

VULNERABLE ADULTS AND HOUSING WELLBEING SUPPORT PATHWAY

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Introduction

The vision for Adult Social Care is for people to live healthy happy independent lives within their communities. Access to a supply of good quality, affordable housing and support options are key to the delivery of that vision.

It is important that vulnerable adults have access to safe, secure, quality affordable housing and support at the moment when it is needed.

A vulnerable adult in this instance could be anyone who finds themselves homeless or in a precarious housing situation as a result of circumstances that are too difficult for them to self-manage.

Existing housing support services that support the needs of people affected by homelessness, domestic abuse and ex-offending are due to reach the end of the contract period on 1 December 2019. The multiple services that support these groups are collectively known as Social Inclusion Services. Birmingham City Council is keen to not only recommission these services, but also improve on service design and delivery to ensure that services are more person centred and build resilience and independence.

Background

The vision and strategy to modernise Adult Social Care and Health was approved by Cabinet on 3rd October 2017. The vision includes some key principles which collectively enable citizens to live independently within communities. Alongside a community model for social work, there has been a renewed commitment and step change by the local authority to invest in targeted prevention activity.

This has been set out in a subsequent report to Cabinet on the 14th November 2017 Putting Prevention First: Supporting the vision for Adult Social Care and Health. The focus of which is to invest earlier in order prevent or delay more costly statutory interventions. This included the need to invest in three key areas of prevention activity for vulnerable adults in the City:

- Development of community assets via a neighbourhood network scheme for the City.
- A continued investment in communities via the reprioritisation of existing third sector grants funding to deliver the priorities for adult social care and health.
- Development of a prevention focused housing and wellbeing support pathway for vulnerable adults whose health and wellbeing is at risk due to their unstable, precarious housing circumstance.
- Vulnerable Adults and Housing Support Pathway

This survey concerns the development of a prevention focused housing and wellbeing support pathway.

The modelling for this is based upon existing best practices within the City and nationally.

This includes services for young people preparing for/transitioning towards independence as a result of being cared for by the local authority within children's homes or foster care, those supported as ex-offenders through criminal Justice and the Homelessness Prevention Pathways developed which collectively promote strength based prevention approaches for good housing support.

Strengths-based (or asset-based) approaches focus on individuals' strengths (including personal strengths and social and community networks) and not on their deficits.

Strengths-based practice is holistic and multidisciplinary and works with the individual to promote their wellbeing. It is outcomes led and not services led.

The considerations for front line strength based support delivery have also been informed by the Adult Social Care Three Conversations approach and Psychologically Informed Environments practices applied for families and young people.

The pathway starts from the premise that the housing and housing support needs of vulnerable adults are not static and often change at different points in their lives and as a consequence of life events. Similarly national research undertaken by Crisis 2018 demonstrates that certain cohorts of population are at greater risk because of their precarious housing circumstances which can lead to a deterioration in their physical and mental health, repeat and increased access to institutional settings such as hospital, registered care or its extremes of prison, homelessness or rough sleeping.

An effective prevention pathway will respond early and respond well to people who are at risk of losing their home or beginning to have difficulties in managing their home. The key components therefore include:

- Activity which enables people to make informed choices about their housing circumstances before their needs escalate into more costly interventions.
- Provide a time critical response to those that do become vulnerable due to precarious housing and personal circumstances including leaving institutional settings, family circumstances, care-leavers, and people experiencing of domestic abuse.
- Provision of supported accommodations for vulnerable adults and their families who find themselves in crisis for a short period of time in order to provide a range of support interventions that focus on strength based approaches to recovery and resilience which promote wider health and wellbeing including outcomes relating to overcoming isolation, financial inclusion through access to paid work and connections into local community assets in order to regain or maintain independence within communities.

The delivery of the Pathway will be commissioned across the key components set out below; the access points for vulnerable adults will be dependent upon their

individual needs and circumstance. The intention being that the services commissioned work together as a systems which prevents anyone from falling off the pathway, failing to access services and enables re - entry into services should the need arise.

Universal Prevention

A comprehensive online housing and wellbeing support service will be commissioned for individuals to act as a protective response to a combination of presenting factors such as poverty, poor health, precarious housing circumstances and risks of homelessness. The service will be tailored for individuals to self – navigate and for use by professionals, practitioners and carers acting on behalf of their clients.

There will be information on a range of services including the local asset registers for the Neighbourhood Networks Services and how to access Mental Health and Substance Misuse Support Services.

Targeted Prevention

Client specific housing and wellbeing prevention hubs designed to provide face to face support and access to services aimed at providing prevention based activity for:

- Young Persons Hub aged 16 – 25
- Ex-Offenders (immediate prison release)
- Survivors of Domestic Abuse
- Singles over the age of 25

This In addition to the above, intensive targeted community based support will also be delivered through:

- Lead workers/navigators/ peer mentors for the most vulnerable connected to the hubs, vulnerable adults social work teams and panels alongside other key agencies in the City.
- Families' navigators, providing community based support to identified families with multiple or complex needs.

Crisis Prevention

These services will be short term and will be delivered by multiple providers based on specialism including:

- Emergency bed spaces
- Young people (18-25yrs)
- Homeless adults: singles and couples and inclusive of any pets
- Refuge spaces – victims of domestic abuse
- Multiagency rough sleepers outreach
- Lead workers for households in temporary accommodation.

Transition services

These services will be delivered by multiple providers be potentially joint bids and include:

- Complex needs provision, where an individual may have a combination of circumstances that impact on their well-being e.g. a person with a mental health condition, further impacted by substance misuse and homelessness would have access to combined accommodation with intensive wrap around support in line with a presentation of multiple and high needs (Housing First light touch)
- Young people
- Single homeless, including couples
- Offenders.

Transition Centres to provide a multi-agency response presenting health needs, including primary health interventions to:

- Young people
- Single homeless

Longer term supported accommodation for:

- Young people
- Single homeless
- Victims of domestic abuse, including delivery of recovery and wellbeing training.
- Offenders.

A cross tenure support service which will respond to new and existing vulnerable tenants, singles, couples and clients with pets, who may be at risk of homelessness or require support to settle into and maintain their tenancy.