Greater Norwich Homeless Strategy 2020 – 2025: Executive Summary

Our Vision

“Greater Norwich is a place where agencies work together to support people who are, or may become homeless. By putting people at the heart of our service delivery we can create a wrap-around offer that helps people to take control of their own circumstances earlier, and stopping them from becoming homeless will be our main aim. This will provide people with a firm platform where their health and wellbeing, employment or training opportunities are either maintained or improved.”

This document for consultation marks the fourth occasion that Broadland, Norwich City and South Norfolk Councils have worked together with local partners to develop a homelessness strategy for the Greater Norwich area.

How is this strategy different from the Greater Norwich Homelessness Strategy 2015 - 2020?

1. We have overseen the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April 2018. The Act places additional duties on local authorities to; provide advice and guidance for all households approaching the LA, to prevent those threatened with homelessness from becoming homeless and to relieve homelessness for those who are homeless. Both prevention and relief duties last for 56 days but can be ended in several ways in that time.

2. This draft strategy includes an analysis of data submitted by the councils to the central government reporting system H-CLIC. Although the data is considered experimental, the new system provides a more accurate method of measuring homelessness compared to previous monitoring regimes. It enables local authorities, locally and nationally, to measure trends in homelessness and specifically which households are at most at risk.

3. Building an evidence base using analysis of H-CLIC data and feedback from our engagement processes, two of our proposed priorities specifically relate to two of the main causes of homelessness. However, the councils are also taking a wider approach by committing to alleviating the drivers of homelessness, such as low income, skills, training and accessing affordable housing and linking in to the Inclusive Growth agenda at a local and county wide level.

4. All actions under the new strategy are applicable across the sub-region and acknowledge there is a whole system approach to be explored when preventing or relieving homelessness. However there may some variances in delivery to allow for urban/rural locations and demography’s

In developing the new strategy, we have worked from the following key assumptions:

- We will offer wraparound, multi-agency services that puts the individual or household at the centre in order to prevent homelessness.
- We want to prevent and alleviate homelessness in addition to reducing the drivers of homelessness
- We will work in partnership with other statutory services, organisations and the voluntary and community sectors to achieve this.

In order to meet these assumptions, we are focussing on the following four priority areas:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Develop and deliver flexible housing and support solutions to enable people to safely move on from domestic abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Develop and deliver flexible housing approaches to meet the needs of people fleeing domestic abuse, including male victims, people who identify as LGBTQI+ and those with more complex needs, across all tenures that are not currently being met by joint working with voluntary and statutory sector agencies.  
2. Provide a consistent Greater Norwich response across our Help Hubs through our funded domestic abuse services.  
3. Work with DA Services and the Mancroft Advice Project/Youth Advisory Boards to develop a Freedom/Power to Change course for young people.  
4. Supporting the outcomes of the proposed Domestic Abuse Bill including the potential for new statutory duties for Tier 1 and Tier 2 authorities to convene DA Partnership Boards for commissioning of ‘domestic abuse safe accommodation.’  
5. Ensuring specific provision to overcome challenges for those living in a rural area (Particularly relevant for Broadland and South Norfolk District areas). |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preventing homelessness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Continue to monitor the progress of the following protocols including:  
- Greater Norwich & Breckland Criminal Justice Homelessness Prevention Protocol  
- Norfolk Mental Health Hospital Discharge and Homelessness Prevention Protocol  
- Joint Protocol to Address the Needs of Homeless Young People in Norfolk  
2. Undertake quarterly analysis of H-CLIC data to deliver service improvements, monitor levels of homelessness and report this to the Greater Norwich homelessness forum and members.  
3. Increase the number of households at risk of homelessness staying in their own homes following contact with our housing options services.  
4. Seek to identify funding to deliver upstream homelessness prevention in places of education including wider family networks.  
5. Taking a person centred approach - work with our partners in the voluntary and statutory sector to ensure that we use our combined resources effectively to prevent homelessness (for example commissioning of services).  
6. Identify gaps and celebrate success in homelessness prevention with members of the Greater Norwich Homelessness Forum to inform and improve service delivery across the statutory and voluntary sector.  
7. Identify shared training opportunities with Greater Norwich Housing Options teams and other agencies. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single and youth homelessness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Consider and explore options for additional support to help single young people find and maintain a home.  
2. Enable the provision of affordable single person homes.  
3. Explore funding streams to provide mediation for young people and families before crisis wherever possible.  
4. Seek to achieve a commitment from all housing providers to identify, promote and further develop specific models of housing supply that helps young adults gain independence. |
1. Supporting the Inclusive Growth agenda at a County and Local Authority level – Improving access to skills, training and employment opportunities
2. Building the right properties - Learning from the great achievements made within each Council over the last 5 years and to continue to produce sustained delivery of affordable housing and social energy efficient properties with sustainable tenures.
3. Economic Delivery – Support and enable the delivery of the ambitions of the Economic Strategies and the Greater Norwich Local Plan across the local authority areas,
4. Explore and develop our Locality Offer – ensuring we can enable residents and customers to access services at the right time and location for them

What happens next?

The public consultation will run for six weeks from 12pm Friday 6th March 2020 until 23:59 Friday 17th April 2020.

Following closure of the consultation period, an overview of responses will be presented at the Greater Norwich Homelessness Forum in May 2020.

Finally we will collate and use all responses to inform our final draft of the strategy. This will include; a full Homelessness Review, an analysis of outcomes from the previous Greater Norwich Homelessness Strategy 2015-2020 and the final suite of priorities and actions.

April 2020
Draft of final document following closure of consultation

June/July 2020
Formal approval and adoption of Strategy

September 2020
Public launch of Strategy at Greater Norwich Homelessness Forum

To find out more and to submit a response, the draft strategy will be displayed on the Broadland District, Norwich City and South Norfolk Council websites. (ADD LINK)

www.broadland.gov.uk
www.norwich.gov.uk
www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

To view the strategy in an alternative format please contact: victoria.parsons@broadland.gov.uk or chrishancock@nowich.gov.uk in order for this to be facilitated.