



Prevention and Wellbeing Partnership Board

Minutes Tuesday 15 May 2012

Members in attendance:	
Luisa Fletcher	Bromford Support
Dominic Games	Paradigm Housing
Steve Goldensmith	BCC
Anna Gordon	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Margaret Howard	South Bucks District Council
Heather Mills	Riverside
Kath Palmer	Accommodation Worker, Bucks County Council
James Sainsbury	Safer Bucks Commissioning Manager, BCC
Steve Tredwell	Vale of Aylesbury Housing
Mike Veryard	Chiltern District Council



No	Item
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Steve Goldensmith welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a short overview of the Prevention Partnership Board (previously known as the Prevention and Wellbeing Partnership Board). He explained that the Board had decided to establish 3 sub-groups to consider the themes of Lifetime Housing, Lifetime Communities and Lifetime Health and Wellbeing with a view to identifying priorities in each of the 3 key areas.</p>

	<p>Apologies were received from Josie Bishton, Becci Seaborne, Sally Morris, Giulia Johnson, Tracey Ironmonger and Peter Bruford. Heather Miles was attending on behalf of Peter Bruford.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Purpose of Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that Mike Veryard, CDC would chair the meeting and after introductions round the table, Mike reiterated that the purpose of the meeting was to identify issues in the Housing arena and come to a consensus on what the priority areas should be. He reminded the group that the Prevention Partnership Board was primarily concerned with those vulnerable people who did not currently qualify for support from Adult Social Care but may well do in the future.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Current Housing Issues</p> <p>There was a round table discussion on issues currently being faced by various client groups and the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were particular difficulties placing young offenders under the age of 18, because due to the nature of their offending, chaotic lifestyles and often also drug use, providers were reluctant to offer them accommodation. • It was difficult to get providers to interview young offenders who were being held in custody some distance away, often in Bristol or Weymouth, therefore young people were being released and immediately found themselves homeless. • Although YOS have improved in planning ahead with accommodation if individuals could not be interviewed prior to release and there is a lack of suitable accommodation, planning does not always help. • Mike Veryard reported that he believed that Simon Brown, Operations Manager, BCC Commissioning, would like to commission a housing service for 16-17 year olds. • For other young offenders without high risk issues, YOS had good referral processes with Stonham, Padstones and YMCA. • Move on accommodation was highlighted as a pressing issue. BCC had access to MoMo, 10 units of dispersed individual accommodation for YOS and Aftercare clients but there were issues with move on for YOS clients. The Old Tea Warehouse also face similar issues with move on accommodation. • This was exacerbated further by a noticeable trend of London boroughs moving people out to High Wycombe. Places through the Housing Deposit Scheme in Wycombe had been 'gazumped' by people coming in from Hillingdon and Harrow. • Representatives from the DAT recognised that Bucks is fortunate

to have The Old Tea Warehouse and the DAT flats but demand is outstripping supply. Frequently people are forced back to sharing accommodation with others who are not as advanced with their recovery, which then undermines their progress.

- Heather Mills, from Old Tea Warehouse recognised that often they are the last resort for people displaying chaotic drug use. Sometimes statutory services such as mental health were reluctant to get involved. Sometimes it was necessary to evict people who just won't respond to the help offered and end up dragging everyone else down with them – however where do these people end up if Old Tea turn them away?
- It was noted that financial pressures or individual contract terms may result in providers setting tighter criteria for admission to their accommodation – e.g. if you have a target to move on a certain percentage of clients then providers may be more selective about who they choose to accept in the first place.
- It was also reported that there were issues with sheltered accommodation as the needs of the over 60s were now more complex and they were not always eligible for specialist support due to issues around duplication of funding.
- An increase in homelessness was reported, with people having their homes repossessed and Luisa from Brompton Support advised that often they were taking clients from Tindal into Griffin Place in Aylesbury, who were then placed with insufficient support and ended up being readmitted to Tindal.
- There was a lot of concern expressed about the impact of benefit changes, especially around housing benefit for the under 35s. It was suggested that it might be useful to undertake a co-operative piece of work across the county to assess the impact of changes to Disability Living Allowance, Local Housing Allowance and Universal Credit. For many clients, housing benefit which usually went straight to landlords would now be paid to them and they would be responsible for paying the landlord themselves – this presented challenges in a variety of ways and concerned support workers.
- Housing officers from the district councils reported that private rentals were increasingly difficult due to a reduction in local housing allowance, increased movement of people out of London and landlords being increasingly choosy about who they will take on as tenants.

Mike Veryard summed up the key issues as follows:

1. Under 18s
2. Private rent – impact of benefits issues, other authorities directing people to Bucks and private deposit schemes unlikely to continue working in difficult economic climate

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Levels of support for clients once placed in accommodation 4. Welfare reforms – huge concern and recognised need for training for workforce and clients on the impact of the changes 5. Supply of appropriate accommodation and support for specific clients needs 6. How floating support dovetails in with sheltered accommodation given that the Over 60s now have more complex needs. <p>Steve Goldensmith commented that if services were being used by clients with a higher level of need, was there a case for redesigning some of the existing services.</p> <p>District councils reported that there was a serious issue in not securing 30-35% affordable housing in new developments – often only 18% is secured due to viability. Inevitably waiting lists will increase as a result.</p> <p>The Group was asked if there was any accommodation which proved hard to let. Mike Veryard commented that this might apply to sheltered accommodation. Generally via Bucks Home Choice someone would take any property available. If providers had sheltered accommodation that they wanted to reconfigure, this could be a worthwhile area to discuss as it might be sensible to switch the focus to a younger age group.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Longer term Housing Issues</p> <p>The Group felt that it was hard to predict if there would be an upturn in demand in future because it was hard to judge the impact of welfare reform and when a general election was held, maybe the politics would change again. Those working in Housing and Housing support felt that the environment was increasingly tough.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Feedback to Prevention and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>It was agreed that the themes identified would be circulated following the meeting and the priorities of this group would be presented to the full Prevention Partnership Board in July with a view to agreeing a range of priorities to present to the Executive Partnership Board. The Lifetime Housing group may meet again in the future. Mike Veryard and Steve Goldensmith thanked everyone for attending.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Lifetime Communities Group Wednesday 13th June at 10am in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall</p>

<p>Lifetime Health & Wellbeing Group Wednesday 27th June at 2pm in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall</p> <p>Prevention & Wellbeing Partnership Board full meeting Wednesday 11th July, 2pm, Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall</p>

Chairman