**HOMELESSNESS FORUM**

**TVBC, CONFERENCE ROOM 1, BEECH HURST, WEYHILL ROAD, ANDOVER SP10 3AJ**

**Minutes of the Homelessness Forum Held 23 November 2015**

Present:

Keith Sutcliffe, Karen Thorburn, Barbara Ward, Gill Darling, Alison Drover, Rachel Robertson (TVBC Housing Options), Elizabeth Wallington (Hampshire Home Choice Manager). Mel Cass (TVBC Revenues Service), Jenny Fritzherry (Childrens Services), Mike Clarke ( HCC – Young Persons), Cllr Mrs Hawke (TVBC Portfolio Holder), Elaine Oates ( Andover Crisis and Support Centre), Diane Martin (Two Saints), 'YoungMumsMatter, Verity Clarke (Aster), Rebecca Outram ( Aster), Gene Jasper (Alabare), Tracey Chandler (Two Saints), Sarah Gorton (homelesslink), Barbara Allen (Andover Mind), Angela Kemp (CAB), Allan Appleby (Probation), 'Sara Craig (Inclusion–Drug and Alcohol), Yvonne McCauley (Aster). Siobhan Down (Yellow Brick Road).

1. **Introduction & Welcome**

Keith welcomed everyone to the forum and explained that Test Valley wanted to revive a Homelessness Forum with the aim of informing the Council’s housing and homelessness strategy, agreeing local priorities and working in partnership to best address the needs of those households threatened with or who find themselves homeless in Test Valley. KS also explained that the housing options service had recently participated in a Diagnostic Peer Review under the Gold Standard Challenge and one of the Continuous Improvement Actions was to establish a Homelessness Forum.

1. **Draft terms of Reference for Homelessness Forum**

The forum considered the draft terms of reference circulated with the agenda invitations. The meeting discussed the purpose of the forum, membership, quorum and how the forum would be administered. The draft terms of reference were agreed and accepted and KS to discuss with AA (Probation) if he was prepared to Chair the forum.

1. **Preventing Homelessness Strategy 2016 – 2019 Update**

KS gave an update on the draft preventing homelessness strategy timetable, including customer and stakeholder involvement, the key priority actions and how the strategy would be progressed in the forthcoming months. He reported that the Council was also in the process of developing a new Housing Strategy and it was hopped that both the Housing and preventing homelessness strategies would be aligned with the Corporate Planning cycle.

KS circulated the first draft of the action plan and welcomed initial comments from partners on what they would like to see included with the strategy from their perspective and reminded them that they would have opportunities to inform the strategy and the Delivery plan at stakeholder events that would be organised. If any one had any particular suggestions, thoughts, contributions, then to let KS know.

1. **Social Inclusion Model**

KS updated the forum on the new Social Inclusion Model being proposed by Hampshire County Council following the demise of Supporting People programme. Protracted discussions between the districts and the County continue regarding future funding and provision of services for single homeless households beyond April 2016. The closure of the SP regime has resulted in significant cuts in Test Valley. The Council’s family hostel will not be funded post 2016 and the council are currently considering its options to keep the hostel running.

The new model will consist of:

* Accommodation Based Services – stage 1 & 2
* Community Support – new innovating ways of delivery floating support
* Payment by Results
* Services let in Lots across the County – issues regarding local connections and prioritising local demand for services.

Next stage is tendering and procurement and KS will keep the forum informed of developments.

1. **Rough Sleeping Estimate/Count Update**

KT advised that an estimate was carried out on 18 November.

This date had been agreed by all 11 Hampshire district authorities to ensure consistency across the county. Key agencies were briefed on 5 November of the process, definitions and procedure and a date was agreed for all agencies to reconvene and verify information once the estimate had been conducted including independent verification by homelesslink, before the final figure was submitted to DCLG. .

The Estimate showed a decrease in Test Valley from 7 in 2014 to 3 in 2015.

1. **Presentation by Sarah Gorton, Homelesslink**

SG gave a presentation to the forum on Improving services and reducing rough sleeping – based locally. She highlighted the issues facing young people and the role of homelesslink in campaigning to improve the services for young people that prevent homeless and treat the issue. Sarah detailed the work of the innovation and good practice team at Homelesslink and the role of their Information team.

The presentation to be circulated with the minutes.

1. **Frequency of Meetings**

It was agreed that the forum would meeting annually to review the Delivery Plan.

1. **Date of next meeting -** December 2016