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# **Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy 2020-24**

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# Purpose of a Vulnerable and Older Persons' Housing Strategy

- Give an overview of the achievements and progress since the adoption of the previous strategy
- Provides analysis of the current accommodation provision
- Updates the evidence base to demonstrate current need and future need across the borough
- Sets out strategic priorities, objectives and actions to ensure suitable and safe accommodation is available where it is required
- Provides the Council with opportunity to promote or discourage development across the borough

# The priorities of the new strategy

- People are supported to live in their own homes independently for longer
- When required, people can receive the support they need in a wide range of specialist, supported accommodation within the Borough
- People are able to make informed choices about the accommodation, care, and support options within Cheshire East

# Vulnerable and older groups and their priorities

- Older people
- Learning disability
- Mental Health
- Physical & sensory disability
- Domestic Abuse
- Cared for Children & Care Leavers
- Young people in need
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Homelessness

# • Older People

Priority: Improve the housing offer for an ageing population		
How we will do this	Who by	When by
Support the delivery of market and affordable housing across the borough, for ownership and rental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Cheshire East Members</li> <li>Registered Providers</li> <li>Housing Developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Task and finish group to be set up with registered providers to promote downsizing offer to older adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Registered Providers</li> <li>Housing Developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 12 months of strategy adoption</li> </ul>
Support delivery of extra care schemes in larger settlements of Cheshire East subject to further assessment of site specific needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Registered Providers</li> <li>Specialist Accommodation Providers</li> <li>Housing Developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Re-address the shortfall in extra care bed spaces following a fire at a large extra-care facility in Cheshire East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Registered Providers</li> <li>Specialist Accommodation Providers</li> <li>Housing Developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of strategy lifetime</li> </ul>

# • Learning Disabilities

**Priority: Ensure adults and children with learning disabilities are able to access suitable accommodation across the borough**

How we will do this	Who by	When by
Task and finish group to consult with residents who have learning disabilities, as well as their families to assess their housing aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council (LD Partnership Board)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 12 months of strategy adoption</li> </ul>
Support delivery of suitable accommodation in line with residents requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Partners</li> </ul> <p>OFFICIAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>

# • Mental Health

Priority: Support the provision of appropriate accommodation for mental health clients		
How we will do this	Who by	When by
Support the delivery of a wide range of housing options for adults with care and support needs, including mental health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council (MH Partnership Board)</li> <li>Registered Providers</li> <li>Specialist accommodation providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Work closely with CEC Commissioning and developers to facilitate delivery of suitable accommodation options for those suffering with memory and cognitive issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Specialist accommodation providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>

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# • Young People in Need

**Priority: Reduce the number of young people in housing need and aim to reduce and prevent homelessness and rough sleeping for young people**

How we will do this	Who by	When by
Use appropriate prevention tools such as mediation, in partnership, to reduce homelessness, which will be monitored through homelessness evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Young People</li> <li>Registered providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Engage with registered providers to explore opportunities around short-term tenancies which will provide skills and knowledge to young homeless people, with a view to granting assured tenancies following this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Registered providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 months from strategy adoption</li> </ul>
Ensure housing pathways are in place for young people, providing a clearer understanding of local needs and provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Registered providers</li> <li>Service providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 months from strategy adoption</li> </ul>

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# • Cared for Children & Care Leavers

Priority: Support the suitable and safe accommodation provision for cared for children and care leavers		
How we will do this	Who by	When by
Facilitate an increase in taster flats across the borough to enable independent living opportunities for care leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Cheshire East Members</li> <li>Registered providers</li> <li>Housing developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Engage with registered providers to explore opportunities around short-term tenancies which will provide skills and knowledge to care leavers, with a view to granting assured tenancies following this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Registered Providers</li> <li>Support Providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Encourage and support the commissioning of additional residential care homes for cared for children in areas of high need such as Crewe and Macclesfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Housing Providers</li> <li>Support Providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>

# • Drugs & Alcohol

**Priority: Ensure safe and suitable accommodation is available for drug and alcohol users throughout all stages of their recovery journey**

How we will do this	Who by	When by
Explore accommodation pathways for alcohol or drug dependent residents to ascertain their needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cheshire East Council</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Within 12 months of strategy adoption</li></ul>
Maintain active engagement with drug and alcohol services across the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cheshire East Council</li><li>External agencies and support organisations</li></ul> <p>OFFICIAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li></ul>

# • Physical and Sensory Disabilities

Priority: Support residents with physical and sensory disabilities to maintain their accommodation or access suitably adapted types of accommodation		
How we will do this	Who by	When by
Encourage the delivery of housing across the borough which meets mandatory and optional technical standards for accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Registered providers</li> <li>Housing developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Explore potential for assistive technology to be incorporated into dwellings to enable independent living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Housing providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 12 months of strategy adoption</li> </ul>
Continue to provide adaptations to homes across the borough via the Disabled Facilities Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Central government funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing subject to funding</li> </ul>

# • Domestic Abuse

Priority: Increase the provision of suitable accommodation for residents who experience domestic abuse		
How we will do this	Who by	When by
Explore funding opportunities to increase refuge and move-on housing provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Cheshire East Members</li> <li>Registered providers</li> <li>Housing developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 12 months of strategy adoption</li> </ul>
Ensure positive relationships maintained with registered providers to enable target hardening as well as provide the small funding pot to support people in private accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Ensure positive relationships maintained with DA services to assess their housing requirements and any future changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>In house and commissioned DA services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Promote strategic and operational commitment to changing responses to complex presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council Housing and Commissioning</li> <li>Public Service Transformation Board (sub regional work)</li> <li>In house and commissioned DA services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 12 months of strategy adoption</li> </ul>

# • Homelessness

Priority: Reduce homelessness and rough sleeping across Cheshire East		
How we will do this	Who by	When by
Continue to work with housing providers and landlords to enact prevention and relief duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Housing providers</li> <li>Private landlords</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing through strategy lifetime</li> </ul>
Provide interventions to prevent rough sleeping, facilitated via the Rough Sleeping Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>
Ensure adequate support is in place to help people maintain and sustain accommodation via housing related support contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Contract providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 2020</li> </ul>
Explore options of using Housing First model in Cheshire East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheshire East Council</li> <li>Registered providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 12 months of strategy adoption</li> </ul>

# Strategy Development

- Throughout 2019, meetings held with internal CEC teams to assess changing picture of need and current accommodation provision
- Review of up-to-date research giving insight at a local and national level
- Further internal consultation took place at the end of 2019, following the completion of a draft strategy

# External Consultation

- Following Cabinet approval to consult on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the draft strategy is now out for external consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders, including NHS/CCG colleagues, town/parish councils, Members, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and support organisations, registered housing providers
- Consultation via online survey and questionnaire due to Covid-19 restrictions, as well as ability to feedback via email. Press release and social media campaign via CEC social media platforms
- Consultation running from 18<sup>th</sup> May to 13 July. We also have ability to extend for a further 4 weeks if deemed necessary



# Next steps?

- Review consultation responses and incorporate relevant changes and suggestion. Respond to consultees.
- Complete and submit report for Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health, to consider the results of the consultation and to approve the final version of the strategy.
- Enact the action plan with relevant stakeholders and monitor progress of priorities and objectives.

Thank you

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