 but remain engaged with registered providers as we move forward.</p> <p>Efforts have been made to arrange monthly meetings with RPs to discuss cases and give advice. The first meeting took place at the end of September 2022. The number of rent arrears cases being referred from RPs is steadily increasing. However, this is a positive move because it is resulting in fewer referrals, see below:</p> <p>June 2022: 13 Samphire, 4 Havebury, 5 ARP<br/> July 2022: 7 Samphire, 9 Havebury, 7 ARP<br/> August 2022: 21 Samphire, 10 Havebury, 2 ARP<br/> September 2022: 12 Samphire, 2 Havebury, 4 ARP<br/> October 2022: Samphire = 14, Havebury = 4, ARP = 5<br/> November 2022: Samphire = 9, Havebury = 7, ARP = 1<br/> December 2022: Samphire = 19, Havebury = 11<br/> January 2023: Samphire = 7, Havebury = 12, ARP = 1<br/> February 2023: Samphire = 6, Havebury = 16, ARP = 1</p> |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring  | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|---|--|--|
| 5.3    | Work with Anglia Revenues Partnership, the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Jobcentres, Department of Works and Pensions and registered providers to support the roll out of Universal Credit (UC). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the implementation of welfare reform and provide support to individuals and families receiving UC.</li> </ul> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 2019: Government funding for councils to support people to access Universal Credit (UC) stopped from 1 April and became direct responsibility of Citizens Advice. However, we continue to fund meetings to support transition of UC. Linking with DWP on moving legacy benefits to UC. Rollout of UC to other groups paused.</p> <p>Support can be provided by the Suffolk Advice and Support Service (SASS) and referral to the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS). From October 2022, the SASS support work has now transferred directly to West Suffolk CA.</p>   |
| 5.4    | Work with partner organisations to provide timely financial advice to households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to debt.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced risk of homelessness due to loss of tenancy resulting from financial difficulty.</li> </ul>                   | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>UC rollout – welfare benefit officers in the housing options team providing advice. Service Manager for Customer Services and Transformation chairs Universal Credit partner meeting so continuity and overview maintained. Links made with Job Centre regarding vulnerable people.</p> <p>Quarterly catch-up with CAB and refer cases as and when needed. Utilise CAB debt advice and have a drop-in here. Try to expand work we do with them.</p> <p>Suffolk Advice and Support Service (SASS) in place from 1 October 2020. Quarterly meetings with Citizens' Advice. From October 2022, the SASS support service will be managed by the local citizens advice.</p> |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023   |
|--------|---|---|--|
|        |   |   | We distributed cost of living funding to 40 different community groups to support people with cost of living. Community Chest funding also focused on supporting cost of living.   |
| 5.5    | Support private sector landlords to understand the impact of Universal Credit and other welfare reform through the West Suffolk Lettings Partnership and Landlords Forum. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased likelihood of retention of assured short hold tenancies and other housing arrangements for those otherwise at risk of homelessness.</li> </ul>       | <p>Ongoing through Landlord Forum.</p> <p>October 2019: Relaunched WSLP package including private landlords package which has been well received. Will continue to review and adapt this as needed, as below.</p> <p>Introduced incentives being discussed for future, which could be in-line with offer from Ipswich Borough Council and Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Councils.</p> <p>Reduced offer for estate agents to £250 but increased direct landlords to £1,000. £250 room rental incentive being introduced.</p> <p>Online landlord forum in November 2022 looked at products being used by other local authorities that we might be able to develop and this event was well attended.</p> <p>We have developed effective working relationships with the Department for Work and Pensions that has led to a dedicated point of contact at each office who we can go to and discuss cases.</p> |
| 5.6    | Support customers with financial management advice and  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate financial advice and signposting provided.</li> <li>Ensuring that customer access support for personal budgeting and digital assistance</li> </ul> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Universal credit enquiries being referred to advice bureaux as part of government contract.</p>  |

| Number | Action  | Outcomes and monitoring   | Progress as at February 2023  |
|--------|---|---|---|
|        | signpost to appropriate agencies.   |   | <p>High level of in work UC claims being seen in West Suffolk.</p> <p>SASS service running and we are signposting.</p> <p>Local Welfare Assistance scheme and in future we will see monthly reports. Further support being developed by the Collaborative Communities Board (CCB). The CCB determines the allocation of the Household Support Fund.</p>   |
| 5.7    | Work with Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) to ensure effective allocation of Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) to support those who are experiencing difficulties as a result of welfare reform. | Increased use of the DHP Budget<br>Increased homeless prevention cases by resolving housing benefit and debt issues | <p>Good progress with DHP. Some procedural work with ARP could be improved but ongoing. Quarterly monitoring by Anglia Revenues Partnership working well.</p> <p>2020 to 2021: allocation of £300,351. Total spend at year end £300,351 (100 per cent of allocation)</p> <p>2021 to 2022: allocation of £238,411. Total spend at year end £224,936 (94.3 per cent of allocation)</p> <p>2022 to 2023: allocation of £168,976. Total spend as at 28 February 2023: £143,691.32 (85 per cent of allocation). The average claim for this year is £685.</p> <p>2023 to 2024: allocation of £168,976.</p> <p>The £20 Universal Credit uplift is due to end in September 2021 and we expect to see an impact from this. Cost of living pressures are likely to be significant from Autumn 2022 onwards and the impact will be monitoring with resourcing re-prioritised accordingly. Working with other organisations, through the Collaborative Communities Board, to identify suitable support options.</p> |

| Number | Action | Outcomes and monitoring | Progress as at February 2023 |
|--------|--------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
|        |        |                         |                              |

## Annex A – homelessness statistics

|  | 2019 to 2020 |                 |         | 2020 to 2021 |                 |         | 2021 to 2022 |                 |         |
|--|--------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
|  | West Suffolk | East of England | England | West Suffolk | East of England | England | West Suffolk | East of England | England |
| Those owed a duty and had a successful duty outcome – secured accommodation for 6 months or more   | 61.8%        | 55.6%           | 58.3%   | 64.2%        | 54.2%           | 59.5%   | 54.7%        | 53.6%           | 56.3%   |
| Those owed a duty and had a successful relief duty outcome – secured accommodation for 6 months or more  | 41.1%        | 33.3%           | 39.9%   | 43.8%        | 34.8%           | 39.9%   | 36.1%        | 35.0%           | 39.1%   |
| Successful prevention duty outcome resulted in households staying in their existing accommodation  | 46.5%        | 37.9%           | 36.8%   | 34.2%        | 31.8%           | 35.8%   | 31.6%        | 29.8%           | 33.0%   |
| The main activity that resulted in accommodation for secured for households was: negotiation, mediation, advocacy work to prevent eviction, repossession | 25.3%        | 14.1%           | 11.0%   | 10.8%        | 10.2%           | 8.0%    | 6.0%         | 8.6%            | 7.7%    |

Source: Gov.uk homelessness statistics <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>