

WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT

Project Description:

Gwent Regional Homelessness Review and Regional Homeless Strategy

Section 1) Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.



Integration

1. *How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?*

The provision of good quality services to assist homeless households, or those at risk of homelessness, will improve social and cultural outcomes, enabling local people to remain in their own communities and support their local area.



Long-term

2. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?

This link may help you with long term planning: <http://www.wlga.gov.uk/sustainable-development/generation-2050-better-long-term-decision-making-l-a-resource-for-local-government>

Access to housing will always be a priority and so it is important to balance the delivery of short term, immediate solutions with more longer term, better planned outcomes. By adopting this approach, the Housing Service will ensure that peoples needs will be continually met.

Torfaen experiences many similar pressures to its neighbours when seeking to address homelessness, with each local authority often having the same priorities and objectives. So it was considered practical to pool both time and resources, by carrying out reviews in tandem and developing a regional homelessness strategy.

The reviews have focused on a number of key issues, including those factors that contribute to homelessness, patterns and likely future levels of homelessness, possible means to forestall or intervene these patterns and the planning/co-ordination of the resources that are available to address homelessness.

The Regional Research Officer has therefore developed:

- a detailed review identifying levels of homelessness and key causes across each Local Authority area.
- a draft Gwent Regional Homelessness Strategy
- a comprehensive evidence base that has been used to develop tailored action plans to address current and future levels of homelessness on both a local and regional basis.
- consulted with 218 service users and held a stakeholder engagement event with 140 delegates, representing organisations from across Gwent

Torfaen is also working closely with its partners to ensure that an adequate supply of housing is available for households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, through close monitoring of the Homeseeker register, to guarantee an equitable allocation of homes to households in various levels of housing need. Negotiations continue between housing, planning and local developers to ensure that new sites deliver a range of homes across different tenures to meet the needs of a variety of residents, helping to further reduce demand for affordable housing and alleviate pressure on front line services.



Prevention

3. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?

There are a number of risks associated with not having a robust review and homelessness strategy in Torfaen but the biggest risk is that without the review of homelessness services, which has identified levels of demand, it will be difficult to effectively forward plan and ensure that resources are in place to meet future housing and homelessness needs.

Housing need is most acute when people are homeless or at risk of homelessness. To prevent households from reaching this crisis situation, the Housing service have invested heavily in ensuring that the provision of robust advice and information is available to households facing housing difficulty.

	<p>The Gwent Review and Strategy will work to ensure that information is readily available, that effective use is made of the Support People Grant Programme to provide additional resources to provide preventative services such as financial inclusion advice and floating support. Through the planning and promotion of early intervention measures, the Gwent Homeless Strategy will also ensure that situations are not exacerbated and remedial action is planned and executed in a timely manner.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p>	<p><i>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</i></p> <p>Delivery of the Gwent Homelessness Strategy is only possible through effective partnership working. On a local level, Torfaen no longer retains any social housing, so must work closely with its partners to ensure residents have access to affordable housing, whilst the delivery of new homes is not possible without working closely with development partners. In addition, ensuring that residents have access to the support service can only be achieved by contracting local support services to provide these services. The Torfaen Housing Service has a history of positive and productive partnership working relationships with its neighbouring housing authorities in the Gwent area. In recognition of this, and alongside the understanding that service users do not merely reside, present or need support and accommodation within single county boundaries, the five local authorities, (Torfaen County Borough Council, Newport City Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council) agreed to collectively pool knowledge and resources to develop the local reviews and a homelessness strategy.</p> <p>Through dialogue with Welsh Government Officers, it was agreed that five local reviews would be undertaken (as per the Act requirements), but these separate reviews would be merged, also informing a single regional homelessness strategy.</p> <p>By working collaboratively it was felt that a number of opportunities exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to better understand homelessness across the region and enable comparison locally • to more comprehensively consider service user needs, the supply of services and resources available alongside variances/inconsistencies across the region • to afford a greater ability to factor in service user transience and migration • and to identify/share pockets of good practice and further partnership working opportunities <p>Addressing homelessness cannot be achieved solely by the local authority and requires the assistance of key partners' across the housing sector, as identified in Section 95 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. Torfaen continues to ensure that its partners take an active role in alleviating homelessness and through the Homeseeker Steering Group, Homeseeker Operational Group, MARAC, MAPPA and other multiagency fora, it is possible to monitor performance of the partners and identify areas for improvement.</p>



Involvement

5. *How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?*

During the development of the Homelessness Review and Strategy, widescale consultation was carried out with residents and stakeholders who had been homeless, were experiencing homelessness or were at risk of homelessness. The results of these consultations were used to shape and develop the priorities of the Gwent Homeless Strategy. Consultees are as follows:

- Newport City Council; Monmouthshire County Council; Caerphilly County Borough Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Homelessness Managers.
- TCBC Housing Solutions Manager
- TCBC Supporting People Team Leader
- TCBC Group Manager Housing
- TCBC Head of Housing, Commissioning & Service Transformation
- TCBC Social Care & Housing Senior Management Team
- TCBC Chief Officer Social Care & Housing
- Welsh Government Housing Directorate
- Gwent Service Providers (associated with homelessness)
- Gwent users of homeless services (past and present)
- Tai Pawb, Cymorth Cymru, Shelter Cymru.
- Registered Social Landlords operating in Gwent

Equalities data is routinely captured as part of the homeless application process and information submitted to Welsh Government via quarterly statistical returns. Equalities data is also collected via the Homeseeker application process and via service user satisfaction questionnaires, which are reported on a quarterly basis to the Homeseeker Steering Group. Further equalities data is also collected via the Supporting People Programme. The collection of this wide range of data enables the Housing Service to effectively monitor equalities and ensure that services are effectively meeting the needs of all members of the community.

The Homelessness Review has taken into specific account of vulnerable groups and protected characteristics, ensuring that they were involved in the consultation process during the development of the review and that their needs and requirements were identified.

Section 2) Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use **Appendix 1** to help you).

Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the	Is there anyway to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our
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	national well-being goals?	communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>Delivering improved services in Torfaen and across the Gwent region will result in better outcomes for residents, whilst the delivery of new/alternative housing provision will result in the use of local contractors and local supply chains.</p>	<p>The Housing Service will continue to support the exploration of all available opportunities to improve the wellbeing of Torfaen and its residents</p>
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>Homelessness can result in isolation and poverty, which can negatively impact on a person's wellbeing and have a detrimental impact on the resilience of a community. By effectively addressing homelessness, a number of benefits are achieved, by assisting people into sustainable accommodation and reducing poverty.</p>	<p>Any efforts to reduce and potentially eradicate homelessness will improve the outcomes for people and minimise the negative impact that homelessness can have on a community.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>Quality homes are essential for ensuring people's well-being, with poor living conditions and homelessness affecting a person's health, as well as their ability to prosper.</p>	<p>As part of the Homelessness Action Plan, Torfaen and its neighbouring local authorities will continue to explore opportunities to improve links between health and housing, to promote better outcomes for service users.</p>
<p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>Supporting some of the most vulnerable and deprived communities and residents in Torfaen will ensure that no one is adversely affected by their living conditions.</p>	<p>The Housing Service, in conjunction with its partners, will continue to explore all available opportunities to improve the wellbeing of Torfaen and its residents.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>Good quality housing can increase an areas ability to attract investment and employment opportunities, so working to reduce homelessness and deliver better outcomes will benefit Torfaen as a whole.</p>	<p>Homelessness and especially rough sleeping can have a detrimental effect on communities and so by working to mitigate the risk of homelessness, Torfaen will be able to contribute to making attractive and safe communities.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>	<p>Helping to maintain communities as places where people are able to access good quality, affordable</p>	<p>The Housing Service continues to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Welsh Language</p>

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	accommodation will help to ensure that local cultures are preserved.	Act and will continue to ensure that residents who wish to communicate in Welsh have the opportunity to do so.
A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	By effectively planning and delivering better homelessness services in Torfaen, the Housing Service will deliver social and environmental benefits supporting communities to be vibrant places to live.	The Housing Service, in conjunction with its partners, will continue to explore all available opportunities to improve the wellbeing of Torfaen and its residents.

Section 3) Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts.

Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.
Disability	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.
Gender	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.

Gender reassignment	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.
Marriage and civil partnership	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.
Pregnancy and maternity	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.
Race	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.
Religion or Belief	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.
Sexual orientation	Yes – everyone in Torfaen will be entitled to advice around homelessness and where the local authority has a duty to provide	No one in Torfaen should be affected negatively as a result of these proposals	The Housing Service will continue to map levels of need and where a specific need is identified due to a protected characteristic, will work to

	assistance, this will be provided regardless of a protected characteristic.		ensure that the positive impacts are maximised.
Section 4) Identify decision meetings for project/ activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decisions taken by Executive Members and / or Chief Officers.			
Safer communities overview & scrutiny committee			
Officer Name and Job Title: Fiona Silverthorn Research and Development Officer		Date: 31/08/2018	