

## Consultation Survey – Stevenage’s Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy

### Introduction

Following the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act (HRA17) and the Rough Sleeper Initiative we along with many other Local Authorities have had to opportunity to update our Homelessness Strategy.

The strategy will incorporate the changes that have been made to the legislation in relation to preventions and relief as well as reflect on how we as a Local Authority with work with our Rough Sleeper cohort as we have recently been successful in receiving funding from the Rough Sleeper Initiative fund.

We would be grateful if you could complete the short survey that follows:

#### Question 1

We have identified the following Aims/Priorities in relation to tackling homelessness, please can you rank what you believe should be our top 3

- To ensure that all client contact is effectively managed and appropriate housing and homelessness advice is provided.
- Continuous improvement in our homelessness prevention work
- Effective casework & liaison in relation to Duty to Refer
- Closer working with our partners
- Sustainable housing outcomes for all
- Reduce the number of Rough Sleepers by half
- Decrease the number of homeless households by increasing the number of tenancies within the private rented section
- Avoid unnecessary evictions and recurring homelessness by maintaining a dedicated resource for private rented sector tenancy sustainment
- Promote long term tenancies within private rented sector
- Increase our portfolio of Temporary Accommodation
- Reduce the need to use bed and breakfast
- Other

If you have chosen other – please indicate below why

#### Question 2

We have identified the following potential barriers to achieving the above aims; please can you rank what you believe to be the top 3 barriers.

- Reduced funding from Government
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Welfare Reform impacts such as ‘Benefit Cap’ & ‘LHA rates’
- Debt levels amongst client group
- Challenged provision due to Health funding – eg Mental Health Services
- Lack of engagement with drug and alcohol services

- Resource provision for specialist homeless services
- Lack of Supported Accommodation
- Managing Customer Expectations in respect of Social Housing
- Other

If you have chosen other – please indicate below why

### Question 3

Ideally we would like to be able to offer every homeless applicant a Council home, however we do not have enough supply to meet the demand therefore, a key priority of the Council is to strengthen its housing supply by working with Landlords to secure Private Rented Accommodation – are you aware of this initiative?

Yes

No

What do you think of this initiative?

For further information relating to the above survey, please contact Hannah Morris on 01438242727