

# Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

## DRAFT

<b>Report Title</b>	Housing and Health
<b>Item for decision or information?</b>	Decision and information
<b>Sponsor</b>	Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director, Gloucester City Council
<b>Author</b>	Jennifer Taylor, Lead Commissioner (Public Health), Gloucestershire County Council and Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director, Gloucester City Council
<b>Organisation</b>	On behalf of Gloucestershire Strategic Directors Group
<b>Key Issues:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health &amp; Wellbeing Board has agreed a proposal to focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensuring new housing development promotes good health and wellbeing</li> <li>○ Bringing existing housing stock conditions up to standard</li> <li>○ Providing a diverse housing offer</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Progress has been made to deliver against these, with further information on activity set out in this report</li> <li>▪ Health &amp; Wellbeing Board is asked to consider its approach and added value to housing and health as set out in the recommendations</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendations to Board:</b>	
<p>The Health &amp; Wellbeing Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the progress on the Housing &amp; Health priority of the draft Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy and agree support for its continuation as set out in this paper</li> <li>• Commit to supporting the planned actions emerging from the Health Foundation programme to improve housing conditions, including joining up of data and intelligence and development of a proposal for potential future investment</li> <li>• Consider and discuss the Board's appetite to 'change the conversation' with developers seeking to build in the county</li> <li>• Consider and discuss the role of the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board in championing this agenda and adding value to planned activity by setting ambitious expectations for healthy places and engaging in housing, potentially through a statement of intent as suggested in Section 3.</li> </ul>	
<b>Financial/Resource Implications:</b>	
Future financial investment may be required to support activity to improve housing stock conditions, subject to a further proposal (see main body of the paper)	

# Housing and Health: A Report for the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board

## 1. Introduction

Following prioritisation of housing and health in the draft Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Strategy, a proposal was brought to the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting in September 2019 on behalf of the Strategic Directors Group. This sought the Board's approval for a focus on:

1. Ensuring new housing development promotes good health and wellbeing
2. Bringing existing housing stock conditions up to standard
3. Providing a diverse housing offer.

This proposal recognised that there is a great deal of activity already underway and a well established governance structure for the complex housing agenda in Gloucestershire. For example, Gloucestershire partners' innovative decision to pool the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) in 2017 has led to a range of activity to address housing and care/health related needs. There is also extensive work underway to improve homelessness pathways, including investment by Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) in Somewhere Safe to Stay hubs and Navigator Team. The Health & Wellbeing Board proposal sought to add value to this existing activity and focus efforts on gaps that exist, rather than to duplicate.

Logic models were produced for the first two areas of focus (attached at Appendix A), with the third described as a longer term aim that links across both of the other two. Health & Wellbeing Board agreed the proposal and delegated responsibility for implementation to the Strategic Directors Group.

## 2. Progress to date

Since September 2019, partners have made good progress across the three areas of focus, as summarised in the following paragraphs.

Actions are being delivered within existing budgets.

### 2.1 New housing development

A range of actions have been progressed, including:

- The draft **Gloucestershire Health Impact Assessment (HIA) framework** was tested on the draft Stroud Local Plan Review in January 2020. This was a collaborative exercise between Public Health and Stroud District Council planners and the output will inform the next iteration of the Stroud Local Plan, as well as provide learning for the roll out of the HIA framework in other districts
- A **Planning Healthy Places Community of Practice (CoP)** has been established, to bring together practitioners from across the system to share learning and coordinate activity. The first workshop in September 2019 focused on designing age- and dementia-friendly developments and the Building with Nature benchmark. The next event will be hosted by Active Gloucestershire and will involve system mapping of active design

- Gloucestershire County Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council hosted a workshop in November 2019 led by the Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) and University of the West of England (UWE) to explore the use of **health evidence in neighbourhood plans**. TCPA is now producing a national framework for neighbourhood planning groups, based on Gloucestershire's work
- **Ongoing influence of Local Plans**, e.g. the Gloucester City Plan, **and strategic allocations**, e.g. the Cyber Central Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), to ensure that health and wellbeing is embedded throughout. This has included making connections with other relevant agendas, e.g. the emerging Gloucestershire Food Strategy.

We intend to progress with these actions but need to be mindful of the Governments Planning White Paper (Planning for the future) which is currently being consulted on and which proposes a significant reforms of the planning system including planning policy.

## 2.2 Existing housing stock conditions

In November, Gloucestershire partners identified an opportunity to engage in a national action research programme that would support this strand of the Health & Wellbeing Board's housing and health priority. Gloucestershire was selected as one of four local authority areas for the wider determinants of health programme led by the Health Foundation, in collaboration with the Design Council, Shared Intelligence and the Leadership Centre.

Gloucestershire's project uses design principles and tools to ensure the existing housing stock in the county is fit for a healthy future.

The project team is made up of:

- Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director, Gloucester City Council
- Zoe Clifford, Consultant in Public Health, Gloucestershire County Council
- Maria Hickman, Housing Renewal Manager, Stroud District Council
- Neil Penny, Health & Social Care Commissioning Manager, Gloucestershire County Council & Gloucestershire CCG
- Paul Stephenson, Chief Executive, Cheltenham Borough Homes
- Jennifer Taylor, Lead Commissioner (Public Health), Gloucestershire County Council
- Yvonne Welsh, Community Wellbeing (Private Sector Housing) Team Leader, Gloucester City Council

The collaborating partners undertook a small amount of ethnographic research with residents in Gloucester and Cheltenham, the findings of which informed the project team's action research at two facilitated workshops during January and February. These workshops enabled the team to define the actions needed to address this strand.

The project team has focused on addressing excess cold and damp as a key determinant of physical and mental health. It has recognised that there are already interventions in place, e.g. the Warm & Well service, but that to achieve a step change in improvement, partners would need to better understand where our efforts could have their greatest impact, e.g. in owner occupied properties or by engaging differently with tenants.

As a result of the project, a number of workstreams are now in development:

- Joining together data and insight, including:
  - Collaboration to **join up health, social care and housing data** and use this more proactively to target intervention and utilise a wider range of levers for change
  - The possibility of **commissioning a housing conditions survey**. It has been ten years since the last survey and this project has identified a need for improved intelligence to support better targeting of interventions. However, this requires significant investment and the project team is keen to explore options to ensure any survey adds value to existing data and intelligence
  - Gloucester City Council is **piloting a 'journaling' approach** to better understand the qualitative impact of cold and damp on the health and wellbeing of residents. This should allow officers to consider not only enforcement options and interventions but also strengths-based and community approaches
- **Leadership development across the strategic partnerships** involved in housing, to ensure an aligned and ambitious approach to housing and health, through an initial workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> March
- **Building links between housing and health**, e.g. through Gloucester Integrated Locality Partnership (ILP), which has prioritised respiratory disease, and alignment with the Community Wellbeing teams and social prescribing link workers, to improve referrals to help with housing conditions and the development of creative solutions.

This action has stalled over the last six months as partners have focused on response and recovery of the Covid pandemic; however it is envisaged that activities will re-commence in the autumn.

### 2.3 A diverse housing offer

In the initial proposal to the Health & Wellbeing Board, the provision of a diverse housing offer was described as a longer term aim, which cuts across both new and existing housing stock and neighbourhoods. However, there is activity taking place, particularly under the Better Care Fund Housing, Health and Care initiatives, which contribute to the overall aim of a diverse housing offer.

This current activity includes:

- **Homeshare** – homesharing enables an older person to share their house with a younger person in return for ten hours of support a week. This helps the older person remain in their own home and also reduces loneliness and isolation for both parties. A Homeshare scheme has been set up in Gloucestershire, run by Age UK with support from the CCG
- **Park Homes Improvement Programme** – since April 2019, contractors have been appointed to work in the county and offer insulation to park home residents. As well as a reduction of up to 50% in heating bills, the improvements are expected to reduce damp and condensation, improve the appearance of the property and reduce the carbon footprint
- **Frailty Housing Officer** – this post has been in place for over a year and has delivered positive outcomes, e.g. a woman who worked with the officer following a stroke and was supported out of residential care, in to extra care housing giving her greater independence.

### **3. Next Steps and Health & Wellbeing Board Role**

Following the agreement by the Board of the three strands of the housing and health priority, further work has been taking place to better define the action needed, as set out in this paper. This work has identified a number of next steps, which will continue to be developed into clear actions and milestones by partners, reporting to the Strategic Directors group.

However, as a Health & Wellbeing Strategy priority, the Board has a leadership role in this that champions the agenda, adds value to planned activity and collaborates to unlock barriers.

Given the wide range of activity already underway, it is suggested that the Health & Wellbeing Board makes a clear statement of intent for healthier housing stock and neighbourhoods – both new and existing – and uses its considerable collective influence to effect change where this requires additional action. There is a direct link between the quality of housing and health inequality. The recent experience of a national lockdown has emphasized the health inequalities brought about by the type and quality of accommodation people live in.

For example, a key priority identified through the work to date – and referred to at the September 2019 Health & Wellbeing Board meeting – is the engagement of developers in delivering on aspirations for healthier places. This could build on the Barriers to Development project led by the GFirst Construction & Infrastructure business group but would require a position to be taken by the Board on its appetite to engage differently. Similarly, the Board could consider how the Integrated Care System's place based approach can support this agenda, e.g. through Integrated Locality Partnership discussions.

The Health & Wellbeing Board may also wish to consider its role in supporting a step change in action to improve existing housing stock conditions. In particular, this might include helping to 'unlock' potential barriers to joining up data and intelligence and consideration of future proposals for investment in a housing conditions survey or alternative approach.

It is proposed to delegate oversight of this priority to the Strategic Housing Partnership which includes Strategic Directors from each of the six Districts, the lead Commissioners from Health and Adult Social Care, representatives from the RP sector and lead professionals for core housing disciplines. Terms of Reference are attached to this report.

### **4. Recommendations**

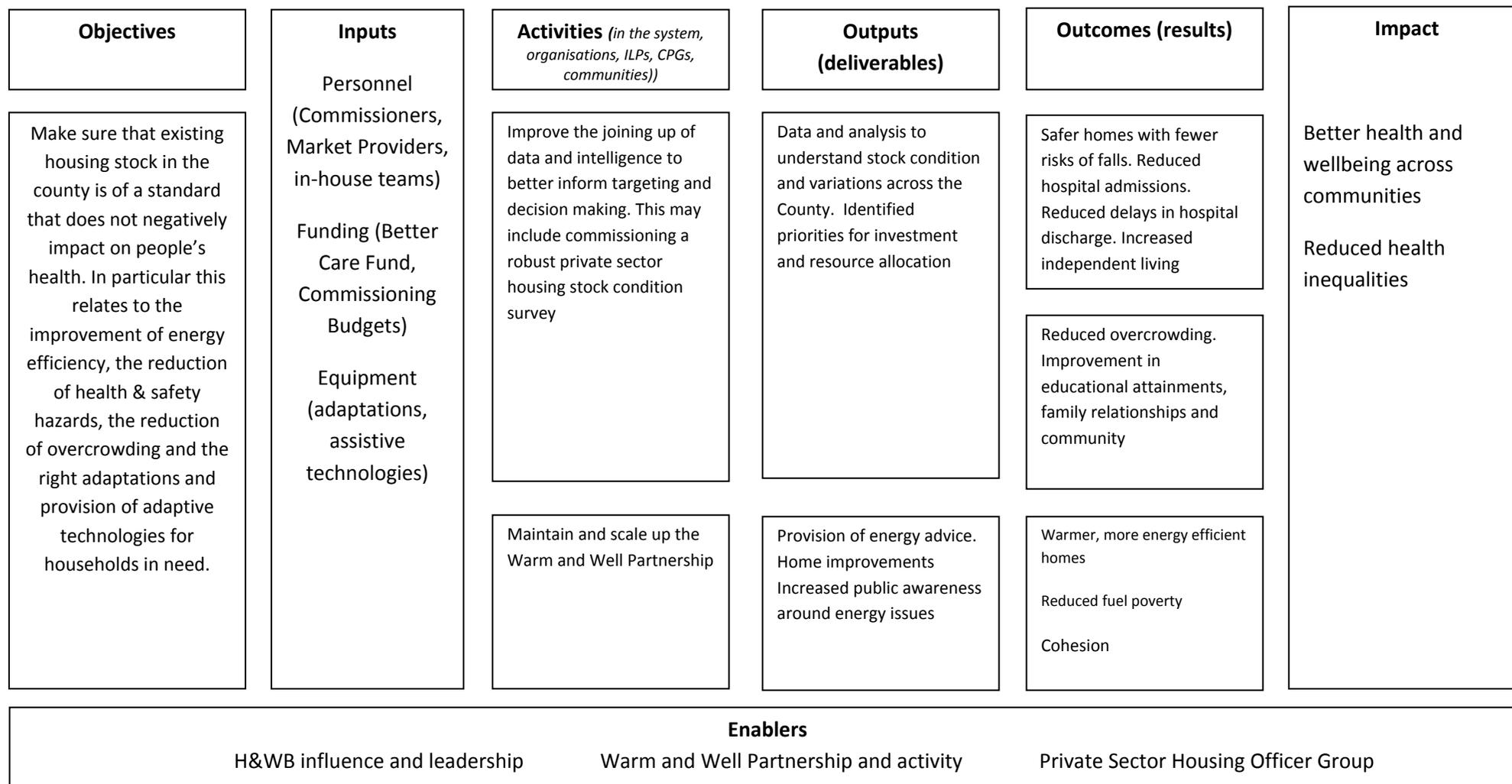
The Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the progress on the Housing & Health priority of the draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy and agree support for its continuation as set out in this paper
- Commit to supporting the planned actions emerging from the Health Foundation programme to improve housing conditions, including joining up of data and intelligence and development of a proposal for potential future investment
- Consider and discuss the Board's appetite to 'change the conversation' with developers seeking to build in the county

- Consider and discuss the role of the Health & Wellbeing Board in championing this agenda and adding value to planned activity by setting ambitious expectations for healthy places and engaging in housing, potentially through a statement of intent as suggested in Section 3.

## Appendix A – Logic Models

**Vision and ambition: We want to ensure health and wellbeing are promoted through improvements in the quality, availability, affordability, suitability and sustainability of current and future homes and neighbourhoods**



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<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Inputs</b>	<b>Activities</b> <i>(in the system, organisations, ILPs, CPGs, communities)</i>	<b>Outputs</b> <b>(deliverables)</b>	<b>Outcomes (results)</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<p>Make sure that new homes and estates are designed and built in a way that promotes health and wellbeing and minimises negative impacts</p> <p>Ensure that proposals for economic growth aim at inclusive growth to address health inequalities, e.g. driven by the current imbalance of wages : house prices</p>	<p>Capacity and technical advice from Public Health team</p> <p>Capacity and skills of local planning authority teams</p> <p>National and local guidance and evidence on planning and health</p>	<p>Encourage and support LPAs to create ambitious planning policy frameworks and health impact assessment tools for the design of homes and neighbourhoods</p> <p>Support and train planners and Planning Committees to recognise and expect design that promotes wellbeing and health</p> <p>Identify and showcase beacon developments across the County in order to create a shift in expectations with residents, planning authorities and developers</p>	<p>Local planning policy, e.g. Local Plans, Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment methodology</p> <p>CPD offer for planners and planning committees</p> <p>Guidance on what 'good' looks like</p> <p>Signposting to other sources of data and info</p> <p>Examples of good practice in 'what works' in developing healthy neighbourhoods</p> <p>Clear standards / expectations for healthy homes and neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Homes and neighbourhoods have a positive rather than negative impact on health and wellbeing</p> <p>Homes and neighbourhoods support residents to live healthier lifestyles</p>	<p>Better health and wellbeing across communities</p> <p>Reduced health inequalities</p>

**Enablers**

Building with Nature benchmark

H&WB influence and leadership

National Planning Policy Framework