

Gloucestershire Strategic Housing Partnership

Terms of Reference (July 2020)

1. Background and rationale

The right homes in the right areas enable people to live healthy and happy lives, build strong, inclusive communities and drive growth in ways that benefit all and prevent public service challenges and costs. For example, providing the right home environment is a key enabler for people to live independently in their own homes for longer or enable timely hospital discharges, reducing costs for hospital care.

There is a national housing crisis and this is reflected in Gloucestershire with spiralling housing prices that are forcing difficult choices on families, distorting places and hampering growth.

The role of public services in the Housing arena is multi-faceted, with key elements being: planning the right numbers and types of new homes to meet expected demand within society, working to enable affordable homes to be built preventing and dealing with homelessness and ensuring the private rented sector is offering appropriate home environments. A good home is often seen as the corner stone of a healthy and successful life and as such there is strong causal links between many public services including Education, Health, Adult Social Care and Criminal Justice. It is thus crucial that all public sector organisations understand these links and work together to tackle the financial and service impacts of housing issues

These Terms of Reference set out our shared commitment to coordinated and joint action ensuring better outcomes in a cost-effective way.

2. Overarching purpose of the Partnership

- To provide strategic leadership for Housing and Homelessness within the county, including horizon scanning to identify future risks and opportunities, awareness raising, advocacy and sharing of information and good practice.
- To act as the strategic voice for Housing and Homelessness within the county and a one-point contact for key strategic partnerships, including the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Local Enterprise Partnership and within the context of the county's ambitions for Devolution and Public Service Reform.
- Respond to, shape and influence national housing policy.
- Through challenge, information exchange and better alignment, to improve the practice and cost effectiveness of our constituent members.

- To influence and create consensus between partners but not at the expense of stifling innovation or implementing solutions that enable added value for the system as a whole
- To effectively resolve barriers and blockages around the Better Care Fund and all other future areas of common interest.

3. Key Objectives

Providing a strategic overview

- Lead, drive and influence the Gloucestershire strategies and strategic plans which relate to housing, housing related support needs, health and wellbeing outcomes and economic growth
- Disseminating information and knowledge to create a strong voice locally, regionally and nationally, including the support to elected members as housing champions
- Oversight of national legislation and funding opportunities
- Influencing national policy

Acting as Gloucestershire's strategic voice for housing and linking with other partners and partnerships

- Develop linkages with and between strategic planning functions to share good practice in planning policies
- Responding to government consultations in order to influence and shape future housing policy
- Create a single voice and effective link with key strategic partnerships, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community Safety Partnership, the Local Enterprise Partnership
- To be accountable for the delivery of the 'Housing' Priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Provide oversight of the Gloucestershire response and recovery

To provide strategic leadership for and drive the collective ambitions, including the reduction of street homelessness in Gloucestershire and the **response to the Covid-19 pandemic**

Deliver **consistency in operational delivery** amongst District/County Council partners, where this benefits the system as a whole, in particular.

- Housing Options (Homeseeker)
- Pathway Services (Community and Accommodation based support)
- SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol)
- Somewhere safe to stay hubs and Navigator Services
- ACTion Glos (SIB)
- Private Rented Sector, including improving standards and accessing private rented units to discharge homelessness obligations
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Enable, coordinate and facilitate joint decision making in commissioning services at a county-wide level, including:

- Assertive Homelessness Outreach
- Disabled Facilities Grants oversight and the Better Care Fund Joint Housing Action Plan
- And any future jointly commissioned services

4. Membership and Governance

Senior representation: people who are empowered and have a mandate to act:

- Strategic directors and/or appropriate representatives
- Lead Commissioner representation from Health and Adult Social Care
- GCC lead on people in vulnerable circumstances
- Two representatives of the Gloucestershire Homes and Communities Partnership
- Lead people for the core disciplines:
 - Homelessness (CHIG);
 - Rough sleeping (CHIG+)
 - Private sector housing, including DFGs (DFG Forum)

Plus exceptional reporting on: affordable warm homes and homelessness.

The Partnership will be accountable to the Chief Executive Group for Gloucestershire and from here to Leadership Gloucestershire. The BCF Housing Action Plan will also report to the Joint Commissioning Partnership Executive, the Joint Commissioning Partnership Board through to the Health and Wellbeing Board. It will be directly accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board for the delivery against the Housing priority in the JHWB strategy.

5. Values, behaviours and commitments - we will:

- Adopt a 'system wide' mindset and seek to deliver benefits for the system as a whole, whilst recognising that there may be different priorities within our own constituent councils
- Value the contribution of all partners through active listening and respect for others' points of view
- Respect the need for confidentiality related to sensitive information and when required
- Ensure decisions and plans are agreed in realistic but ambitious time scales
- Act as system leaders in our own organisations
- Act as leaders in the overall context of the Strategic Housing Partnership
- Share and cascade information discussed as appropriate within each of our own organisations.

6. Operation

- Meetings will be held monthly
- The Partnership will be chaired by a Strategic Director on an annual basis
- Office support will be provided by the District who is providing the Chair
- Good governance principles apply, including:
 - Effective minutes
 - Timely distribution of agendas and reports
 - Reports from all 'representatives' on countywide forums to ensure effective dissemination
 - Adoption and updating of a Forward Plan
- Style of Meeting
 - Flexible, reflecting the nature of the agenda item;
 - Open agendas with opportunities for sub-groups to contribute;
 - A forward plan and work programme;

- Behaviours - we will:
 - Drive;
 - Monitor;
 - Influence;
 - Integrate.

Appendix – housing related partnerships and groups

Private Sector Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private Sector Managers• DFG Forum• Warm and Well Partnership
Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• County Homelessness Implementation Group (CHIG & CHIG+)• County Homelessness Operational Group• Homeseeker Plus Management Board• Homeseeker Plus Operational Group
Housing Enabling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Housing Partnership Group (officers)• Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) Group• Rural Housing Partnership
Specialist Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Commissioning Group• Mental Health & Wellbeing Partnership Board• Housing with Care Project Board• Gypsy and Traveller Project Group
Gloucestershire Homes & Communities Partnership	Partnership of local RPs and Housing Associations