

Appendix 1

Consultation results

Online consultation comments and Cheshire East response

Question: Several key issues require more attention and are addressed in the draft Homelessness Strategy (page 15) Are there any other issues which you think need to be included?

Comment	Response
Information, advice and advocacy for clients, especially clients with mental health problems. The need for this client group to have Independent specialised case workers, who are not just dealing with their practical problems, but also in a position to assist in dealing with the same life challenges that have resulted in homelessness or the threat of.	Improved information provision is a priority in the Strategy (access to free information, p.36) Housing and Health Link Workers work with people with mental health problems and provide a wrap-around service (p.10)
Use of mobile homes / caravan parks or boats should be available for homeless people.	A range of innovative options are under discussion nationally and Cheshire East is keen to embrace innovation and good practice which will deliver improvements and savings. These options will be considered.
We all know people who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness suffer so much anxiety, feeling of loss, feeling of worthlessness, feeling of isolation and abandonment by humanity they so much belong to, they are frightened, they are occupied by what their future is, bleak, they are frightened and usually paralysed by being homeless, what I dont understand is the system that actually penalises these people in terms of benefits. Please lets stop this rhetoric barbaric behaviour of punishing them further by taking away their benefits when they cannot go to jobcentre plus to sign on. They then are faced with several double sworded problems, no money, and no where to put their heads down for a rest at the end of the day. When someone has no home or threatened of losing their home, this is a very serious issue that affects their mental health, thinking capacity it leaves them with no personal organisational skills, they are out of the roof. Yet we sit in our offices and stop their benefits when they do not sign on, this then affects their housing benefits which are stopped too and they remain with nothing to fall back on. How do you expect someone to survive?. I am asking for some of these regulations and procedures to honestly think before you actually enforce them. It takes up a lot of time for people who work to support people who are homeless. I hope you understand what you do when you take away people's benefits when they are struggling with finding where to sleep and put their children	There are DWP regulations in place which sanction people who fail to meet their conditions, and this is not something CE can influence. CE and partners (such as CAB, and New Leaf) provide support to people to enable them to acquire skills, and knowledge, and increase opportunities to access employment opportunities (p.25)

<p>down to rest. I hope you understand what it means to have no home and then to find that the little hope you had of having a meal or paying for a room has actually been taken away because you were too stressed, anxious, just paralysed to do anything due to the fear of facing a bleak homeless life and you could not then remember to sign on. Stop it...I say stop it. it is inhuman very inhuman. I work to pay my tax so that the person who does not have a job or a house could share that to have some food, clothes, heating, a roof over their heads. If it wasn't for me to share my salary through tax with the less privileged I would not be working. I work and pay because I am privileged to and thus I am happy and most should I say privileged to be able to share with those that do not have. I do not work and pay my tax for councillors and their administration to cook up expensive, complex ideas, systems that only benefit the rich in the end and further oppress the already oppressed.</p> <p>Stop this idea of stopping people's benefits even when you know they are homeless and thus powerless. We are misusing this power God has given us, we are using it to further oppress the weak, poor, vulnerable and those that need us to push them upwards to be where we are. What we are doing by cutting benefits of people who already are in dire straits is just so barbaric and so inhuman. Stop strengthen the already rich, instead be a rainbow in those that need to see the lovely bright colours by putting humane systems in place.</p> <p>It is very funny for one to loose their ESA and then what follows is their housing benefits being cut..how bizarre..what can you call this? retrogressive, barbaric and it is a conscious plotting by those in power to continue their control of the powerless. Housing strategy? go out there and find out from the people that you put on the streets, I will not be able to tell you what they feel, how they feel and how being where they are has affected their belief in humanity. How being out their has affected their children's futures, their generations to come will always be affected by this..you have the power to change it. Stop this inhumane treatment of other humans. We will never loose anything by creating an equal county by we will beneift alot.</p>	
<p>Cheshire East could also set up a soup kitchen (I'm sure there would be lots of volunteers) once or twice a week to help the homeless and those who have accommodation but cannot afford food</p>	<p>There are many local charities and community groups providing hot meals and drinks as well as clothing and bedding for rough sleepers in Crewe, and there is also similar provision in Macclesfield. (Strategy, p.33)</p>
<p>Page 15 onwards is very helpful but we do need to have better 'immediate' responses for rough sleepers whose health and well-being is already often undermined by other factors (drugs, alcohol, mental illness). These issues are</p>	<p>People with complex needs are acknowledged as a priority in the Strategy with strengthened links with the Third Sector and Adult Social Care (p.29). Housing and Health Link Workers work with residents leaving hospital who have mental</p>

exacerbated in winter months as temperatures fall and many rough sleepers move into urban areas from more sub-urban/rural areas where 'pop-up' tents provided moderate shelter during warmer weather. We need to be more innovative in the use of empty properties (houses) but also temporary shelter - possibly in currently empty shops in our towns. We could adopt a 'No second night' policy (similar to YMCA in Gresty Road) in empty shops in our towns.	health issues. A Hard to House panel looking at solutions for entrenched rough sleepers and other households that have complex issues that affects their access to housing has recently been established. Empty shops are privately owned and classed as commercial properties the Council works closely with private landlords and owners of empty properties to look how they may be brought back into use.
Better intervention and resources to help people who could become homeless and also more understanding of peoples needs	The Homelessness Reduction Act will see earlier and better interventions, and a plan will be agreed with all eligible people outlining what accommodation would be suitable and what support is needed to help them to keep or obtain accommodation. (Strategy, p.8)
I welcome the inclusion of a gap analysis as there are real concerns about the patchwork quilt of current provision - particularly for young people. Often young people have to travel out of their own local area to access safe accommodation and this takes them away from local support networks.	Many young people are homeless due to being told to leave a family home, the main cause of homelessness. The Strategy highlights the role of the Single Point of Access (p.28). Care Leavers and Corporate Parenting are mentioned on p.28. Care leavers aged 18 - 20 will have a local connection with the authority which has looked after them. In addition, a care leaver will also have a local connection with an area if they have lived there for 2 years, including some time before their 16th birthday.
Support for rough sleepers in Crewe area. A greater commitment to end rough sleeping There is a lack of provision for homeless young people in Macclesfield and Congleton - they have to go to Crewe. Private sector leasing to be explored as an option for housing for people who cannot access housing register	There are many local charities and community groups providing hot meals and drinks as well as clothing and bedding for rough sleepers in Crewe, and there is also similar provision in Macclesfield. (Strategy, p.33). The Strategy highlights that CE is working to develop an enhanced PRS offer and is driving up standards via the Gold Landlord Standard (p.30). In addition we are also exploring options in relation to Private Sector leasing.
Just think what u would do if u were in their shoes u should b ashamed	The Strategy outlines what steps are being taken to assist those in need.
Where adequate housing can't be found for any reason that they be given adequate clothing and food to ensure warmth and sustenance which is a basic human right!!!	There are many local charities and community groups providing hot meals and drinks as well as clothing and bedding for rough sleepers in Crewe, and there is also similar provision in Macclesfield.
Not removing homeless people's belongings , ie sleeping bags , clothes , blankets etc . I am absolutely disgusted that you as a council have got ANSA putting up notices about this . That's not support that's robbery in my eyes .	This was an isolated incident which has been addressed and lessons have been learnt. A review of housing options for rough sleepers is under way to provide more targeted interventions.
CEC and ANSA need to cease their program of removing the belongings of Rough Sleepers, most of which have been donated. It is incomprehensible that the same Council writing this strategy also has other departments actively targeting these vulnerable folks and removing	This was an isolated incident which has been addressed and lessons have been learnt. A review of housing options for rough sleepers is under way to provide more targeted interventions.

their warm bedding and clothes!	
Using buildings that have been derelict for years. e.g. Webb House. (This was built optionally for those in need) Could be run by volunteers.	Derelict buildings are costly to renovate and would need capital funding or external funding which in either case may not be available. There are already suitable buildings offering accommodation with support which people may be referred to if appropriate. Many derelict buildings are not in the ownership of the Local Authority and whilst we can work with owners to encourage them to bring them back into use, we are not able to determine the use.
The surge in homelessness seems to be directly related to the policy of withholding social support benefit as 'punishment'. Where people are at risk of being homeless, their accommodation rent should be paid directly and food provided. No-one should be forced onto the street and go hungry. Specialist social and social care should be provided to support them in dealing with any problems until they are fit enough to return to work and support themselves. More Social housing and sheltered housing should be provided to re-home the homeless as a priority.	There are DWP regulations in place which sanction people who fail to meet their conditions, and this is not something CE can influence. Specialist social care is provided in accommodation with support services, and housing related support and the Single Point of Access provide services for those with complex needs. (Strategy, p.28)
I am sure there are other issues. However, I think the document lists most of the key issues and if progress was made to resolve a proportion of these it would be a major step forward. Support for those who leave prison, hospital, or secure mental health units is a priority. I would welcome major attention on the issue of welfare reform and its impact on homelessness.	Joined up working will produce improved housing pathways (Strategy, p.37). Welfare Reform is addressed in the Strategy, with an increase in households moving from out of work benefits and into employment which will mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform (p.25)
We need more council run council houses. We also need workers who have the leeway - and are encouraged - to act in a humanitarian way. Stop closing and selling off our public properties. Start supporting planning applications which will provide homes for single individuals as well as families. We need adequate bus services, cycleways and walkways across Cheshire East, to allow those still in poorly paid or unemployed conditions to reach job centres, work, shopping etc. Stop focussing on top end jobs, especially within Cheshire East Council, and start serving the people. That's your job.	Cheshire East Council work closely with housing providers within the Borough to provide affordable social housing. The Cheshire East Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026 seeks to ensure a sustainable future, with the key transport role as: Improving transport connections and accessible services, but also supporting provision of appropriate housing, while protecting the countryside and encouraging more sustainable living. This will include ensuring that Cheshire East's ambitious plans for growth in the spatial priority areas of Crewe and Macclesfield encourage sustainable living. A key issue is ensuring that there are attractive and available sustainable alternatives for the trips people make. This means walking and cycling for shorter journeys and efficient public transport for longer journeys.
I think there needs to be a transition support team for homeless people who are offered housing as they struggle to manage and wind back on the familiar streets.	Cheshire East Council commission support services that are available to people who move into their own home and as part of someone's Personal Housing Plan any support needs they may have will be identified.
There are three issues that need to be included: a) More accommodation is needed for single	a) Applicants on Homechoice are allocated a band dependent on their housing needs, with

<p>males on Band D and E, who currently have virtually no chance of ever getting into social housing.</p> <p>b) It is vital to support the outreach scheme proposed by the YMCA, to reach out to entrenched rough sleepers, with the object of trying to get them back into a civilised way of living.</p> <p>c) Lockers are required for rough sleepers personal belongings, for their own wellbeing, and to keep the town tidy and free of unnecessary clutter.</p>	<p>Band A for those with the most urgent housing needs.</p> <p>People can only be put in their appropriate band.</p> <p>D - Households who do not meet any of the reasonable preference criteria and/or are otherwise adequately housed</p> <p>E -Households who have no local connection to the sub-region of Cheshire East / households who have had preference reduced</p> <p>The average wait in Band D and E is between 1 and 3 years.</p> <p>People are encouraged to seek an alternative solution such as the Private Rented Sector.</p> <p>b)Work is being done to assist entrenched rough sleepers off the streets via a 'Hard to House' panel.</p> <p>c) Local charities may be able to support rough sleepers to store their belongings.</p>
<p>page 15 just showed average rent costings</p>	<p>Detailed information about average rents in the social and private sectors is contained in the Homelessness Strategy Review (p.12-16, 62-63)</p>
<p>1) Support with benefits and the management / understanding of Universal Credit.</p> <p>2) Tenancy sustainment support to enable people to remain in their own homes.</p> <p>3) Consider providing pre-tenancy preparation courses - could work with Guinness Partnership or other social landlords/landlords using void properties to manage short term leases for new to housing/living on their own customers. Working with the RP or other agency this would give people experience of managing/running a home and provide reference information for longer term lets, This will enable to build more sustainable tenancies. Would need to be supported with floating support for this to work. This could be done on a secondment basis to set up the pilot/project. with short, medium and long term outcomes.</p>	<p>DWP coaches and CAB and other organisations provide advice and guidance and assistance with UC claims.</p> <p>Tenancy sustainment is a key element of prevention work.</p> <p>Tenancy readiness courses, training flat, and use of guarantors can go some of the way to addressing this. (p.28)</p> <p>RPs have identified households at risk of losing their home and have provided tenancy support to 120 households. The Strategy aims to address the issue of eviction for rent arrears. (p.31)</p>
<p>Rough sleepers who won't cooperate with police and council</p> <p>Is there enough accommodation for young people and young females?</p>	<p>Work is being done to assist entrenched rough sleepers off the streets via a 'Hard to House' panel (p.37)</p> <p>CE has a corporate responsibility towards all children and young people in care and care leavers from 18-25 years of age. (p.28) Eviction by parents was the largest reason for clients approaching Housing Options in 2015-2016 (169). The HRA says that we must take specific account of care leavers.</p>

Question: The chart on page 20 of the document shows the 4 Strategic Priorities, with the outer boxes showing the main issues to be worked on under each of the Priorities. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the issues stated are aligned with the right strategic priority?

Comment	Response
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<p>This is an ambiguous question! I agree with much of what is suggested here but the data related to children and young people being evicted from home requires further attention. C&YP are acutely vulnerable. The circumstances that lead to parental eviction are usually indicators of vulnerability that are exacerbated when eviction takes place. CYP who are rough sleepers need to be considered in the same context as 'cared for children' and should be supported in the same way(16 - 25 years). If evicted children are under 16 - parents should be charged for care costs paid by the Council (in line with current protocols). So too the issue of safeguarding must be paramount for both children & vulnerable adults.</p>	<p>CE has a corporate responsibility towards all children and young people in care and care leavers from 18-25 years of age. (p.28) Eviction by parents was the largest reason for clients approaching Housing Options in 2015-2016 (169). The HRA says that we must take specific account of care leavers.</p>
<p>The main issues to be worked upon are too brief.</p>	<p>More detail will be available on the completed monitoring plans which will be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timed (SMART)</p>
<p>Whilst preventing people becoming homeless is very important and should be a priority. It's not always possible to help some people. These need to be assessed properly and appropriate aid put in place. If however aid is refused, intervention is needed to discourage homelessness. Remove belongings and discourage the public from giving them aid. This will require a strategy to fully explain to a reluctant public.</p>	<p>The Strategy talks about rough sleeping and intends to engage with entrenched rough sleepers. Whilst the aim must always be to enable people to move away from a life on the streets into appropriate accommodation, nevertheless an approach is required to provide assistance to rough sleepers, without this assistance sustaining a life on the streets. Creating a link between prevention and relief, and street support, will likely provide more opportunities to help people dis-engage from street life. More information will be required to identify specific needs (p.33) and will be addressed by the Hard to House panel.</p>
<p>All issues are priority, but for me more emphasis on providing assistance to the Rough Sleepers is needed. Actually folks going out, finding these guys and making sure they are fully aware of what help is available to them - several in Crewe are not native english speakers, so definitely require additional assistance in accessing support.</p>	<p>There are many local charities and community groups providing hot meals and drinks as well as clothing and bedding for rough sleepers in Crewe, and there is also similar provision in Macclesfield. (Strategy, p.33). Information in different languages can be made available. (p.36)</p>
<p>It doesn't address the main cause of homelessness which is the withholding of benefit and provision of sufficient emergency shelters and sheltered housing to eradicate homelessness completely</p>	<p>The main causes of homelessness are as stated in the Strategy: out by family and friends, domestic abuse, and the end of an AST. 110 households have approached Housing Options over 2015-2016 due to loss of social housing due to arrears.</p> <p>One of the Strategy aims is to work with RP partners to identify the causes of evictions. (p.31). RP partners are working with households at risk to ensure there is maximisation of benefit take up.</p>
<p>What this does clearly indicate is that Cheshire East has not kept pace with council house building and rent stability to allow tenants to have a permanent right of occupancy. We are not</p>	<p>The CE Local Plan has set a target for housebuilding of a range of new homes including much needed affordable housing. (p.8)</p>

itinerants. People need the right to remain. Nver mind the present Govenment ideology. The Local Authority should be providing for the electorate within its own area. Full stop!	
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Question: Are there any additional issues that need to be added, and if so against which Priority?

Comment	Response
More flexible and appropriate practical assistance for the hard to accommodate groups. In the past people with alcohol problems for example have lost their temp accom because they were unable to keep to the rules of that accommodation, almost setting them up to fail. For some people a basic safe shelter is all they are able to engage with at that time, which is still preferable to the street.	Work is targeted to assist single homeless and those with complex needs via a 'Hard toHouse' panel (p.37)
More help with rent deposits and mortgage payments are needed.	<p>The Emergency AssistanCE scheme is designed to support vulnerable people facing immediate hardship, to prevent homelessness, and to keep families together. The scheme provides rent deposits (not letting fees or rent in advance). (p.34)</p> <p>Cheshire East Council also has a prevention fund that can assist people with deposits and rent in advance. The Housing Options team also offers money advice for people that approach us that have rent or mortgage arrears.</p>
Better training for Cheshire East Officers...to be able to understand. the problems and situations. Not to have a tick box system.but treat each case individually.and at present they dont	<p>A Strategy aim is to promote the Housing Options Team (p.28).</p> <p>Officers have already received training on domestic abuse and on the Homelessness Reduction Act.</p> <p>Each case is treated individually with outcome – focused interventions. The HRA will see each eligible applicant receive a Personalised Housing Plan. (p.7) Reasonable steps should be tailored to the individual, and the plan should be realistic.</p>
Issues around maintaining local networks including the VSCF	The Strategy aims to develop new and enhance current partnerships with the local Third sector. (p.23)
No specific reference to working in partnership with the private rented sector.	The Strategy aims to develop an enhanced PRS offer, and also to increase the number of properties better maintained and managed through the landlord Gold Standard (p.30)
There are enough empty shops in the town centre could one of them not be used as a place for homeless people to sleep at night especially as the nights are getting so cold . Maybe you might wake up and do something when you find these poor people frozen to death on the streets.	Empty shops are privately owned and classed as commercial properties. The Council works closely with private landlords and owners of empty properties to look how they may be brought back into use.
Provision of emergency shelters, and sheltered	When the weather is cold the SWEP is used, as

housing with social and medical support workers	is the WHAM initiative. No Second Night Out in 2016/2017 assisted 50 people and prevented them from sleeping rough. (p.32)
The priority is a sound roof above your head. and security of tenure, at a price easily affordable by the lowest paid worker. Anything less is a failure on the part of the Local Authority. Re NEXT PAGE - Rural Homelessness: Nothing on page 22 specifically about rural homelessness. The stuff about that is on Page 40. Is this a deliberate confusion.. or just a poor proof-reading?	Rural homelessness is to be found on p.21.
There needs to be a toilet facility for homeless people that is open 24/7.	This will lead to entrenched rough sleeping and perhaps to an increase in numbers. The aim is to prevent rough sleeping and to engage with entrenched rough sleepers. (p.32)
help people to secure accommodation - those leaving the armed forces who want to settle in Cheshire East who may or may not have a local connection to the area	Cheshire has a long history of armed forces being based within the county and, Cheshire East has become a signatory to the Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Community Covenant. The Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of support between communities and the armed forces community. Cheshire East monitors homeless presentations and ensures that ex-members of HM Forces receive the appropriate banding and local connection on Homechoice. (p.36, pathways for all)
Against priority one - keeping people in their own homes. It is in everyone's best interests to work with the families to keep them in their home. Early intervention is essential to saving a person's tenancy. There are proposals in place to have early notifications etc. however will there be additional resource available to support the early intervention work? This resource/support will be key to the success of early intervention approach.	The Homelessness Reduction Act is going to see earlier and better interventions, and a plan will be agreed outlining what accommodation would be suitable and what support is needed to help keep or obtain accommodation. (Strategy, p.8) A restructure has been carried out to address any uplift in demand and additional staff will be recruited.
More attention on domestic abuse as it is one of the main causes of homelessness	Improvements have been made to the section on Domestic Abuse

Question: Are there other issues which should be prioritised in 2018?

Comment	Response
There are C&YP who are rough sleeping / sofa surfing who we are not supporting enough. This is a safeguarding and care issue.	During a recent estimate of rough sleeping 2 of the people identified were aged under 25. There is no evidence of any children sleeping rough. There is a national lack of data about young people sofa surfing, and the Government intends to increase enhanced monitoring of numbers.
As previously stated better training for officers	The Strategy aim is to promote the Housing Options Team (p.28). Officers have already received training on

	domestic abuse and on the Homelessness Reduction Act.
<p>The table on page 38 not 37</p> <p>Better use of accommodation - what does this mean</p> <p>Options for single homeless and complex needs - this is broad and what is the aim</p> <p>I think this table needs to be explained in more detail and be more specific</p> <p>The homeless prevention fund is generally not used to pay peoples debts off (p37), it is usually used as a tool to fund rent in advance and suchlike to enable people to access a tenancy rather than paying off debts - this may give the wrong impression.</p>	More detail will be available in the completed monitoring plans which will be SMART.
<p>I don't think that the council should rely upon the private rented sector for any assistance with prevention of homelessness after reading their reluctance to accept tenants under 35 years old. Housing benefit and Universal credit should not pay landlords "buy to let mortgages". CE needs to invest in council housing for the vulnerable I can see that CE owns a lot of land that could be developed for mixed housing. The priority for 2018 should not be measuring and collating data it should be to get all the empty buildings occupied and build more homes.</p>	<p>The number of empty homes is reducing</p> <p>Cheshire East are working with owners of empty properties to bring them back into use.</p> <p>Cheshire East Council work closely with housing providers within the Borough to provide affordable social housing.</p> <p>People may contact CE about buying or renting land or property that belongs to the Council.</p>
Getting Crewe back to a thriving Town once again	CE continues to help shape the masterplan vision and, in particular, the associated land strategy to help ensure the deliverability of the HS2 Hub Station and the benefits outlined in the emerging masterplan. This will see new housing developments along with a renewed retail sector and leisure industry making Crewe a dynamic place to live, work, and relax. (p.6, Housing Strategy, wellbeing and quality of life)
<p>I feel more 'Actions' need to be made clear - there is a lot of text in the report, lots of numbers etc, which are probably well understood by the team writing it, but for the average lay person reading it, it is clunky and cumbersome and doesn't leave me really understanding what actions are being taken and what is really on offer for the rough sleepers especially - I don't have any experience of knowing anyone about to be made homeless / sustaining accommodation, so can't comment on that side of the report.</p>	More detail will be available in the completed monitoring plans which will be SMART.
Emergency shelters and social care to remove people off the streets within one year	When the weather is cold the SWEP is used, as is the WHAM initiative. NSNO in 2016/2017 assisted 50 people and prevented them from sleeping rough.(p.31)
Not at the expense of the ones listed. While this is a strategy document it would be good to see some action plans on the key areas. Maybe next step?	More detail will be available in the completed monitoring plans which will be SMART.
Re item 9 - above - that is a repeat. The central	When the weather is especially cold the SWEP is

questions is again a 'suspect' question. What does 'Provide interventions to prevent rough sleeping' actually mean? Does it jail people who try to sleep in the streets because they have nowhere to go? Does it steal bedding and tents, kindly provided by caring community? What does it mean? Why should anyone answer so ambiguous question, when we know what is going on just down the road in Stoke-on-Trent? This Government is deliberately responsible for many many deaths, as a result of its draconian policies. Don't let us make it any worse, please.	used, as is the WHAM initiative. NSNO in 2016/2017 assisted 50 people and prevented them from sleeping rough.(p.31) These ensure that no one need die on the streets. CE has no input into the activities of other local authorities.
you need to be referring people who are struggling with budgeting to the cheshire neighbourhood credit union, this way people can learn to budget properly, the rent is paid and so is the council tax and helps in preventing people becoming homeless due to arrears.	The Strategy aims to improve communication and timely and accurate referrals to relevant services such as the Credit Union and CAB. (p.14) A money advice contract is held with the CAB.

Question: Do you have any further observations on the Strategy as a whole?

Comment	Response
Very hard to decipher content of report . trust money to be spent on helping the vulnerable and homeless ,not on administration	The Strategy aims to deliver improvements to vulnerable households using existing budgets. (p.38)
More needs to be done and maybe Cheshire could secure some money to help the Salvation Army with the work they do for the homeless.	Additional funding for homelessness services may be allocated by Government and CE will ensure that bids are submitted, in partnership with local providers and Third Sector agencies when appropriate. (p.38)
It is acknowledged that rough sleeping is the 'public face' of homelessness. It is also one of the most acute and vulnerable facets of homelessness. Rural homelessness is often 'hidden' as people use pop-up tents or other forms of shelter in more remote places in warmer months but they then migrate to urban areas in colder weather. I'm not convinced that the strategy fully understands or appreciates the levels of homelessness and the 'migratory' effects. This must be considered in your evaluation of rural homelessness - you will find that some people do not acquire homes in Spring - they simply move back into the countryside.	The Strategy acknowledges that CE has no specific information about rural homelessness and that this issue is going to be addressed as a priority. (p.21)
It is to be hoped that the CEC..listen to the people for a change..because they don't in many consultations	CE has stated publicly that people can expect that CE will listen to what they have to say. Being involved in the consultation process will allow people to have some real influence over future strategic direction.
I think it would be wise to proof read it and make it more succinct and snappier to read. worth checking statements such as 'rent cap ' (I think this is meant to read benefits cap) 'In Cheshire East a total of 50 Clients have used No Second Night Out ' - this is not accurate, please speak to YMCA for more accurate figures - it is higher. We need to focus more on children, intervention	The figure of 50 was provided by Crewe YMCA. The Strategy aims to identify triggers for social workers, welfare officers, and Benefits staff to identify households at risk of homelessness. Families are placed into TA only as a last resort

<p>jointly with social services, ensuring social care are highlighting families at risk of homelessness and making referrals at an earlier stage and carrying out their duties in the law. We need to ensure families are prevented from going into temporary accommodation where possible and work to highlight the damage to children caused by this.</p> <p>we need to ensure we capture data (do not currently) relating to homeless young people (non care-leavers age 16-24) and lack of provision in North of the Borough e.g. what was formerly provided by Watermill and Beech House. These homeless groups are 'hidden' in Macclesfield and Congleton.</p>	<p>and appropriate measures are in place, with Bed and Breakfast rarely, if ever, used for families. Where it is needed it is only for a matter of nights. (p.37, reduce the use of B&B)</p>
<p>CE should not be relying on Charities and private landlords to look after its residents. The Council needs to integrate; hospitals, prisons, youth care homes etc. so "customers" aren't released without having secure accommodation to move into and the skills to maintain the tenancies. The Strategy doesn't seem to mention building new Council Houses which perplexes me as they seem to be the solution especially in rural areas where locals are priced out of the housing market.</p>	<p>There is a strong role to play for charities and private landlords as strands in a joined up approach to homelessness.</p> <p>People should not be discharged from hospital without a discharge plan and peoples' prison release date is known in advance and so Housing Options should be notified via Shelter.</p> <p>The Council does not build Council Homes but ensures that affordable housing is brought forward as part of new developments. (p.7)</p>
<p>Doesn't address the underlying cause of homelessness which is the government's policy to withhold benefit as 'punishment' resulting in the default payment of rent and eviction.</p>	<p>There is no one cause of homelessness and CE is working to reduce the most prevalent causes of homelessness locally, with 67% being due to asked to leave by family and friends, domestic abuse, and the end of an AST.</p> <p>One of the aims of the Strategy is to work to identify the main reasons for RP evictions. Affordability / Debt / Welfare Reform, and mortgage arrears averaged 19 repossessions each over 2015 / 2016.</p>
<p>I think it is a good document. Some metrics would be helpful and aspirational targets</p>	<p>Targets will be included in the completed monitoring plans which will be SMART.</p>
<p>We need a reliably carign Local Authority first. witout the current top end shambles and Tory byline, which harms so many people. Please sort out the Council top end, and begin a more humanitarian, series of policies on housing and homelessness, starvation of those still living (usually with children) in homes where they must pay the rent, and that starves the children.</p>	<p>Foodbanks are available for those households in need and this will assist especially households with children. (p.23)</p>
<p>It doesn't go far enough.</p>	<p>The Foreword states that the Strategy is robust, and will work with partners to deliver significantly improved outcomes. (p.3)</p>
<p>I believe there is a strong desire by the Council to reduce/prevent homelessness in the Borough</p>	<p>The Strategy Forward commits to preventing and alleviating homelessness. (p.3)</p>
<p>it was overly complicated, and the pages did not contain the expected information</p>	<p>Consultation feedback has said that the Strategy contains a good range of information which is easy to locate and there is a good range of links. The Strategy is relevant and up to date.</p>
<p>more on prevention,you also need to stop placing</p>	<p>Cheshire East attempt to place people as near to</p>

those in emergency accomodation in other areas across the county,leaving them miles away from familiaer surroundings,families,schools etc.	their area as choice as possible but accommodation is not always available where the person/household wishes to be placed.(p.37 Reduce the use of B and B)
absolutely fascinated to read through the background information. there are huge challenges for the council on this issue and with limited resources. it has certainly opened my eyes to the work going on behind the scenes and the action planning that is taking place to provide for people in the future. Good luck!	A wide range of people from Cheshire East officers to external partners, stakeholders, and local people have been involved in producing this Strategy and care has been taken to ensure that the Strategy and its actions reflect their priorities.
The four threads of the strategy reflect the needs of the area. My observations are around the reducing amount of agencies to provide the support needed to families / people in need. If the strategy is to work then there needs to be sufficient resource and funds to provide the appropriate levels of service needed. This area will be intensive so will mean that more people and hours available will be needed. Hopefully sufficient consideration and funding can be awarded to ensure this is adequately resourced.	The Strategy highlights a need for the development of strategic partnerships (p.37) The Strategy aims to deliver improvements to vulnerable households using existing budgets and staff resources. (p.38)

Macclesfield Workshop Consultation Comments and Cheshire East response

Comment	Response
Provision needed in Macclesfield. It's always in Crewe	Exploring with WHAM options for NSNO and SWEP in Macclesfield.
Problems are faced with accommodating female rough sleepers	The Strategy includes text on entrenched rough sleepers (p.32)
50% of WHAM clients have substance misuse issues	A Hard to House panel is to be trialled, similar to Care Leaver Ignition meetings. Joint meetings with services and with the individual have been seen to work elsewhere.

Cheshire Without Abuse Consultation Comments and Cheshire East Response

Difficulties in getting Health and Wellbeing and Public Health to engage. Trying to increase involvement with Mental health and Substance Misuse Services.	The section on DA in the Strategy has been developed.
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Crewe Alexandra Consultation Event Comments and Cheshire East Response

Some clients are repeat presenters	Housing pathways devised for each client will help by addressing what has failed to work previously.
Some landlords won't accommodate due to ASB and property damage	Private Sector Liaison officers can access the Prevention Fund for clean ups and Landlord Forum can look into this. An approach of something for something to be adopted, such as support in return for a 12 month tenancy.
Will private landlords be expected to take clients	Officers give assurances and the CE scheme

with arrears?	works well and has been seen as an example of good practice.
How to get the message across to the public?	Options are to be explored around CE-wide services to attend homeless drop ins and to share that information. Cheshire East Communication Team can provide support in highlighting the Strategy and work being done by the Council and it's partners.
Wider links are needed to the wider community, including Faith and voluntary groups	The Strategy positively endorses support for partnerships with voluntary sector stakeholders and other local partners to address the support, education, employment and training needs (including bespoke training around partnerships and operational working). The Homelessness Strategy Steering Group will prioritise this in 2018 and recruit Faith and voluntary groups as appropriate.
Budgeting skills are needed by many clients	Credit Union help and CAB budgeting advice will be promoted, along with training and support, contact with the DWP / Job Centre, and Emergency Assistance.
Organisations should work in collaboration not competition	Options will be explored around a memorandum of understanding or a compact enabling an understanding of roles and responsibilities and to share information.
Social Services, Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Health, etc. have shared clients	These services are represented on the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group. Membership will be reviewed to ensure a multi-agency approach is maintained.
Anecdotely the situation is deteriorating with more clients falling into this bracket.	The Strategy will look at what levels of homelessness originate from social and private rented accommodation as a result of substance misuse and clarify if households were known to services.
The link between substance misuse, mental health, and homelessness need to be explored as they will be causes of DA in many cases.	The Strategy seeks to accommodate a complex range of customer needs including those with additional needs such as mental ill health and/or substance misuse and homeless due to relationship breakdown
CAB said that they are seeing the same issues as usual but that they are becoming more complicated: benefits-debt-housing-employment-relationships	The contributory factor of these issues to homelessness has been noted in the Strategy.