



Report of Lynn Hall, Strategic Housing Manager, Housing Solutions, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update of the housing and health related projects that Housing Solutions have delivered over the past year, as well as any planned initiatives, which align to the priorities outlined in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 2 A presentation providing a summary of the report will be presented by the Strategic Manager for Housing at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

Executive summary

- 3 A report was presented to the Board in January 2020 by the Director of Public Health and Director of Regeneration and Local Services, which provided an overview of the importance of housing and the home environment in improving health outcomes for the population of County Durham.
- 4 The Marmot Review commissioned by the Government concluded that housing is a 'social determinant of health', meaning that it can affect physical and mental health inequalities throughout life. Physical housing conditions (e.g., cold and damp) can affect health, as can factors such as the accessibility of the home.
- 5 The County Durham Plan sets out a vision for housing, jobs and the environment until 2035, as well as the transport, schools and healthcare to support it. The plan aims to locate the new homes in the right places to contribute towards sustainable, balanced and regenerated communities across the county.
- 6 In July 2019, the council adopted a revised Housing Strategy for County Durham. The two main aims of the Strategy are 'Better housing support for County Durham residents' and 'More and better homes', with health and rurality being cross cutting themes. Measures are being introduced

to ensure a wide range of quality homes are built to meet the needs of residents. Opportunities for the improvement of physical accessibility, affordability and suitability are key factors when considering the impact of housing on the health of the local population.

- 7 As part of the Housing Strategy, Cabinet also approved a revised three-year Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy, running up to 2022. The Rough Sleeping action plan which is part of the homelessness strategy covers four themes, to prevent rough sleeping, provide rapid action to those living on the street, prevent reoccurring rough sleeping and provide information to the public and partners on rough sleeping.
- 8 Some of the key findings of the review showed that in 2019/20, of 2,877 people that were homeless or threatened with homelessness, 57% had stated that they had a support need. 52% of the 2,877 stated they had a history of poor mental health, 24% had physical ill health or a disability and 22% had a drug and/or alcohol dependency. Data from 2020/21 shows that cases presenting with poor mental health have increased by 8% from 2019/20. The review also highlighted that there is a shortage of accommodation for those people with complex and high support needs, based on the complexity of the clients that we have presenting to Housing.
- 9 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has three strategic priorities: Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well. The projects and initiatives within Housing Solutions cuts across each of these, as set out below: -

Starting Well

- 10 Key projects include:
 - Administration of Disabled Facilities Grants for children aged 19 and under
 - Remain Safe – target hardening initiative supported financially by the Stronger Families Programme, to support children and their families to live safely and securely in their home
 - Young Persons Joint Protocol

Living Well

- 11 Key projects include:
 - Administration of Disabled Facilities Grants
 - Warm and Healthy Homes
 - Hospital Discharge Protocol
 - Health pilot with housing providers with an aim to reduce hospital admissions
 - Domestic abuse
 - Rough sleeping
 - Accommodation for vulnerable people

- COVID-19 vaccinations initiative
- Joint working with Registered Housing Providers
- Private Rented Sector Stock Condition

Ageing Well

12 Key projects include:

- Council New Build Programme
- New housing for older people
- Needs Based Accommodation Programme Board

Recommendation

13 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- a) Note the content of the report

Background

- 14 Housing is a key determinant to health and wellbeing. The Marmot Review commissioned by the Government concluded that housing is a 'social determinant of health', meaning that it can affect physical and mental health inequalities throughout life. Physical housing conditions (e.g., cold and damp) can affect health, as can factors such as the accessibility of the home.
- 15 Housing and a positive home environment is a key determinant to health and wellbeing. Poor quality housing is a risk to health - living in housing which is in poor condition, cold, overcrowded, or unsuitable will adversely affect the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. It can cause or exacerbate a range of underlying health conditions, from falls to poor mental health.
- 16 Housing plays an integral part in the health of individuals and the general population. The suitability of homes for people with a long-term condition, or the ability to adapt homes to changing needs as they get older makes a big difference to wellbeing, physical health, and independence. It is therefore, important that all homes in County Durham provide a safe, inclusive and secure environment for people to live and grow within their local community.
- 17 In July 2019, the council adopted a revised Housing Strategy for County Durham. The two main aims of the Strategy are 'Better housing support for County Durham residents' and 'More and better homes', with health and rurality being cross cutting themes.
- 18 As part of the Housing Strategy, Cabinet also approved a revised three-year Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy, running up to 2022. The data used to inform the strategy was based on statistics from April 2015 to April 2018, as well as legislation set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The Strategy includes three overarching aims:
 - i. Aim one: To prevent homelessness through early intervention.
 - ii. Aim Two: To increase access to and the supply of accommodation for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
 - iii. Aim Three: To provide a range of support services to reduce the risk of households becoming homeless.
- 19 The Rough Sleeping action plan which is part of the homelessness strategy covers four themes, to prevent rough sleeping, provide rapid action to those living on the street, prevent reoccurring rough sleeping and provide information to the public and partners on rough sleeping.

- 20 Government guidance states that housing authorities must keep their homelessness strategy under review and may modify it accordingly to meet the needs of their clients. Considering the availability of up-to-date statistical information following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, as well as the impact of COVID-19 to the Housing Solutions team, a further detailed review of homelessness was carried out.

Key findings from the Homelessness Review

- 21 The recent review analysed data from 2019/20 and 2020/21 to be able to understand the needs of the clients and produce an up-to-date action plan.
- 22 Around 13,000 people contacted Housing Solutions during 2019/20, of which approximately 7,500 presented as being potentially homeless or threatened with homelessness, making up almost 60% of the total contacts to the team.
- 23 Of the 7,500, 4,568 (60%) people were provided with early advice and assistance, leaving 2,983 (40%) who had a full homelessness assessment carried out on them. Following the assessment, it was determined that 106 people were not threatened with homelessness, leaving 2,877 people that were 'owed a duty' under the homelessness legislation.
- 24 Although the total number of cases presenting have remained consistent over recent years, the reasons have changed. The main reason in 2019/20 for receiving early advice and assistance was due to family no longer willing to accommodate and the main reason for homelessness was due to loss of private rented tenancy.
- 25 Considering the close relationship between housing and health, the data from 2019/20 showed that of the 2,877 people that were homeless or threatened with homelessness, 57% had stated that they had a support need. 52% of the 2,877 stated they had a history of poor mental health, 24% had physical ill health or a disability and 22% had a drug and/or alcohol dependency.
- 26 Data from 2020/21 shows that cases presenting with poor mental health have increased by 8% from the previous year. The review highlighted that there is a strong correlation between repeat homelessness and those people that have mental health as a support need. There is a clear concern that support needs in Durham are beginning to rise.
- 27 In June 2020 there were 72 applicants placed into temporary accommodation across the month, an increase of 148% in comparison to June 2019, this was linked to the introduction of the Government's

initiative 'Everyone In', to house all rough sleepers during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 28 The review also looked at what supported accommodation and floating support is currently accessed by housing solutions. The findings showed that there are around 550 supported units across the County that the team currently refer into, however approximately only 3% would accept people with complex/high support needs. This indicates a shortage of accommodation for those people with complex and high support needs, based on the complexity of the clients that we have.
- 29 A revised action plan has been produced based on the findings of the review, which has been approved at Regeneration, Economy and Growth Management Team and will be taken to Corporate Management Team for information in September. A project plan is now being implemented and delivered by housing solutions to ensure that they can meet the needs of the people presenting as homeless.

Housing Solutions contribution towards the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- 30 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has three strategic priorities: Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well. The projects and initiatives within Housing Solutions cut across each of these and are detailed below.

Strategic Priority 1 – Starting Well

- 31 Social factors including poverty and poor housing can act against the ability of the parents and families to create a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for their children. Children who are exposed to adverse events such as domestic abuse or alcohol misuse can be affected negatively, both physically and mentally, throughout their childhood into adult life. The paragraphs below set out the projects and initiatives that help contribute towards this priority.

Adaptations for children

- 32 During 2020/21, Housing Solutions approved 22 Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) for children aged 19 and under. These grants will fund suitable adaptations and will enable those children to live more independently in their own home, which will help to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

Target Hardening for families

- 33 Housing Solutions co-ordinates the target hardening initiative ‘Remain Safe’, which is a partnership approach to support victims of domestic abuse, harassment and hate crime to remain safely in their own home or make a new home secure for themselves and their family. The Stronger Families Programme contributes financially, by paying up to £250 per case where children who are currently working with them are involved. During 2020/21 there were 175 Remain Safe cases assisted under the initiative, of which 87 cases (50%), were supported by Stronger Families.

Young Person’s Joint Protocol

- 34 Housing Solutions are working closely with Children’s Services to further develop joint protocols for 16- and 17-year-olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. COVID-19 funding has been used to appoint a Duty to Refer Co-ordinator who will ensure all legislative requirements are developed in relation to young people’s housing support needs.

Strategic Priority 2 – Living Well

- 35 While the length of life of local people continues to increase, the years that people can expect to live a high quality of life sees significant differences across County Durham. Housing conditions can influence our physical and mental health, for example, a warm and dry house can improve general health outcomes and specifically reduce respiratory conditions and good housing promotes positive mental health.
- 36 Alcohol and substance misuse causes harm to people’s health including their mental health and can impact on the ability of individuals to access or sustain employment and housing. The paragraphs below set out the projects and initiatives that help contribute towards this priority.

Adaptations

- 37 As well as DFG’s for children, during 2020/21 Housing Solutions approved a total of 725 grants. 554 (76%) were for people aged 60 and over, 149 (21%) were people aged 20 to 59 and 22 (3%) were for people aged 19 and under. These grants will fund adaptations to help people to remain safely in their own homes and could range from installing ramps, handrails, ground floor bathrooms etc.

Warm and Healthy Homes

- 38 Warm and Healthy Homes (WHH) is a Public Health commissioned service delivered by Housing Solutions. It commenced in 2017 in response to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

(NICE) NG6¹ guideline. This guideline makes recommendations on how to reduce the risk of excess winter deaths and ill health associated with living in a cold home.

- 39 The aim is to help meet a range of public health and other goals, including:
- Reducing preventable excess winter death rates
 - Improving health and wellbeing among vulnerable groups
 - Reducing pressure on health and social care services
 - Reducing 'fuel poverty' and the risk of fuel debt or being disconnected from gas and electricity supplies (including self-disconnection)
 - Government grants to improve the energy efficiency of owner occupiers for new boilers, central heating and insulation measures available to households with income less than £36,000 or in receipt of qualifying benefits and having a cold related illness
- 40 This involves joint working between Housing Solutions, Public Health, County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and GP Practices. Referrals come from front line health practitioners on behalf of their patients. GP practices in the Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield (DDES) area write to their caseload of COPD and Asthma patients recommending that the patient complete the WHH questionnaire. There is a dedicated WHH officer who works with the CCG and GP practices. During 2020/21 WHH has assisted 1,035 households to receive grants for new heating boilers and insulation measures equating to over £1.26m of grants. The Managing Money Better service also assisted 803 households to save over £65,800 from their energy bills and fuel debt write offs.
- 41 The numbers of residents contacting WHH for assistance increased during 2020/21 due to their change in circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This included households being at home for longer periods of time during lockdown, resulting in higher energy bills and reductions in incomes due to job loss or furlough. There was also an increase in the numbers of patients responding to the mail out through GP practices. It is anticipated this increase will continue into 2021/22 and possibly into 2022/23.
- 42 Discussions are taking place with Public Health to extend funding for the Warm and Healthy Homes project to assist more vulnerable households which will be aligned with ECO phase 4 health funding when it commences in force in 2022.

¹ NICE Guidelines (NG6): Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng6>

Hospital discharge

- 43 Housing Solutions is working with health care professionals to develop a Hospital Discharge Protocol to ensure that patients who are ready for discharge are returning to suitable housing. This includes a daily call between hospital medical professionals, Adult Services Hospital Social Work Managers, Mental Health, Commissioning Services and housing. The purpose of the daily meeting is to discuss cases where patients are ready for discharge but require involvement from another service, e.g., Social Services, a care home or care package or other assessment or housing intervention. Housing attendance at the meetings has proven to be effective by having a direct link between health and housing colleagues and being able to work together to source alternative accommodation when a Duty to Refer is made by the hospital when the patients' current accommodation is no longer suitable.

Reducing hospital admissions

- 44 It was recognised that a joined-up approach around the prevention of hospital admissions would be welcomed by health colleagues. Housing Solutions initiated conversations with housing providers and health to discuss how they could work together to identify potential cases where a hospital admission could be prevented. A pilot is due to commence with Believe Housing, Livin, Darlington Borough Council and community health matrons to do joint visits to identify people who may be at risk and, through early intervention, prevent a hospital admission.

Domestic Abuse

- 45 Those suffering from domestic abuse are identified as being vulnerable in terms of the impact that their housing situation can have on their health. In 2020/21 there were 849 presentations to Housing Solutions in relation to domestic abuse, 713 (84%) of these were provided with early advice and intervention or were closed and the remaining 136 (16%) were supported through the duties under the Homeless Reduction Act. Due to the high number of people presenting as being potentially homeless due to Domestic Abuse, a decision was made in early 2021 to allocate all homeless cases to a specialist Housing Officer. As there is a continuing need for specialist support in this area, an additional specialist Housing Officer will be joining the team in August.
- 46 Housing Solutions have recently worked alongside other agencies, including Police, Children and Adult Services and Health to complete a Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. This is a collection of data in relation to domestic abuse victims over a 3-year period. A deep study

of this data will assist in informing a Domestic Abuse Strategy which will not only develop the local authority's response to domestic abuse but will also fulfil the duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. One of the main aims of the Domestic Abuse Act is to ensure support within safe accommodation is provided for all those who require it.

Rough Sleeping

- 47 Rough sleeping can have a major impact on someone's physical and mental health. Within Housing Solutions, we have a dedicated Rough Sleeper Team, who work intensively with anyone sleeping rough across the County, with an overarching aim to source suitable accommodation and support to meet their needs. The team has a dedicated substance misuse worker and will soon be joined by a mental health worker to provide specialist support to rough sleepers.
- 48 During 2020/21 and in the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rough Sleeper Team worked to the Government's 'Everybody In' initiative, responding to 397 reports of rough sleepers across the County. Following investigations, 175 were verified as rough sleeping and were housed in either temporary or secure accommodation. The team have secured Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) funding and as a result will be able to provide the following:
- **Protect Plus Funding** – to assist with the shortfall on housing benefit in B&B accommodation, provide food parcels, assist with deposits/rent in advance for private landlords.
 - **Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP)** – monies were awarded for a complex needs project for 2 years in October 2020, as well as £375k to redevelop the former health clinic at Wheatley Hill into 5 self-contained flats for former rough sleepers/those at risk of rough sleeping. This was completed in June 2021.
 - **Rough Sleeper Initiative 4 (RSI4)** – Durham was successful, as lead authority on behalf of the North East region, in being awarded £1,117,000, with £460k staying in Durham. Through this award, we have increased staffing to include a dedicated rough sleeper team leader for Durham, an additional navigator, an additional tenancy sustainment officer, continuation of a dedicated substance misuse worker, as well as changing somewhere safe to stay (SSTS) provision from 6 units on one site to 10 units dispersed across the county, which will increase provision geographically.

Accommodation for vulnerable people

- 49 County Durham Lettings Agency was established in 2020 to provide homes for people who may otherwise be excluded through more traditional housing pathways because of their chaotic lifestyles and support needs, which can have a negative impact on their physical and mental health. These groups include victims of domestic abuse, prison and hospital leavers, adult and children's care leavers, homeless or those in danger of imminent homelessness. The properties are provided via direct acquisition and private sector leasing coupled with intensive support to ensure tenancies are sustained. To date we have a portfolio of 20 properties with an additional 17 waiting to be approved. It is predicted that a further 78 properties will be added during 2021/22.
- 50 A recent review of homelessness has identified that there is a shortage of suitable accommodation for those leaving prison or with an offending history/complex needs. Housing Solutions have developed a dedicated offender team who work with high-risk offenders with complex needs, they support the statutory MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) function and deliver Project BETA.
- 51 Project BETA is a joint project with Durham and Darlington probation service. It aims to secure suitable, affordable accommodation from the day of release and to offer a holistic wrap around approach to ensure everything is in place to support the individual and help maintain a tenancy. Support is provided for a period of 12 weeks from the day of release. Supporting offenders and ex-offenders into settled and suitable accommodation can be the foundation of every other part of rehabilitation, resettlement, reducing reoffending and managing risk. This work is important because for many offenders it can give stability to a previously unstructured life. Without suitable accommodation it is unlikely that offenders will be able to secure and keep a job, register with a doctor or get into drug and/or alcohol treatment. We have secured additional funding to secure accommodation for offenders that will be managed via the County Durham Lettings Agency.

COVID-19 vaccinations for vulnerable groups

- 52 Housing have worked closely with Public Health to ensure that our hard-to-reach groups including rough sleepers and the Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) community are being communicated with in relation to receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. The initiative has provided information about drop-in clinics as well as being a single point of contact. The uptake of vaccinations has been very successful across both groups.

Joint working with Registered Housing Providers

- 53 As part of the strategic housing role, regular meetings take place with housing providers through a range of partner forums. Housing and

health is a priority and a number of initiatives including Making Every Contact Count (MECC), housing for older people, new developments and regeneration are discussed on a regular basis as part of the Housing Strategy action plan.

Private Rented Sector Stock Condition

- 54 In County Durham, a large number of the private rented housing stock is older terraced in ex mining communities and is often in poor condition. This can have a serious impact on health including exacerbation of respiratory illness, accidents and mental ill-health, as well as a long-term illness or disability. In response to this, one of the aims of our Housing Strategy is to maintain and improve standards across all housing sectors in County Durham, which includes raising standards in the private rented sector.
- 55 A selective licensing proposal was submitted to MHCLG in December 2020. The normal timescale for a decision to come back is 8 weeks from submission date. COVID-19 has inevitably caused delays in this process and a decision should be received imminently. Following consultation, the proposals were reduced from an initial countywide scheme, to 74% of the private rented stock at consultation, to now just 42% at submission to MHCLG.
- 56 In addition to the proposed mandatory selective licencing areas, a voluntary county-wide accreditation scheme, 'The Durham Rental Standard', is currently being developed in partnership with the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA). This will provide help and support to ensure landlords can offer quality homes and also gives tenants peace of mind, knowing that their landlord is an accredited member of the NRLA and that their property has been inspected and assessed as meeting the Durham Rental Standard.

Strategic Priority 3 – Ageing Well

Council New Build Programme

- 57 In October 2020, Cabinet approved a 5-year Council New Build Programme for the delivery of 500 affordable homes by becoming a direct housing provider. The report highlighted that there is a clear under provision of affordable rented homes in the County with the annual delivery falling short of the numbers required, as well as there being a specific lack of provision of bungalow accommodation. It is proposed that a large proportion of the programme will be for older persons accommodation.

New housing for older people

- 58 In addition to the Council New Build Programme, the County Durham Plan (CDP) includes policies to help meet the housing needs of older people and people with disabilities. Policy 15 of the CDP states that to meet the needs of older people and people with disabilities, on sites of 5 units or more, 66% of dwellings must be built to 'Building Regulations Requirement M4 (2) (accessible and adaptable dwellings) standard'. Furthermore, on sites of 10 units or more, a minimum of 10% of the total number of dwellings on the site should be of a design and type that will increase the housing options of older people. This will include appropriate house types including level access flats, level access bungalows and other housing products that can be shown to meet the specific needs of a multi-generational family.

Needs Based Accommodation Programme Board

- 59 An integrated commissioning Needs Led Accommodation Review (NLAR) Programme Board meets on a monthly basis to plan and implement projects to meet the future needs for older people, children and those with learning disabilities and poor mental health. The Board includes members from integrated commissioning, housing, health, and adult care.
- 60 Housing Solutions are working with housing providers to understand the existing and future housing provision for older people, to understand if this meets system needs. As part of this work, the integrated commissioning service is reviewing a range of accommodation-based services for children, adults and older people and mapping needs to inform commissioning plans in line with local and national policies.
- 61 For older people, an initial focus is on care homes given pressures in the sector, but separate strands of work are also considering future demand for adapted, sheltered housing etc. A specific piece of work by Housing has provided some early evidence on demand and potential future re-shaping of sheltered accommodation which is due to report to the Board.
- 62 Another key area of development is Transforming Care, which requires the Council to develop in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group specific types of new build/refurbished accommodation from housing providers in conjunction with care from providers who have the necessary skills and experience to support people who have learning disabilities, and or autism with mental health issues and behaviours of concern.
- 63 Linked to this, are reviews of existing accommodation-based services for people with eligible social care needs to ensure they are safe, meet

needs effectively, promote independence and progression, provide value for money and are sustainable for the future. A learning disability accommodation commissioning plan is being developed to draw together the different elements, which include developing new services and models (short and long term), reviewing existing services (supported living, residential care, shared lives) and improving support for young people in transition and older people with learning disabilities.

- 64 A parallel process is underway to develop a mental health accommodation commissioning plan, based on the needs led review. This will interrelate with the learning disability commissioning plans, in particular with regard to accommodation-based services for autistic people, which is a need identified in the local 'Think Autism Strategy.'
- 65 Finally, the NLAR also encompasses a commissioning review of non-assessed housing related support services. These include a wide range of services e.g. for young people age 17-25, teenage parents, single homeless, people with learning difficulties, mental health issues, substance misuse or complex needs, women fleeing domestic abuse, Gypsy Roma travellers, older and frail people, those with sensory impairment or physical disabilities.
- 66 Clearly the partnership approach between AHS and Housing colleagues, alongside wider stakeholders, is key to the success of the NLAR and will make a significant contribution to future accommodation and service user outcomes in Durham.

Approach to Wellbeing

- 67 The core principles of the Wellbeing approach were applied to the strategic element and the operations-based action plan of the Housing strategy. It was applied retrospectively so acted an impact assessment rather than development tool. Through the application of this approach, it was useful to see how the principles are embedded in the delivery through delivery in action and case-studies; specifically, case-study journeys in the Housing Strategy. This approach is also be a valuable tool to use as the Housing Strategy and action plan progress.

Conclusion

- 68 Housing is a key determinant to health and wellbeing. Housing and health is referenced in our key strategic documents including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the County Durham Plan, the Housing Strategy and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- 69 Access to housing, improving housing and the home environment is key to improving health outcomes for individuals, families and the elderly.

Housing have delivered a number of key projects to assist with improving the health of the population of County Durham. Housing will continue to work with partners to deliver the strategic aims of our key strategies.

Background papers

- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 - 2025
- County Durham Plan 2018-2035
- County Durham Housing Strategy 2019 - 2025
- County Durham Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2022

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Appendix 1

Legal Implications

The Homelessness Reduction Act published in 2017, signalled a significant change to homelessness protection across England over the next 3 years. The Act aims to reduce homelessness by joining up services to provide better support for people, especially those leaving prison/hospital and other groups at increased risk of homelessness, such as people fleeing domestic abuse and care leavers

The Coronavirus Act 2020 brought about the 'Everyone In' initiative to house all rough sleepers during the peak of the pandemic.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – one of the main implications on Housing Solutions is to ensure support within safe accommodation is provided for all those who require it.

Finance

n/a

Consultation

Consultation was carried out with the residents of County Durham, which helped inform the final revised Housing Strategy 2019-2025.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Housing is a 'social determinant of health', meaning that it can affect physical and mental health inequalities throughout life.

Climate Change

A warm, but energy efficient home will contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions.

Human Rights

n/a

Crime and Disorder

A reduction in homelessness and risk of homelessness will contribute to a reduction in antisocial behaviour in local communities.

Staffing

n/a

Accommodation

n/a

Risk

None

Procurement

None.