

Meeting: Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee

Date: 26th March 2018

Title: Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

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Service: Housing

Wards affected: All Wards

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the Homelessness Reduction Act implementation project.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Housing Sub-committee note the contents of this report.

3. Details

Members of the Housing Sub-committee received a report on 24 July 2017 on the introduction of the Homelessness reduction Act 2017.

At this meeting we will update the committee on progress towards implementing the Act on 3 April 2018.

Since the last report the Code of Guidance has been developed by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The council appointed a project manager in January 2018 to oversee the implementation of the Act. The governance structure and project team are now in place and a project implementation plan has been approved by the project board.

The introduction of the Act presents many challenges for the council, these include;

- Projected increase in demand at a time of increased budgetary pressure
- Availability of resources
- Enabling and facilitating cultural shift (e.g. training)
- Developing and enhancing partnerships to raise awareness of the legislation and their duties
- Utilising the private rented sector
- Supporting non-priority homeless applicants
- Lack of appropriate accommodation/supported accommodation

In preparation for the implementation of the Act on 3 April 2018, the project team are currently carrying out a review of procedures; preparing training packages for staff and partners; reviewing the homeless service to ensure they align with the new legislative duties; and raising awareness among partners and working with partners to develop preventative measures.

4. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author:

- The Homelessness Reduction Act Code of Guidance
- North Tyneside Council Homelessness Reduction Act Project Plan