

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee	06/09/2018
Subject: Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2019–2022 – project plan	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
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Summary

This report informs members of the current Homelessness Strategy, the Homelessness Reduction Act and the current project plan for developing the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2019–2022.

Recommendation

The Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee Members are asked to:

- Note the report and the project timeline for the strategy.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation’s current Homelessness Strategy runs until 2019. An updated strategy will need to be developed and signed off by the Sub Committee before the start of the 2019 financial year. This will provide an update on what has been achieved since the last strategy was put in place, the national changes that have occurred and the City Corporation’s new priorities and outcomes.
2. A key consideration for the updated strategy is the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, which came into force in April this year. The Act modifies and extends the existing homelessness protection that is offered by local and housing authorities.
3. The updated strategy will be applicable to wider homelessness – including that defined by statutory duty – and those whose homelessness has led to sleeping rough. Homelessness describes a range of circumstances and includes: those at risk of homelessness; those in temporary accommodation; and those in insecure accommodation, such as sleeping on friend’s or family’s sofas. Its most acute form – rough sleeping – has different causes, needs and responses that must be considered.

Current Position

4. Initial planning has taken place to outline a timeline for research, consultation and co-production, drafting and governance. See Appendix 1 for the full plan.

Consultation and Co-production

5. To ensure a robust consultation and co-production process, DCCS is considering using internal funds to commission a specialist body, such as Providence Row which operates as the Dellow Day Centre, to engage with homeless and rough sleepers. As this strategy is dealing with a marginalised group, it may be difficult to get meaningful engagement if the wrong steps are taken. A specialist body will be better placed to contact and interact with those that have lived experience.
6. Consultation and co-production will take place with all stakeholders to ensure that the strategy outcomes are prioritised. It is envisioned that all stakeholders consulted across the strategy development timeline will have a co-production role when designing and commissioning services.
7. Appendix 1 sets out a timeline for co-production. This may be subject to change, depending on the ability to engage with stakeholders.

Governance

8. The Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee has been designated as the responsible committee overseeing the strategy. The project plan envisions final approval of the strategy by the Sub Committee in February or March 2019.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy project plan.

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