

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2013
7.00 PM**

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

Page No

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

At this point Members must declare whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or other interest, in any of the items on the agenda, unless it is already entered in the register of members' interests or is a "pending notification" that has been disclosed to the Solicitor to the Council. Members must also declare if they are subject to their party group whip in relation to any items under consideration.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7 March 2013

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4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

The decision notice for each decision will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision may then be implemented on the expiry of 3 working days after the publication of the decision (not including the date of publication), unless a request for call-in of the decision is received from any two Members of a Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Commissions.. If a request for call-in of a decision is received, implementation of the decision remains suspended for consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee or Commission.

5. Draft Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018

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6. The Impact of Welfare Reform

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CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7. Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011-14 (2013 Revision)

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8. Review of 2012/13 and Future Work Programme

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9. Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions

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10. Date of Next Meeting

24 July 2013



There is an induction hearing loop system available in all meeting rooms. Some of the systems are infra-red operated, if you wish to use this system then please contact Paulina Ford on 01733 452508 as soon as possible.

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Committee Members:

Councillors: M Lee (Chair), S Day (Vice Chairman), P Kreling, G Simons, J Johnson, L Forbes and J R Fox

Substitutes: Councillors: D Over, N Shabbir and B Saltmarsh

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Paulina Ford on telephone 01733 452508 or by email – paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE
BOURGES & VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH
ON
THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2013**

Present: Councillors Peach (Chairman), Day (Vice Chairman) Kreling, Nawaz, Johnson, Forbes and J R Fox.

Also Present: Alex Hall Youth Council
Councillor Goodwin PCC

Officers in Attendance: Adrian Chapman Head of Neighbourhood Services
Sean Evans Housing Needs Manager
Sarah Hebblethwaite Assistant Housing Needs Manager
Belinda Child Strategic Housing Manager
Annette Joyce Head of Commercial Operations
Kevin Tighe Chief Executive of Vivacity
Pam Whitbread Head of Finance, Vivacity
Heather Walton Library and Customer Services Manager, Vivacity
Dominic Hudson Strategic Partnerships Manager
Nigel Joseph Lawyer
Dania Castagliuolo Governance Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Phillipson, Director of Operations.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2013

The minutes of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16 January 2013 were approved as an accurate record.

4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

There were no requests for Call-in to consider

5. Vivacity – Performance Report and Draft Business Plan

The purpose of this report was to give the Committee an opportunity to hear from and question both officers of the Council and Vivacity's Chief Executive on how Vivacity had performed to date and the draft business plan for 2013 – 14 since last reporting to the Committee in March 2012.

Since May 2012 Vivacity, which was a charitable trust, had been providing cultural and leisure services on behalf of the Council. Vivacity was one of the Councils key strategic partners.

A presentation was delivered to the Committee and the following was highlighted:

- Performance
- Customers
- Income
- Profile of spend
- Staff
- Arts in the city
- Heritage of Peterborough
- Libraries and Archives
- Sport
- Business plan
- Delivering more and costing the Council less

The Committee were asked to review and comment on Vivacity's current performance and the draft business plan for 2013/14.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members congratulated Vivacity on their work and commented that there had been a vast improvement in the provision of cultural and leisure services over the past year.
- Members were concerned about the future of Werrington Library. *The Library and Customer Services Manager advised members that Vivacity was looking to work with staff in a flexible way so that staff, along with volunteers could make more hours available to keep the libraries open.*
- Members queried the average age of Vivacity's volunteers and how many hours they worked for Vivacity on average. *The Library and Customer Services Manager advised Members that volunteers were of all age ranges and they worked thousands of hours between them, there were 60 volunteers delivering Library services. Most of them would work during the Great Eastern run as this was one of the busiest times.*
- Members queried whether Vivacity would be supporting the Werrington Anniversary Park. *The Chief Executive of Vivacity confirmed that Vivacity would be investing £5,500 in to the Werrington Anniversary Park to support the project and its resources.*
- Members queried how Vivacity could bring Art in to Communities. *The Committee was informed that there were two theatre groups that took place in the city. Vivacity had a small team which bid for funding to use for local community groups who did inspiring art and music in schools.*
- Members queried whether issues around the pay as you go gym had been resolved. *The Chief Executive of Vivacity informed Members that they had experienced staffing issues however these had been resolved, therefore, the gym was working normally as a pay as you go gym again.*
- Members queried whether Vivacity were aiming to get involved with the Children's play Services which was being transferred in to the Council's Neighbourhood Services. *Members were informed that if the Council approached Vivacity then they would be happy to discuss this with them*
- Members queried how the volunteers were recruited. *The Library and Customer Services Manager advised the Committee that job roles were advertised for particular projects and volunteers would apply for them as they would for a paid job*
- Members were concerned that Vivacity had not included the Mayor of Peterborough in any of its projects over the last year. *The Chief Executive of Vivacity informed the Committee that Vivacity would contact the Mayor regarding future plans.*
- Members suggested that Vivacity involved groups within their projects which the Council had awarded Freedom of the City. *The Chairman of Vivacity agreed with this suggestion and advised that this would also be a good way to incorporate young people in to their projects.*
- Members commented that it was a shame that the Broadway Theatre was left empty and queried whether there were any plans for Vivacity to get involved in a bid to purchase it.

The Chief Executive of Vivacity advised members that it was difficult because it was a provincial Theatre and did not make financial gains.

- *The Chief Executive of Vivacity informed the Committee that Vivacity would be working with Inspire Peterborough on the Road to Rio event for 2014.*

ACTION AGREED

The Chief Executive of Vivacity would meet with the Mayor to discuss the Mayor's involvement in future Vivacity events within the city.

6. Draft Homelessness Strategy 2013 – 2018

The purpose of this report was to present the Draft Homelessness Strategy Review and Draft Homeless Strategy 2013 – 2018 to the Committee.

A presentation was also delivered to the Committee and the following key points were highlighted:

The Homelessness review and Draft Strategy were developed using:

- The Homelessness Act 2002
- A homelessness review
- A Clear profile of homelessness
- Access to Accommodation
- Homelessness Services
- Identification of gaps and duplication
- Information from the development of the Draft Homelessness Strategy

Priorities were decided through:

- An Action Plan
- Aims of the Strategy
- Four Strategic Aims:
 1. Preventing and relieving homelessness
 2. Increasing access to accommodation
 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping
 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities

Ways in which the aims were to be achieved:

Strategic Aim 1:

- Risk of homelessness was identified early
- Effective action was put in place to prevent homelessness
- Partnership Working
- Prevent homelessness and reducing levels of homelessness against the main cause for presentations

Strategic Aim 2:

- Increased access to private rented sector accommodation
- Access to supported accommodation
- Promotion of the Empty Homes Partnership
- Maximising the opportunities for the best use of social housing stock

Strategic Aim 3:

- Action Plan
- Aims of the Strategy

Strategic Aim 4:

- People to be empowered to set up and settle in their home
- Ensuring that homeless persons had access to appropriate support

Vision:

To prevent and respond to homelessness by ensuring that a range of effective targeted services that responded to customers needs were provided.

The committee was asked to:

- (i) Scrutinise the findings of the Homelessness Review
- (ii) Scrutinise and agree the strategic objectives set out in the Homelessness Strategy 2013 – 2018
- (iii) Approve the Draft Homelessness Strategy and recommend it for approval by Cabinet ahead of it being presented to full Council

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members were concerned with what would happen to their constituents once the new Bedroom Standards Policy was implemented as there were not enough one and two bedroom houses available for families to move in to. *The Housing Needs Manager agreed that this would bring difficulty to the city, however, if people were unable to meet the shortfall then priority would be given to them in finding a smaller property. There was also the Rent Deposit Scheme Available to them or a discretionary housing payment pot.*
- Members queried whether there were many changes made since the last draft of the Homelessness Strategy. *The Housing Needs Manager advised Members that the current draft was a complete rewrite reflecting the pressures of the Welfare Reform.*
- Members requested information on the Jam Jar Scheme which was included within Strategic Aim 1 on page 85 of the report. *The Assistant Housing Needs Manager informed the Committee that the Scheme was set up working with Rainbow Credit Union helping people to save money for their bills, there would also be support available for them to help manage their money.*
- Members queried how many people were currently being re-housed each year. *The Housing Needs Manager informed the Committee that last year around 17,000 people were assisted and 276 of those used the Rent Deposit Scheme.*
- Members were concerned for the future of the Peterborough Citizens following the Welfare Reform. *The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed members that last August the Welfare Reform Action Group was formed and included representatives from all sectors of the city. He suggested that at the next meeting of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee a robust presentation could be delivered on the impact of the Welfare Reform.*
- Members were concerned that they did not know what to advise their constituents regarding the Welfare Reform. *The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed Members that a phone number would shortly be released for their constituents to ring for help and advice.*
- Members were concerned that help was required for people with learning disabilities as they were panicking and worried about the Welfare Reform.

ACTION AGREED

1. The Committee requested that a presentation be delivered at the next Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting regarding the impact of the Welfare Reform.
2. The Head of Neighbourhood Services to provide all 57 Councillors with the telephone number for help and advice on Welfare Reform issues to enable them to pass it on to their constituents.
3. The Committee requested that the draft Homelessness Strategy 2013 – 2018 returns to the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting in June 2013 for further scrutiny and final sign off.

7. Commercial Operations

The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with an overview of Commercial Operations and forthcoming plans for the City Centre.

Commercial Operations provided a framework for the day to day operations of the city and focused on the strategic efforts to enhance the city in the long term. The department's vision was to provide a high quality, safe and easily accessible environment that underpinned commercial and social success. The following areas of business made up Commercial Operations:

- The Enterprise Centre
- Parking Services
- CCTV
- General Market
- City Centre Management and Tourism
- Events

Key strategic objectives were as follows:

Objective 1 – Promoting the city

- Broadening the visitor offer of the city by extending the events diary and marketing existing attractions more extensively

Objective 2 – Managing the city

- To communicate and co-ordinate the work of all city stakeholders and monitor outputs
- To communicate and engage effectively with businesses

Objective 3 – Improving the Environment and the public spaces

- To encourage and facilitate improvements to the environment and public spaces that were inviting, clean and a safe environment to be enjoyed

Objective 4 – A prosperous city

- Diversifying and strengthening the economic base. The city should be the catalyst for encouraging the growth of both new and existing businesses within the city

An additional presentation to supplement the information in the report was delivered to the Committee.

The Committee was recommended to note and comment on the work of Commercial Operations and propose further scrutiny in relation to its business fields.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members commented that the work of Commercial Operations was outstanding, they had always tried their best to make the city fully accessible to disabled people and had always supported the Disability Forum.
- Members commented that one of the best events in the city was held by the Womens Centre which involved food being cooked and distributed in the city centre and queried whether this event would take place again in future. *The Head of Commercial Operations advised the Committee that the event would be coming back in the future and would like it to be community led. The Head of Commercial Operations would be happy to work with different community groups on this.*
- Members praised the work of the street cleaners. Members commented that overnight the city centre became a disgrace and urged money to be invested in Omni directional CCTV cameras to prevent this happening in future. *The Head of Commercial Operations acknowledged that there were too many CCTV cameras in the city that were not being used.*
- Members queried whether the Council would be funding the Italian Festival this year. *Members were informed that the Council contributed towards the festival however the Italian Community Association also contributed a lot of money towards it.*
- Members were disappointed that Craig Street Car Park was going to be sold as they did not want to see more car parking taken away from the city. *The Head of Commercial Operations agreed and commented that if the car parks were sold it could reduce income in to the city*
- Members were concerned with the state of the Peterborough Market. *The Committee was advised that the issue with the market could not be put off any longer, Opportunity Peterborough would be looking at the long term growth of the market. The right type of traders needed to be encouraged on to the market. The location of the market was good it just needed to be marketed better.*
- Members queried why British markets and festivals were not celebrated in the City Centre. *Members were advised that it was very difficult to find a touring British Market as they were not keen on coming to Peterborough.*
- Members queried what had happened to the farmers market. *The Committee were advised that there was no longer a Market Manager in place at present to encourage traders from the Farmers Market.*
- Members queried whether there would be another Accommodation Day this year following the success of last year's event. *Members were advised that there were no plans at present however the team were considering planning one for the future.*
- Members commented that the Beer Festival needed to raise its profile as it could potentially be more successful. *Members were advised that this was an ongoing issue that events were not marketed beyond Peterborough this again was due to staff shortages.*
- Members were concerned that the Christmas lights were being installed during the Remembrance Sunday Parade. *The Head of Commercial Operations agreed that this was unacceptable that contractors were working during the parade and advised that this comment would be taken back to the Engineers Department.*
- Members were disappointed that there were no celebrations on the Cathedral Square last New Years Eve.
- Members suggested that before the Council invested in events for other companies that their accounts be checked as they could have enough money to fund the event themselves.

ACTION AGREED

The Head of Commercial Operations to notify the Engineers Department of Members concern regarding the Christmas lights being installed at the same time as the Remembrance Parade.

8. Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Notice of Intention to take Key Decisions, containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the following four months. Members were invited to comment on the Plan and, where appropriate, identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the Notice of Intention to take Key Decisions and agreed that there were no items for further consideration.

The meeting began at 7.00 and ended at 9.25pm

CHAIRMAN

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STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
Date: 4 JUNE 2013	Public Report

Report of the Housing Needs Manager

Contact Officer – Sean Evans
Contact Details – 01733 864083

DRAFT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2013-2018

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the Draft Homelessness Review and Draft Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee are asked to:

1. Note the findings of the Homelessness Review
2. Comment on and agree on the strategic objectives set out in the Homelessness Strategy 2013 – 2018 and approve the Draft Homelessness Strategy
3. Approve the draft strategy to be taken forward to Cabinet & Full Council for adoption

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Providing affordable, warm, safe and secure housing is the cornerstone of a strong society, and so the services described within this report are fundamental to the success of the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Homelessness Strategy itself supports the whole of the Sustainable Community Strategy, but particularly the priority to Create Strong and Supportive Communities.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The statutory duty to have a Homelessness Strategy

- 4.1.1 In 2002, the Government amended the Homelessness Act 2002 to ensure a more strategic approach to tackling and preventing homelessness, in particular by requiring Local Authorities to produce a Homelessness Strategy.
- 4.1.2 The Strategy must be based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their district. It must set out the local authority's plans for preventing homelessness and for securing that sufficient accommodation and support is, or will be, available for those who become homeless or are at risk of becoming so.

- 4.1.3 All organisations, whose work can help to prevent homelessness, or meet the needs of homeless people in their district, must be considered in the strategy. Plans for joined up working such as this have a massive impact on reducing those who would otherwise potentially experience the negative aspects of homelessness and risks of becoming homeless.

5. Development of the Homelessness Review and Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018

5.1 Homelessness Review

The current development of the Homelessness Strategy 2013 – 2018 has enabled us to commence a review to assess how effective we have been in tackling homelessness and meeting the future needs of households threatened with homelessness and who become homeless. The review will take into consideration the following information:

- Profile of levels of homelessness and homelessness services in Peterborough, both qualitative and quantitative
- National and local policy
- Feedback from focus groups
- The root causes of homelessness locally
- Gaps in, and duplication of, services
- Weaknesses in homelessness policy and procedure
- Analysis of outcomes of the previous Homelessness Strategy Action Plan

The Homelessness Review sets out clear findings of our review of homeless services in Peterborough and feeds directly into the development of the Homelessness Strategy.

5.2 Methodology

We carried out a variety of desktop research on statistics held relating to homelessness, housing advice records and housing need in Peterborough. Data was also collated from social services, national and regional research findings and local voluntary and supporting agencies and on demographics, housing and local incomes.

In order to develop a local profile of homelessness we held 4 focus groups in November 2012 dealing with all aspects of homelessness throughout the city. We approached voluntary and statutory organisations linked to homelessness to participate in the groups.

5.3 Profile of homelessness

- 5.3.1 The Homelessness Act (2002) definition of homelessness remains the same as stated in the Housing Act (1996) which is:

‘Under s.175 a person is homeless he or she has no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere which is available for his or her occupation and which that person has a legal right to occupy. A person will also be homeless if where she or he has accommodation but cannot secure entry to it, or where he or she has accommodation that is a moveable structure (such as a caravan or house boat) and there is no place where it can be placed in order to provide accommodation. A person who has accommodation is to be treated as homeless where it would not be reasonable for him or her to continue to occupy it.’

Peterborough City Council homelessness statistics are based on the monitoring forms that are completed for the DCLG. These are known as P1E's and are based around decisions and priority need. These statistics are limited but do give an insight into issues that are affecting local people and resulting in homelessness.

5.3.2 The table below represents the total number of households making homelessness applications to Peterborough City Council over the last 3 years;

Year	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Total Number of applications	1326	1019	1154	1168

5.3.3 While Peterborough has seen a small increase in the number of homeless applications in 2011/12 and 2012/13 this is in line with the national picture.

5.3.4 The table below represents the total number of acceptances and number of households in temporary accommodation per 1000 by Local Authority

Local Authority	Number of Acceptances	Per 1,000 Population	Number of household temporary accommodation	Per 1,000 Population
Peterborough	70	0.97	74	1.0
Norwich	42	0.68	43	0.69
Ipswich	25	0.45	30	0.55
Cambridge	31	0.69	76	1.69

5.3.5 The percentage of applicants accepted by Peterborough is marginally higher than other regional Local Authorities. The number of households in temporary accommodation during this period was lower than Cambridge.

The table below represents the number of persons accepted as homeless by household type.

	2009-10	2010-2011	2011-12	2012-13
Families	183	65	149	149
Pregnant with no other children	54	26	28	24
Singles and Couples	158	89	99	90
TOTAL	395	180	276	263

- 5.3.6 A large number of homeless applicants to Peterborough City Council are families or households with a pregnant member. The majority of homeless families are households with 1 or 2 children. There is a statutory duty placed on local authorities by the Housing Act 1996 Part VII, to provide suitable temporary accommodation for homeless families if they are homeless and in priority need. The responsibilities outlined under the Children's Act 1989 mean that social services also have a duty to support families in certain situations. Therefore social services also have a crucial role in preventing homelessness and sustaining tenancies.
- 5.3.7 The needs of children must be considered alongside those of the parents in the delivery of services to homeless families. The traumatic effects of upheaval of homelessness on children are considerable. Peterborough City Council has four family hostels, which provide short-term accommodation for families.

5.4 Reasons for Homelessness

The table below demonstrates the main reason for households presenting as homeless during 2012-2013

Reason for homelessness	Number of Households presenting 2012/13
Parents no longer willing to accommodate	181
Other relatives or friends no longer willing to accommodate	257
Non-violent relationship breakdown	107
Violent relationship breakdown (partner)	82
Violent relationship breakdown (other)	9
Racially motivated violence	0
Other forms of violence	16
Racially motivated harassment	0
Other harassment	12
Mortgage arrears	16
Rent Arrears (LA)	4
Rent Arrears (RSL)	23
Rent Arrears (Private sector)	70
Termination of AST (Private)	177
Loss of private rented/tied accommodation (other)	6
End of NASS supported accommodation	15
Prison leaver	71
Hospital discharge	12
Leaving LA Care	20
Left HM Forces	5
Other reason	84
TOTAL	1168

5.5 **Housing Advice**

The Housing Needs service delivers a range of services to assist people in need of alternative accommodation or advice on their current accommodation. Advice is free and confidential it is provided to everyone despite their housing tenure. The service can be accessed our services by calling (01733) 864064. Housing Advice is also provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau and Peterborough Streets day centre.

In 2012/13 the Housing Needs team based at the Customer Service Centre, Bayard Place, provided housing and homelessness advice to 22,095 people. The prevention of homelessness is the primary focus for the team. Preventing homelessness is both cost-effective and provides positive outcomes for homeless persons. The service aims to ensure that everyone can access the help that they need, when they need it, and to find sustainable solutions to their housing difficulties. We saw a decrease in homeless presentations to the Local Authority in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11 and this level has been maintained this year.

5.6 **Rough Sleeping**

Peterborough City Council submitted a multi-agency lead Rough Sleeper Estimate to government of 12. This estimate was carried out on 8th November 2012 and reached with the guidance and support of Homeless Link.

The estimate records a single figure for the number of people thought to be rough sleeping in the local authority area on a typical night between 01 October and 30 November 2012. The figure should be as robust as possible and using the guidance provided will help to get the most accurate estimate.

Peterborough City Council employs a Rough Sleeper Outreach Officer to assist individuals who find themselves sleeping rough after losing their accommodation. The Rough Sleeper Outreach officer has made great strides in ensuring that those who hit the streets are assisted before they reach a point where they are entrenched. In 2010, Peterborough was highlighted in the national media as a rough sleeping hotspot, with reported figures in excess of 70 individuals sleeping rough on any one night. Following the set up of a Task and Targeting group and a joint approach this number was quickly reduced with many being assisted to find work and accommodation, or being assisted to return to their country of origin. This work is continuing and we now have a hardcore of long standing rough sleepers in the city, which we are working with to assist them through a personalised approach to leave the streets.

5.7 **Impact of Welfare Reform**

The direct impact of welfare reform and homelessness are currently unknown. Anecdotally there are suggestions that it will lead to increased homelessness as households are unable to afford increased rents created by access bedrooms in their accommodation or reductions in housing benefit. Additionally the introduction of Universal Credit could result many landlords no longer receiving safeguarded payments and in turn lead to rent arrears and eviction.

The multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Steering Group has continued to meet and will be key to the development of the new draft Homelessness Strategy. Whilst the Local Authority recognises the need to lead on the draft Homelessness Strategy it also acknowledges that the success of the Strategy will only be achieved through shared ownership and a joint approach.

We acknowledge that in order to provide a cost-effective and responsive service the Housing Needs team cannot achieve this in isolation. We need to continue to deliver our services in partnership with our statutory and voluntary partners including Peterborough Streets, New Haven Night Shelter, Salvation Army, Hope Into Action and the newly established Peterborough Food Bank.

5.8 **The levels of Housing Need**

5.8.1 *The Housing Market Context*

Property prices in Peterborough have steadily risen over recent years and affordability is becoming an increasingly difficult problem in the city for a growing number of people. Whilst the recession has resulted in the recent downturn in the housing market and a small decrease in the selling prices of some properties in Peterborough. This recent fall in house prices is consistent with the national picture.

The cost of home ownership has substantially increased over recent years, resulting in home ownership becoming unaffordable for many households who require housing. A Peterborough resident average weekly income is lower than the national average (£508) and regional average of (£529) at £436. The median selling price for a detached property in Peterborough is £205,000 over 9 times the average income, whilst semi detached properties are over 5.5 times the average.

5.8.2 *Housing need and affordability*

Housing affordability is a key issue within the Peterborough housing market. In 2010 the city council and its partner neighbouring local authorities commissioned a study into local levels of housing need.

This study identified the following;

- 27 per cent of households in Peterborough cannot afford to rent or buy market housing without some form of subsidy. This is compared with 22.6 per cent of households across the sub-region.
- 81 per cent of lone parents in Peterborough are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- 38 per cent of single persons are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- 37 per cent of single pensioners are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- At the current rate of household formation and housing supply, an average of 1,008 households will fall into housing need in Peterborough on an ongoing annual basis
- In rural areas, housing need as a proportion of supply is ten times higher than it is in the urban area of the city

5.8.3 *The demand for social housing*

Following a period of recent consultation it was agreed to amend the Peterborough Homes Allocations policy in order to give realistic expectations to those who apply and ensure that those in the most urgent Housing Needs are considered for the small amount of accommodation, which is made available by the social landlords in the city.

On the 24 March 2013, prior to the implementation of the new policy there were 9738 live

applications on the housing register. Many of which would never be successful in securing an allocation of accommodation. We are still in the process of implementation, but the changes to policy will mean that there is a significant reduction in this number, but it is expected that there will likely be around 4500 – 5000 households who are considered on the housing register to be either living in accommodation, which does not meet their needs because of size, suitability or because of disrepair, or because they are considered to be homeless or threatened with homelessness.

5.9 Housing Supply

5.9.1 Social Housing

Suitable housing is in short supply in the city to those most in need. While social landlords provide affordable good standards of accommodation there is insufficient supply to meet the needs of all. The table below details the levels of housing stock in Peterborough on 21 November 2012.

Housing Association	Total as at Feb 2011	New builds since 1 March 2011	Acquisitions 2011-12	Losses 2011-12	Total stock as at 21 Nov 2012
Accent Nene	1664	25	0	3	1686
Axiom	1313	61	0	10	1364
BPHA	476	55	1	3	529
Cross Keys Homes	9484	145	9	31	9607
Home	435	0	0	0	435
Minster	973	3	0	1	975
Total	14345	289	10	48	14596

Additionally, the local Housing Associations provide low cost homeownership schemes such as shared ownership and Homebuy. The Homebuy scheme is run through Orbit Housing with a number of shared ownership schemes being operated locally by Housing Associations in Peterborough.

5.9.2 Affordable Rent Model

In December 2010, the coalition Government unveiled a wide range of social housing reforms in a consultation paper named 'Local decisions - A fairer future for social housing'. Government has proposed the introduction of a new affordable housing tenure, called 'Affordable Rent'. This was subsequently included in provisions of the Localism Act.

The introduction of 'Affordable Rent' will help housing associations increase the level of revenue available to fund new development, it also abolished the requirement for new tenants living in social housing to be given a tenancy for life. Rents for the new tenure can be set at up to 80 per cent of local market rents for a comparable property.

The Localism Act also placed a new duty on local authorities to produce a 'Strategic Tenure Policy', which sets out the principles by which landlords should apply their new flexibilities.

The Peterborough Strategic Tenancy Policy seeks to ensure that rents remain affordable, that homelessness levels do not increase, that tenancy flexibilities are applied in a sensitive manner,

and that tenant mobility is protected. The policy has been developed within the context of the council's overarching strategic objectives for housing, as set out in the Peterborough Housing Strategy 2011 to 2015.

5.9.3 *Private Sector Accommodation*

The Private Sector housing stock in the city is varied and represents a tremendous asset to the local community but this asset needs substantial targeted investment to ensure that the condition of the stock is raised and maintained to acceptable levels. The 2011 Census showed households renting from a private landlord or letting agency per ward to be an average of 20.5% and was most prevalent in the Central Ward with 38.1% and Northborough was the lowest at 7%.

The demand for affordable rented property in the District is high. In particular the demand for 1 and 2 bedroom properties is very high. Across the Peterborough area the supply of properties is marginally lower than demand. Especially highlighted were 1 and 2 bed properties being in short supply. There are still barriers with regard to landlords accommodating persons in receipt of Local Housing Allowance (Housing Benefit), mainly due to the delays in processing of claims, and payments.

Private sector accommodation is anecdotally becoming more expensive due to the higher demand within this sector. Many households who may previously have purchased a property are now renting. These households find themselves with less disposable income to build towards a deposit and therefore are unlikely to be able to purchase a property in the future.

In recent years the Housing Needs Department has had considerable success in encouraging households to access private rented sector accommodation, instead of making a homeless application, temporary accommodation and social housing.

There has been a steady increase in the number of households accessing private sector accommodation through Peterborough City Council's Rent Deposit Scheme and Peterborough Streets Crisis PRS Scheme.

5.9.4 *Rent Deposit Scheme*

The Housing Needs Service based at Bayard Place, Broadway, Peterborough offers a Rent Deposit Scheme which enables persons to access an interest free loan to be used for the up front costs associated with securing a property in the private rented sector. This has created a real opportunity for the prevention and relief of homelessness and also increased access to permanent accommodation. In 2011/2012 a total of 191 households were assisted into private rented sector accommodation with assistance with rent deposit so far this year, since April 2012, we have been able to assist 276 households.

5.9.5 *Peterborough Streets Crisis PRS Scheme*

Peterborough Streets were successful in receiving funding from the Crisis PRS Access Development Programme. This programme funds new community based services that help single people find and sustain good quality accommodation in the private rented sector (PRS). It provides sustainable solutions to single homelessness and enables single persons to resettle in the Private Rented Sector Scheme and enables Peterborough Streets to prevent homelessness. During 2012/13 a total of 21 persons were assisted into accommodation.

5.10 The Way Forward

Peterborough City Council is committed to preventing and relieving homelessness as well as improving partnerships with service providers in all sectors. The Housing Needs Service recognise that in order to provide a cost-effective and responsive service the Housing Needs team cannot achieve this in isolation. We need to continue to deliver our services in partnership with our statutory and voluntary partners.

The multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Steering Group will be key to the development of the new draft Homelessness Strategy. Whilst the Local Authority recognises the need to lead on the draft Homelessness Strategy it also acknowledges that the success of the Strategy will only be achieved through shared ownership and a joint approach.

The key findings of this review will be fed into the development of the Draft Homelessness Strategy 2013- 2018.

5.11 Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018

Visions and Strategic Aims

Our Vision is: To prevent and respond to homelessness by ensuring that we provide a range of effective targeted services that respond to our customer needs.

This is our third Homelessness Strategy and sets out the strategic aims for Peterborough City Council and its partners for tackling and preventing homelessness between 2013 and 2018.

The strategy has been developed within the context of national and local issues and identifies four strategic aims that will drive forward the homelessness agenda in the coming years in Peterborough.

The 2002 Homelessness Act placed a duty on local authorities to develop a Homelessness Strategy and to renew this every five years.

The previous Homelessness Strategy published in 2008 made an important contribution to both tackling and preventing homelessness in Peterborough. The strategy built on partnership working whilst maximising homeless prevention opportunities and contributed to an increase in homeless preventions.

The key achievements from the 2008 Strategy include;

- Mortgage Rescue Scheme established and assisted 27 households who would have become homeless without intervention.
- Multi-Agency rough sleeping Task and Targeting Group established in April 2010.
- All homeless persons provided with information on where they can register with a GP.
- Framework established for Unlawful Evictions and 3 successful convictions achieved.
- Rough Sleeper database established with multi-agency viewing rights.
- Tenancy Relations Officer post created and recruited to.
- 210 Temporary Accommodation target action plan created and implemented.
- Notification system established to notify the Local Education Authority (LEA) within 10

- working days when children in temporary accommodation are not attending school.
- Equality Impact Assessment of Housing Options Service undertaken.
- Waiting times reduced by new delivery of Housing Needs Service.
- All homeless persons attending the Housing Needs service are signposted to Peterborough Streets Day Centre and other support services.

This strategy will build on our achievements whilst strengthening our partnerships and seek to address our new challenges.

We have 4 key strategic aims:

Strategic Aim 1 – Preventing and relieving homelessness through a robust partnership approach

We are aware that in order to provide cost-effective and responsive services we cannot work in isolation. We will deliver our services in partnership with our voluntary and statutory sector partners to provide the best possible solutions.

Strategic Aim 2 - Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation

We will continue to maximise the opportunities for differing accommodation choices for homeless persons and person threatened with homelessness and continuing to increase the accommodation choices available persons in housing need.

We will continue to develop and deliver a suitable private rented sector offer for all client groups that includes support for both clients and landlords. We need to ensure that those most affected by the welfare reforms and pressures caused by increasing demand on the private sector accommodation available locally can be placed into suitable private sector accommodation.

Strategic Aim 3 – Reduce and prevent rough sleeping

Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness and where people are the most vulnerable. We will continue to build on our partnership approach to reducing and relieving rough sleeping. This work will include projects that will enable the city to deliver the No Second Night Out principles.

Strategic Aim 4 – Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities

Ensuring that homeless households are given the support to resettle within the community and began to thrive through purpose and encouragement.

National Context

There are a number of National strategies and guidance that have helped to shape this Homelessness Strategy these include:

Making every contact count: A joint approach to preventing homelessness (2012)⁴ sets ten local challenges for housing authorities to ensure that every contact local agencies make with vulnerable people and families really counts to ensure that we prevent households, regardless of household make up from reaching a crisis point where they are faced with homelessness.

Sustainable Communities: settled homes; changing lives (2005)⁵: Homelessness Prevention, reduction in the use of temporary accommodation by 50% by 2010, from 2010 B&B no longer suitable for 16/17 year olds.

Sustainable Communities: Homes For All (2005)⁶: Choice Based Lettings schemes in all local authorities in England by 2010.

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM), September 2009

Tackling Homelessness (2006): recognises the role of registered providers of social housing in preventing homelessness through partnership working, sustainable communities, allocation and management policies and better use of existing stock.

No One Left Out: Communities Ending Rough Sleeping (Nov 2008): aimed to end rough sleeping in UK for more than one night by 2012.

No Second Night Out. This government plan sets out six joint commitments to ensure multi agency working to give local people the tools to tackle rough sleeping and put an end to second nights out on the street.

Developing Homelessness Strategies, Specialist Advisors' Local Authority Toolkit, December 2012

On the 8th March 2012 the Welfare Reform Act received Royal Assent. The Act legislates for the biggest changes to the welfare system in over 60 years. Many of these changes will have an impact on homelessness and homelessness prevention;

- 1 **The move towards a Universal Credit** - Direct payments to landlords will cease. This will result in landlords having no guarantee that rent will be paid and will directly impact of the numbers of private sector landlords willing to consider claimants alongside a possible increase in rent arrears that may lead to eviction and homelessness.
- 2 **Restricting payments for people below the age of 35 years old** - Persons under the age of 35 years old will only be able to claim assistance to the level of shared room rate. This will mean that many young people leaving home for the first time will only be able to access shared accommodation. There will be an additional pressure on services working to house single people in the private rented sector as there are issues with supply and quality of this type of accommodation.
- 3 **Capping of total benefit received per household** – The benefits cap will be implemented across the country by October 2013 and will see the total amount of benefit awarded to non working households capped at no more than £26,000 per annum. Larger families may see an unexpected reduction in their income, which in turn will affect their ability to meet their housing costs.
- 4 **Capping of Local Housing Allowance** - Could make households in receipt of benefits less attractive to landlords and could place strain on residents in areas of high rent who may choose to move to places like Peterborough because we are considered more affordable.
- 5 **Linking Housing Benefit entitlements for social housing tenants to the number of bedrooms needed per household for working age persons** - Tenants within the social housing sector who are under occupying their homes will have a reduction applied to their

housing benefit entitlement. Households will have to meet this reduction from their other income. This could lead to an increase in rent arrears, eviction and homelessness.

- 6 **Up-rating Local Housing Allowance in line with the Consumer Price Index instead of the Retail Price Index** - This may mean that benefit claimants entitlement may not increase in line with the average rents in the city therefore reducing the number of affordable properties available in the private rented sector.
- 7 **Ceasing of Council Tax Benefit** - As part of Localism enabling Local Authorities to develop their own discount schemes with protection for pensioners. Leaving some vulnerable groups who have not previously paid any council tax with a bill.

All the above could place additional strain on the Housing Needs Department. whilst households struggle to cope with their income reductions and struggle to meet their housing costs. Additionally, public spending cuts, changes to Housing Allocation to reflect localism, the introduction of affordable rents, new forms of tenure and the impact of un-ring fenced supporting people funding and imminent reductions that this will bring offer further challenges for the delivery of services. We will continue to monitor the impact of these changes through the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and when necessary update the Strategy to tackle the impacts.

Changes to the homelessness duty – In November 2012, as a result of the Localism Act 2011, the law changed and gave Council's the power to discharge their homelessness duty into suitable accommodation with a private landlord.

However, in order for the offer to be considered suitable the property and landlord must meet certain minimum standards.

The Council must be of the view that the accommodation is in a reasonable physical condition; that the landlord has taken reasonable fire safety precautions; has taken reasonable precautions to prevent the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning in the accommodation; the landlord is a fit and proper person; the property has a valid energy performance certificate (EPC) and gas safety certificate and that the tenancy is for a minimum fixed term of 12 months.

Where applicants become homeless again within two years, the duty will be retained by the original authority.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The strategy will have implications for all sections of society and all wards and parishes of the local authority area.
- 6.2 The Draft Homelessness Strategy will provide the necessary framework for partnership working and the delivery of effective joined up services for homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness.
- 6.3 Financial Implications: There are no immediate financial implications.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Revision of the Action Plan through the Homeless Strategy Steering Group Focus Groups held in November and December 2012 on the prevention of homelessness, increasing access to accommodation, rough sleeping and promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Draft Homelessness Strategy be approved to be taken to Cabinet and Full Council for adoption.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 Housing Act 1996 (as amended by Homelessness Act 2002)
Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities
Local Authorities' Homelessness Strategies, Evaluation and Good Practice

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Homelessness Review Draft

Homelessness Strategy Action Plan Draft

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The Homelessness Review 2013

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1 Abstract/Statement

Homelessness for some people is primarily a housing problem but for many the reasons are complex and their problems cannot be resolved by bricks and mortar alone.

Homelessness has been on the political agenda, with a series of legislative and policy initiatives including:-

- No Second Night Out, July 2011
- Making Every Contact Count: A joint Approach to preventing Homelessness, August 2012
- Localism Act 2011, S153, 7th June 2012
- 'Local decisions - A fairer future for social housing' December 2010
- Sustainable Communities: settled homes; changing lives (2005): Homelessness Prevention, reduction in the use of temporary accommodation by 50% by 2010, from 2010 B&B no longer suitable for 16/17 year olds.
- Sustainable Communities: Homes For All (2005): Choice Based Lettings schemes in all local authorities in England by 2010.
- Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM), September 2009
- No One Left Out: Communities Ending Rough Sleeping (Nov 2008)

This report presents the findings of the Review of Peterborough's homelessness services. The report provides the foundations for building a comprehensive profile of homelessness in Peterborough in the future. The Review findings will be used to inform the development of Peterborough's five-year Homelessness Strategy.

2 Summary

The homelessness provisions of the Homelessness Act 2002 came into force on 31 July 2002. It placed new duties upon Local Authorities to adopt a strategic approach to tackling and preventing homelessness.

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all housing authorities to:

- Carry out a review of homelessness in their areas
- Formulate and publish a Homelessness Strategy based on this review within 12 months of the Act coming into force
- Keep the Strategy under review
- Consult other local or public authorities, or voluntary sector organisations before adopting or modifying the Strategy.

3 Objective

The aims of this Homelessness Review are:

- To develop a clearer profile of levels of homelessness and homelessness services in Peterborough;
- To identify the root causes of homelessness locally;
- To identify gaps in and duplication of services;
- To identify weaknesses in homelessness policy and procedure; and
- To inform the development of the Homelessness Strategy 2013 to 2018

4 Our Approach to the Homelessness Review and our Guiding Principles

The Homelessness Review sets out clear findings of our review of Homeless Services in Peterborough. The next stage is the development of a five-year Homelessness Strategy. The Homelessness Strategy will be informed by the Review outcome.

5 Methodology

We carried out a variety of desktop research on statistics held relating to homelessness, housing advice records and housing need in Peterborough. Data was also collated from children's services, national and regional research findings and local voluntary and supporting agencies and on demographics, housing and local incomes.

In order to develop a local profile of homelessness we held 4 focus groups in November dealing with all aspects of homelessness throughout the city. We approached voluntary and statutory organisations linked to homelessness to participate in the groups.

A steering group of representatives from Peterborough City Council and other relevant statutory and voluntary organisations was established.

The members of the steering group are:

Denise Lewis	Manager	Peterborough Streets
Chris Mackett	Manager	St Giles Trust
Karen Chambers	Assistant Director of Operations	Axiom Housing Association
Anne Keogh	Housing Strategy Manager	Peterborough City Council
Pete Middlemiss	Manager	The New Haven Night Shelter
Kim Lawrence	Housing Support Manager	Cross Keys Homes
Emma Foley	ACE project	Cambridgeshire Independent Advocacy
Ali Manji	Area Manager North	Cross Keys Homes
Sam Tucker	Police Constable, City Centre	Cambs Constabulary
Allison Sunley	Head of Commissioning & Targeted Services	Children's Services
Sister Mary Clare Mason		Faith & Cohesion Network
Alison Snelling	Service Manager	Aspire
Andy Barringer	Community Recovery Manager	Safer Peterborough Partnership
Sarah Hebblethwaite	Deputy Housing Needs Manager	Peterborough City Council

6 Profile of the Region

Peterborough has seen consistent population growth since 1971 and is the second fastest growing city in the country after Milton Keynes. The Census 2011 shows a further population growth from 156,059 to 183,961. Overall there has been a population growth of around 18% in Peterborough, whilst England and the East of England have seen a total growth of 8% and 9% respectively. According to the 2010 Sub national Population Projections the city's population is due to increase to around 230,000 by 2035 which is an increase of 25%.

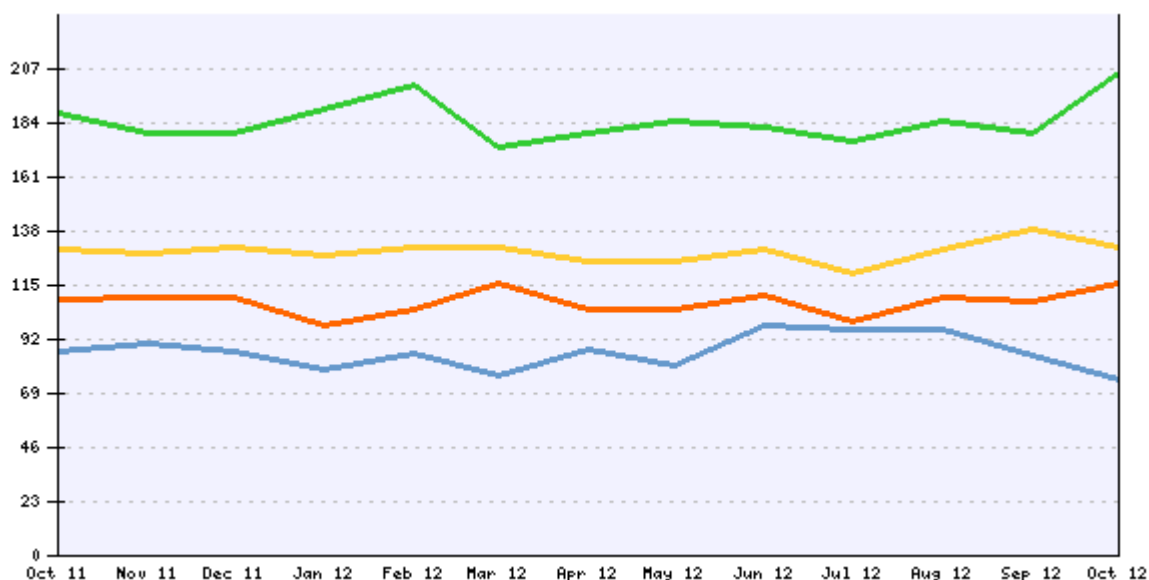
Peterborough is a multi-cultural city. The 2011 Census identified approximately 71% of Peterborough's population classifies themselves as White British. The largest increases in ethnic minority groups were identified in White and Other White ethnic (10.6%) and Asian or Asian British, Pakistani (6.6%). Central and Paston wards have seen the largest increases to the proportions of Asian or Asian British Pakistani while Orton with Hampton shows the biggest increase in all of the ethnic groups.

In the period following the expansion of the European Union in May 2004 large numbers of Eastern European Nationals moved to Peterborough. These persons can be shown in the increase in White: Other White to 19,495.

7 The Housing Market Context

Property prices in Peterborough have steadily risen over recent years and affordability is becoming an increasingly difficult problem in the city for a growing number of people. Whilst the recession has resulted in the recent downturn in the housing market and a small decrease in the selling prices of some properties in Peterborough. This recent fall in house prices is consistent with the national picture.

Graph 1: Median Property Selling Prices in Peterborough (£000's)



Source: www.home.co.uk

Table 1: Median Property Selling Prices in Peterborough in between October 2011 and October 2012 by Percentage change

Property Type	Oct 2011	Oct 2012	Change
 Detached	£187,500	£205,000	+9%
 Semi	£130,000	£131,000	+1%
 Terraced	£108,500	£116,250	+7%
 Flat	£87,000	£75,250	-14%

The cost of home ownership has substantially increased over recent years, resulting in home ownership becoming unaffordable for many households who require housing. A Peterborough resident's average weekly income is lower than the national average (£508) and regional average of (£529) at £436. The median selling price for a detached property in Peterborough is £205,000 over 9 times the average income, whilst semi-detached properties are over 5.5, terraced 5.12 and flats

Lloyds Lend a Hand Scheme

Peterborough is part of the Lloyds Lend a Hand Scheme. The council committed to participating in the scheme in July 2011 and has initially set aside £1m to support the scheme. The scheme became available to Peterborough residents from 15 December 2011 and the latest statistics released at the end of Sept for the mortgage scheme since its launch in Dec 2011 are:

- 23 properties have had their purchases completed
- Another 5 mortgages have been approved, and are progressing to the completion of purchase

Once these 5 mortgages have completed approximately, £550k of the initial £1m indemnity will be allocated so there is further scope for the scheme to support more first-time buyers.

Housing need and affordability

Housing affordability is a key issue within the Peterborough housing market. In 2010 the city council and its partner neighbouring local authorities commissioned a study into local levels of housing need.

This study identified the following:

- 27 per cent of households in Peterborough cannot afford to rent or buy market housing without some form of subsidy. This is compared with 22.6 per cent of households across the sub-region.
- 81 per cent of lone parents in Peterborough are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- 38 per cent of single persons are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- 37 per cent of single pensioners are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- At the current rate of household formation and housing supply, an average of 1,008 households will fall into housing need in Peterborough on an ongoing annual basis
- In rural areas, housing need as a proportion of supply is ten times higher than it is in the urban area of the city

Empty Homes

Peterborough City Council employs an Empty Homes Officer to work with partners to bring empty properties in the city back into use. Since 1st July 2011, the local authority have played at least some part in bringing back a total of 233 properties. This includes properties that have been taken off the list by simply sending a letter to enquire about the property's occupancy, to helping the owner sell or new owners refurbish.

In the last 18 months, Peterborough has seen a significant drop in the number of long-term empty properties left standing by their owner's. With the exception of around 15 properties, all of those left empty long-term are privately owned, meaning action taken to get these properties back into use is much harder to pursue.

The reduction in the number of long-term empty properties can be attributed to a number of factors. The increased resource of having a full-time Empty Homes Officer within the council, dedicated to tackling this issue, has meant that the pursuit and action against owners has been persistent, but also the support offered can be consistent throughout.

Private Sector Accommodation

The Private Sector housing stock in the city is varied and represents a tremendous asset to the local community but this asset needs substantial targeted investment to ensure that the condition of the stock is raised and maintained to acceptable levels. The 2011 Census showed households renting from a private landlord or letting agency per ward to be an average of 20.5% and was most prevalent in the Central Ward with 38.1% and Northborough was the lowest at 7%.

The demand for affordable rented property in the District is high. In particular the demand for 1 and 2 bedroom properties is very high. Across the Peterborough area the supply of properties is marginally lower than demand. Especially highlighted were 1 and 2 bed properties being in short supply. There are still barriers with regard to landlords accommodating persons in receipt of Local Housing Allowance, mainly due to the delays in the processing of claims and payments.

Private sector accommodation is anecdotally becoming more expensive due to the higher demand within this sector. Many households who may previously have purchased a property are now renting. These households find themselves with less disposable income to build towards a deposit and therefore are unlikely to be able to purchase a property in the future.

In recent years the Housing Needs Department has had considerable success in encouraging households to access private rented sector accommodation, instead of making a homeless application, temporary accommodation and social housing.

There has been a steady increase in the number of households accessing private sector accommodation through Peterborough City Council's Rent Deposit Scheme and Peterborough Streets Crisis PRS Scheme.

Rent Deposit Scheme

The Housing Needs Service based at Bayard Place, Broadway, Peterborough offers a Rent Deposit Scheme which enables persons to access an interest free loan to be used for the up front costs associated with securing a property in the private rented sector. This has created a real opportunity for the prevention and relief of homelessness and also increased access to permanent accommodation. In 2011/2012 a total of 191 households were assisted into private rented sector accommodation with assistance with rent deposit so far this year, since April 2012, we have been able to assist 276 households.

Peterborough Streets Crisis PRS Scheme

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Tenancy Relations Service

Peterborough City Council has a Tenancy Relations Service based within the Housing Needs team. This service offers support to both tenants and private sector landlords. It aims to promote good relations between tenants and landlords and encourage good practice in the private rented sector. The service provides advice on disrepair, possession, deposit protection, security of tenure, rent and rent arrears and unlawful eviction. The service has been successful in establishing a framework for illegal evictions and utilised its power to prosecute under The Protection of Eviction Act 1977 by successfully prosecuting 3 landlords through the court system alongside supporting 194 households since January 2012.

Mortgage Rescue Scheme

Peterborough City Council has been actively promoting the Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme. This Scheme enables a homeowner who is at risk of losing their home through non payment of their mortgage to be assisted by working with a local housing association to purchase their property who then rents it back to them. This Scheme enables both homeless prevention and increases the number of properties owned by our partner housing associations. Peterborough City Council has been successful in assisting 27 households who would have become homeless without this intervention.

Social Housing

Peterborough City Council transferred its housing stock on 4th October 2004 with the aim to ensuring that its housing stock is used effectively to meet the housing needs of those in the area or, wishing to live in the Peterborough area. Cross Keys Homes promised to invest £108 million in improving tenants' homes over the first five years fitting new kitchens and bathrooms, front and back doors, double glazing and central heating systems. In addition they promised to spend nearly £5 million on estate and environmental improvements.

Peterborough City Council (PCC) is required by law to have a housing allocations scheme that demonstrates how the council priorities applications for housing and the procedures they follow in allocating those homes. PCC operate the city's social housing register on behalf of their Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) including Cross Keys Homes, Axiom Housing Association, Circle Anglia, Hyde Minster, ECHG, L&H Group, Muir Housing, Accent Nene, BPHA and Home Group. Peterborough City Council operates a choice based lettings approach to the allocation of accommodation. All of the properties, which become available through the housing associations in the Peterborough homes partnership are advertised through the choice based lettings scheme. Each week RSL's advise Peterborough City Council of the properties that are available to let and they are then advertised. The advert is usually released on Tuesdays and the edition closes on the following Sunday at midnight. Applicants with a live application on the Peterborough Housing register can express interest (place a bid) in the properties, which they would like to be considered for. You may bid for up to 3 properties per week.

Following The Localism Act 2011 and the subsequent amendment to the Housing Act 1996, that gave Local Authorities the power to set their own qualifying criteria for people who are able to join the housing register. This enables councils to restrict their housing register to consider entry from only those in the most urgent housing need as well as exercising their right to set exclusions for other reasons based on locally set criteria.

In addition to recent government guidance highlighted that councils have the power to frame their allocations policies to give additional preference to particular groups of people. The guidance recommends that councils consider how they can use their allocations policy to support households who want to work, as well as those who, whole unable to engage in paid employment, are contributing to their community in other ways, for example through voluntary work.

The introduction of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 has made changes to housing benefit entitlements, which will have a direct impact on social housing tenants from 1st April 2013. The amendments will result in tenants of working age receiving housing benefit according to the number of bedrooms the household needs.

The Council is currently consulting on a new Allocations Policy to reflect these Welfare Reforms and embrace Localism. The proposed amendments include;

- Setting the entry criteria to the housing register to those in the most urgent housing need, this includes; Homeless households, those who are threatened with homelessness, those living in insanitary or unsatisfactory housing conditions, those who need to move for social/welfare reasons or where failure to assist in moving will cause particular hardship.
- Only accept applications from those who have a local connection with Peterborough by; having lived in the area for 6 of the last 12 months or 3 of the last 5 years, those who are working in the city, those who need to move to move to the area for special reasons
- Excluding applicants who own suitable accommodation or those who have sufficient financial resources to secure suitable accommodation by other means from joining the housing register. (This will not apply to those over 55 and eligible for sheltered accommodation)
- Those who have behaved in an unacceptable manner will continue to be excluded from applying. This will be determined by; The Council or RSL is satisfied that the applicant or a member of their household has previously been guilty of unacceptable behaviour which would make them unsuitable to be a tenant, or the applicant or member of the household has been served with an injunction by the council or their landlord to stop them behaving in a way which causes nuisance or annoyance to others, or the applicant or a member of the household has current tenancy arrears in excess of 8 weeks rent, or the applicant or a member of the household has any outstanding former tenant arrears.

Additionally, the bedrooms standards policy that has previously been generous will be brought in line with the criteria that will be applied to housing benefit claims from April 2013. It is hoped that this will reduce the risk of placing families into poverty, as a reduction of their housing benefit would result in them having to find the rent shortfall from their other income.

This places an additional burden on our RSL partners as they are likely to see an increase in families in rent arrears if they are unable to meet the shortfall in housing benefit. This could ultimately lead to households becoming homeless.

There are also proposed additional preference categories for applications from; persons who are working or are in training for work, are making a community contribution, have strong local connections with Peterborough, and are members of the armed forces.

Housing Supply

The supply of affordable housing provides some context for the ability of the Local Authority to discharge its duty.

Table 2: Total RSL stock in Peterborough 21.11.12

Housing Association	Total as at Feb 2011	New builds since 1 March 2011	Acquisitions 2011-12	Losses 2011-12	Total stock as at 21 Nov 2012
Accent Nene	1664	25	0	3	1686
Axiom	1313	61	0	10	1364
BPHA	476	55	1	3	529
Cross Keys Homes	9484	145	9	31	9607
Home	435	0	0	0	435
Minster	973	3	0	1	975
Total	14345	289	10	48	14596

The social housing stock in the city has continued to increase. The current funding for Housing Associations will result in the building of a further 132 units over the next three years.

Additionally, the local Housing Associations provide low cost homeownership schemes such as shared ownership and Homebuy. The Homebuy scheme is run through the Orbit Group and the shared ownership schemes are being developed by a number of Housing Associations in Peterborough.

Affordable Rent Model

The affordable rent model introduced for the delivery of affordable housing by Registered Social Landlords and councils that have retained their housing stock could result in marked increases in rent up to 80% of market rents. This may result in households wishing to move into these properties needing to be means tested at the point of allocation.

The Peterborough Strategic Tenancy Policy seeks to ensure that rents remain affordable, that homelessness levels do not increase, that tenancy flexibilities are applied in a sensitive manner, and that tenant mobility is protected. The policy has been developed within the context of the council's overarching strategic objectives for housing, as set out in the Peterborough Housing Strategy 2011 to 2015.

Demand - There is a high demand for social housing in the city.

Graph 2: Total number of applicants on the Housing Register from April 2011 to March 2012

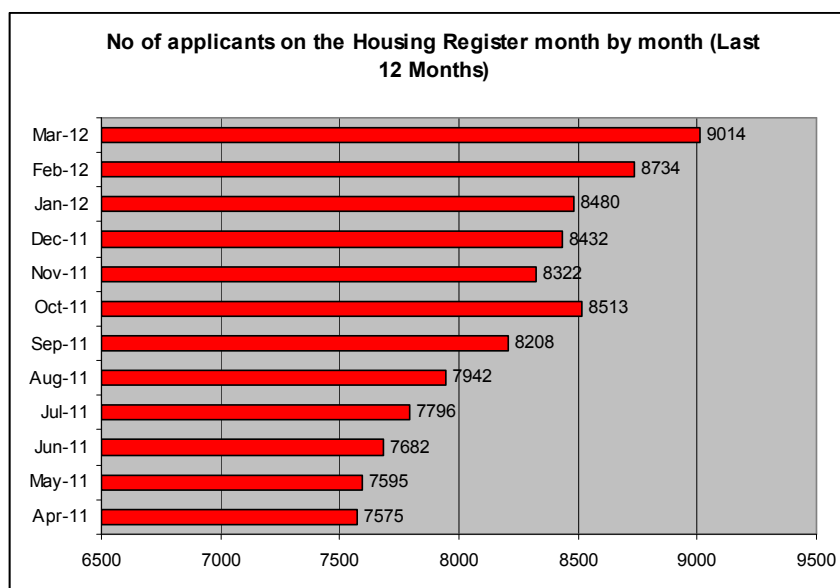
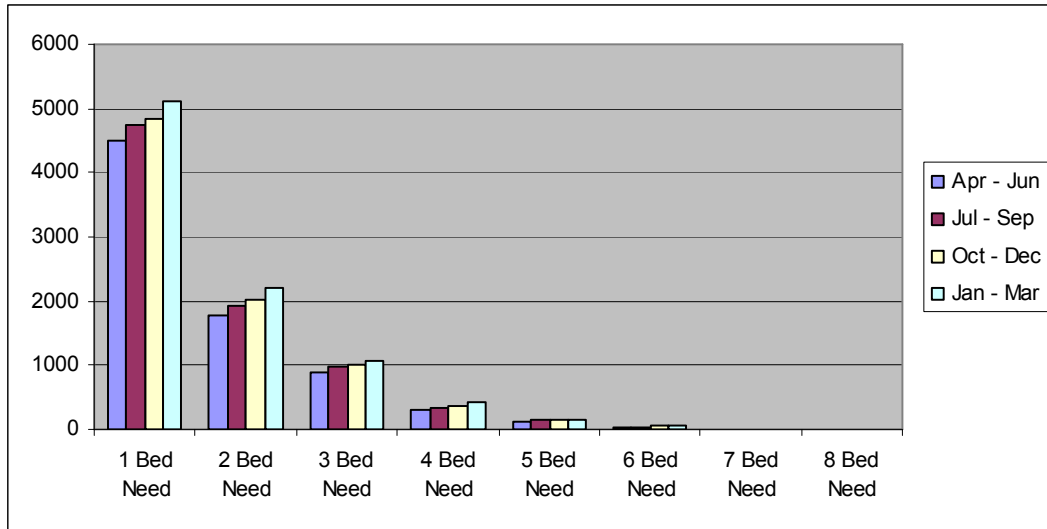


Table 3: Ethnicity of homeless applicants on the Housing Register between October 2012 and December 2012

Ethnicity	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	Jan – Mar 12		Apr – Jun 12		Jul – Sep 12		Oct – Dec 12	
African	206	2.26%	206	2.19%	217	2.25%	218	2.25%
Bangladeshi	12	0.13%	13	0.14%	13	0.13%	13	0.13%
British	5862	65.03%	6229	66.00%	6380	66.25%	6409	66.07%
Caribbean	41	0.45%	44	0.46%	40	0.42%	38	0.39%
Chinese	9	0.09%	11	0.12%	12	0.12%	12	0.12%
Indian	42	0.46%	40	0.42%	39	0.40%	38	0.39%
Irish	60	0.65%	61	0.65%	60	0.63%	60	0.62%
Italian	33	0.36%	31	0.33%	34	0.35%	38	0.39%
Kashmiri	4	0.04%	4	0.04%	3	0.03%	3	0.03%
Not stated	5	0.05%	5	0.05%	5	0.05%	5	0.05%
Other	371	4.22%	384	4.07%	386	4.01%	370	3.81%
Other Asian	331	3.77%	325	3.22%	316	3.29%	329	3.39%
Other Black	74	0.81%	76	0.81%	77	0.80%	78	0.80%
Other White	1359	15.08%	1391	14.72%	1425	14.80%	1458	15.04%
Other Mixed	63	0.69%	62	0.66%	69	0.72%	71	0.73%
Pakistani	224	2.45%	224	2.37%	226	2.35%	232	2.39%
Portuguese	283	3.1%	295	3.13%	296	3.07%	295	3.04%
Traveller	4	0.04%	4	0.04%	4	0.04%	4	0.04%
White Asian	9	0.09%	12	0.13%	9	0.09%	10	0.10%
White/Black African	8	0.08%	8	0.08%	8	0.08%	9	0.09%
White/Black Caribbean	14	0.15%	14	0.15%	12	0.12%	13	0.13%
		100.00%		100.00%		100.00%		100.00%

The two largest groups are highlighted in Table 3. These are persons who describe themselves as British and Other White. The Other White will include persons with European origin including Lithuanians, Polish, Slovakian and Latvians and reflects the population of the city.

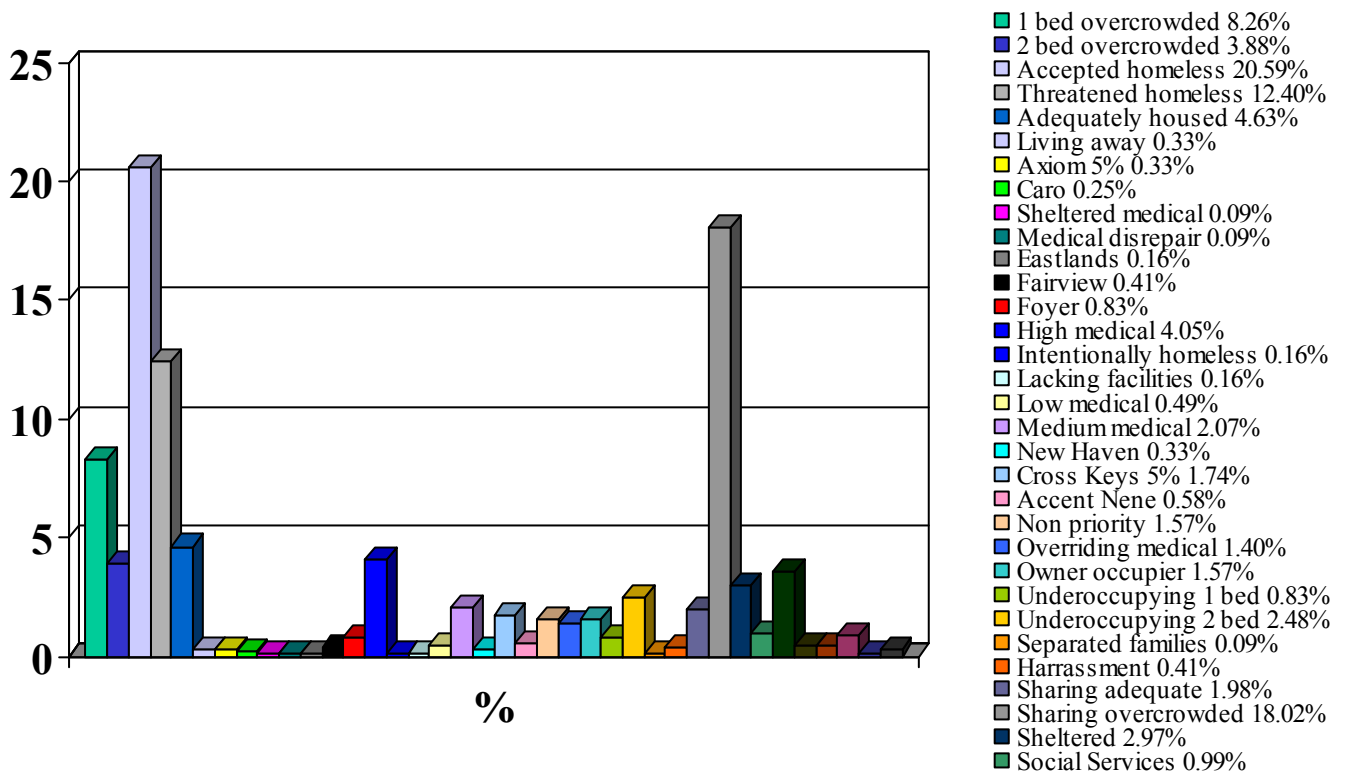
Graph 3: Bedroom requirement of applicants on the housing register by quarter between April 2011 to March 2012



The majority of applicants (5111) registered on the housing register require a 1 bedroom property, followed by 2189 applicants requiring a 2 bedroom property, 1083 applicants requiring a 3 bedrooms, 415 requiring 4 bedrooms, 154 for 5 bedrooms, 51 for 6 bedrooms, 9 for 7 bedrooms and 2 for 8 bedrooms.

Between April 2011 and March 2012 a total of 1258 properties were advertised. Graph 4 represents the breakdown of lettings by the applicant's priority on the housing register.

Graph 4: Breakdown of lettings by priority category between April 2011 and March 2012



A total of 249 properties were let to homeless households during this period and 150 properties were let to households accepted as threatened with homelessness, and 2 to households found to be intentionally homeless. This figure represents a considerable increase in the number of properties let to homeless households in the previous year by 99.

Other Options

For those households and individuals unable to afford to buy a home or rent privately and who do not have sufficient priority to be offered a council or housing association home, remaining options are may sometimes be precarious. These options include renting a single room in a home privately or from friends and family, living in a hostel, sofa surfing and rough sleeping.

Other information held by local authorities to build on the profile

In order to gain a clearer profile of homelessness throughout Peterborough we have used other statistical information from a variety of sources.

8 Reasons for Homelessness

Individuals with a combination of trigger and welfare factors but no protecting factors are particularly at risk of homelessness.

The majority of people live successfully in accommodation and manage housing transitions effectively; a minority do not and can end up homeless. Certain trigger factors can be used to help identify people most at risk of homelessness. Even when these trigger factors occur, the vast majority of people are able to resolve their housing problem without assistance. However there are a number of welfare factors that indicate a greater likelihood of homelessness. Experience has shown that people who avoid homelessness, even when their lives have both trigger and welfare factors present, have what are described here as protecting factors.

TRIGGER FACTORS	WELFARE NEED	PROTECTING FACTORS
At risk of eviction or abandonment	Mental ill health.	Strong networks of family and friends
Family Dispute / Breakdown	Substance misuse	Employed, in education
Leaving an institution	Anti-social behaviour Lack of coping or Practical skills	Co-operating with or actively seeking assistance.
	Learning disabilities. History of Rough Sleeping.	Statutory or voluntary help.

9 Profile of Homelessness

The purpose of this section is to review the levels and needs of homeless people within Peterborough. The review must take into account all forms of homelessness. The Homelessness Act (2002) definition of homelessness remains the same as stated in the Housing Act (1996) *‘Under s.175 a person is homeless he or she has no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere which is available for his or her occupation and which that person has a legal right to occupy. A person will also be homeless if where she or he has accommodation but cannot secure entry to it, or where he or she has accommodation that is a moveable structure (such as a caravan or house boat) and there is no place where it can be*

placed in order to provide accommodation. A person who has accommodation is to be treated as homeless where it would not be reasonable for him or her to continue to occupy it.’1

Peterborough City Council homelessness statistics are based on the monitoring forms that are completed for the DCLG. These are known as P1E’s and are based around decisions and priority need. These statistics are limited but do give an insight into issues that are affecting local people and resulting in homelessness.

Table 6 - Total number of households making homelessness applications to Peterborough City Council

Year	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Total Number of applications	1326	1019	1154

Peterborough City Council has seen a small increase in the number of homeless applications in 2011/12 this is in line with the national picture.

Table 7 - Total acceptance and number of households in temporary accommodation per 1000 during October to December 2011

Local Authority	Number of Acceptances	Per 1,000 Population	Number of household in temporary accommodation	Per 1,000 Population
Peterborough	70	0.97	74	1.0
Norwich	42	0.68	43	0.69
Ipswich	25	0.45	30	0.55
Cambridge	31	0.69	76	1.69

The percentage of applicants accepted by Peterborough is marginally higher than other regional Local Authorities. The number of households in temporary accommodation during this period was lower than Cambridge.

Table 8 - P1E returns to government. Numbers of people accepted as homeless in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-2012 by household type

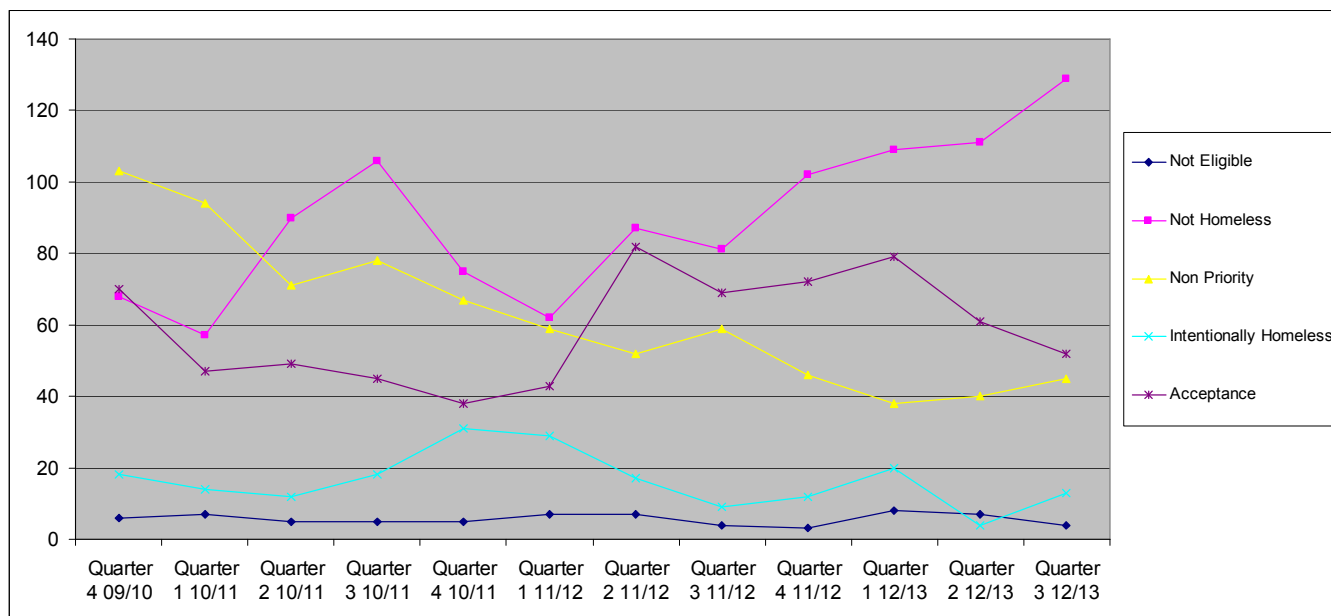
	2009-10	2010-2011	2011-12
Families	183	65	149
Pregnant with no other children	54	26	28
Singles and Couples	158	89	99
TOTAL	395	180	276

A large number of homeless applicants to Peterborough City Council are families or households with a pregnant member. The majority of homeless families are households with 1 or 2 children. There is a statutory duty placed on local authorities by the Housing Act 1996 Part VII, to provide suitable temporary accommodation for homeless families if they are homeless and in priority need. The responsibilities outlined under the Children’s Act 1989 mean that Children’s services also have a duty

to support families in certain situations. Therefore Children’s services also have a crucial role in preventing homelessness and sustaining tenancies.

The needs of children must be considered alongside those of the parents in the delivery of services to homeless families. The traumatic effects of upheaval of homelessness on children are considerable. Peterborough City Council has four family hostels, which provide short-term accommodation for families.

Graph 5: P1E returns: Homeless Decisions made between 2009/10 and 2012/13 by quarter



The number of not eligible decisions has remained consistent over the period, whilst there are a number of peaks with regard to not homeless decisions. This may reflect the increases in the relief of homelessness through Housing Needs Officers assisting households to find alternative accommodation. The numbers of acceptances have reduced over the last quarter along with the number of intentionally homeless decisions. There has been a small increase in the number of persons found to be not in priority need.

Table 8: Reasons for presenting as homeless by number of households 2011-2012

<i>Reason for homelessness</i>	<i>Number of Households presenting</i>
<i>Parents no longer willing to accommodate</i>	236
<i>Other relatives or friends no longer willing to accommodate</i>	277
<i>Non-violent relationship breakdown</i>	103
<i>Violent relationship breakdown (partner)</i>	80
<i>Violent relationship breakdown (other)</i>	16
<i>Racially motivated violence</i>	0
<i>Other forms of violence</i>	18
<i>Racially motivated harassment</i>	0
<i>Other harassment</i>	14
<i>Mortgage arrears</i>	37
<i>Rent Arrears (LA)</i>	4
<i>Rent Arrears (RSL)</i>	43
<i>Rent Arrears (Private sector)</i>	40
<i>Termination of AST (Private)</i>	178
<i>Loss of private rented/tied accommodation (other)</i>	3
<i>End of NASS supported accommodation</i>	22
<i>Prison leaver</i>	61
<i>Hospital discharge</i>	24
<i>Leaving LA Care</i>	23
<i>Left HM Forces</i>	3
<i>Other reason</i>	66
TOTAL	1248

The greatest reason for people presenting as homelessness is friends or relatives unable to accommodate, the second greatest is parents no longer willing to accommodate. This suggests that prevention of homelessness work and resources should initially be aimed at addressing these issues.

A total of 178 presentations were due to termination of Assured Short hold tenancy suggesting that there is further work that could be done in terms of understanding the reasons for homelessness in this area and the development of prevention tools to reduce the number of presentations. Anecdotally, Housing Needs Officers reported that the most common reasons for the loss of an assured short hold were:

- The Landlord wishing to take the property back for own use, or to sell.
- The non-payment of rent.
- The property is in a poor state of repair.
- The tenant not conducting the tenancy satisfactorily.

Single Homeless

There are only very limited statistics about single homeless people as the P1E forms do not record detail about those people who are not in priority need.

Peterborough City Council employs a Single Homeless Officer to provide single homeless persons with advice and support and assist them into accommodation. This accommodation is commonly a room in a shared house, mainly due to the Local Housing Allowance restrictions placed on persons under the age of 35. Support is provided in the form of assistance with seeking accommodation and tenancy support to both the landlord and tenant for the first three months. Since November 2011 the Single Homeless Officer has received 161 referrals and assisted 82 people to access and sustain accommodation in the private rented sector.

Childless Couples

In 2011/12 53 childless couples presented as homeless. The majority of these couples were assisted with a Rent Deposit Loan to access accommodation in the private rented sector.

Housing Advice

The Housing Needs service delivers a range of services to assist people in need of alternative accommodation or advice on their current accommodation. Advice is free and confidential it is provided to everyone despite their housing tenure. The service can be accessed our services by calling (01733) 864064. Housing Advice is also provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau and Peterborough Streets day centre.

In 2011/12 the Housing Needs team based at the Customer Service Centre, Bayard Place, provided housing and homelessness advice to 14,568 people. The prevention of homelessness is the primary focus for the team. Preventing homelessness is both cost-effective and provides positive outcomes for homeless persons. The service aims to ensure that everyone can access the help that they need, when they need it, and to find sustainable solutions to their housing difficulties

Elderly People

A very small number of elderly people present as homeless. In 2011/12 a total of 35 people over the age of 60 years presented to the Housing Needs Service. The majority of this client group can quickly be assisted into sheltered accommodation.

People with Physical and mental disabilities

The Housing Needs Survey (2000) identified that 22% of all households in Peterborough contain someone with a disability. This suggests that there are a total of approximately 14480 households that contain someone with a physical disability.

There are a number of projects throughout the city providing accommodation and support to persons with learning disabilities, autism and physical and sensory disabilities. These include projects at Crowhurst supported by Mencap, Copsewood, Paston Lane, Baron Court, High Street, Eye and DBUK Rainbow Court. The support element of the project is part funded by the housing related support services and adult social care.

These include;

- Residential care homes
- Independent living in the community in general needs housing, where the person lives alone with floating support or with a care package or with on site care
- Group homes (renting a room in a shared house with others and receiving support, either from onsite staff or housing support)
- Supported housing (accommodation within a specific complex with support staff on site during the day or 24/7)

Housing related support services also provide funding for accommodation for persons with mental disabilities these include Eastlands, 277 Eastfield Road and outreach through Axiom Steps.

Additionally, Genesis Housing provides a supported housing project at Mayors Walk. There are 15 rooms within the main house and 10 additional flats. Referrals are made from local agencies and residents include persons with poor mental health, drug and alcohol addictions and learning difficulties.

In 2011/12 28 households were accepted as homeless due to physical disability and 38 households due to mental illness/disability.

Disabled Facility Grants

The Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 made provision for mandatory Disabled Facility Grants to provide adaptations to meet the needs of disabled residents. The Local Housing Authority must decide what are reasonable and practicable adaptations taking into consideration the age and condition of the dwelling and what is necessary and appropriate. The Local Housing Authority has a duty to consult with adult social care on what is necessary and appropriate and this is usually achieved through an Occupational Therapy Assessment of need.

The purposes for which mandatory disabled facilities grants may be given fall into a number of categories, namely:

- Facilitating Access and Provision
- to and from the dwelling
- to a room used/usable as the principal family room
- to a room used/usable for sleeping
- to a room in which there is a WC, bath or shower and a wash hand basin
- to the preparation and cooking of food
- Making a dwelling/building safe
- Providing a room suitable for sleeping
- Providing a bathroom
- Facilitating preparation and cooking of food
- Heating, lighting and power

- Enabling a disabled person to care for a dependent resident
- Access to a garden

In 2011/2012 the DCLG allocated £750,069 to Peterborough for Disabled Facility Grants. The final amount spent (which included monies from Peterborough City Council's capital programme) was £1,674,015. The total number of Disabled Facility Grants delivered by the Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency was 303. This year so far, the DCLG's grant allocation is £691,000 which the Council have made up to £1,725,860. On 30/11/2012 a total of 186 grants have been completed with a total spend of £994,880.

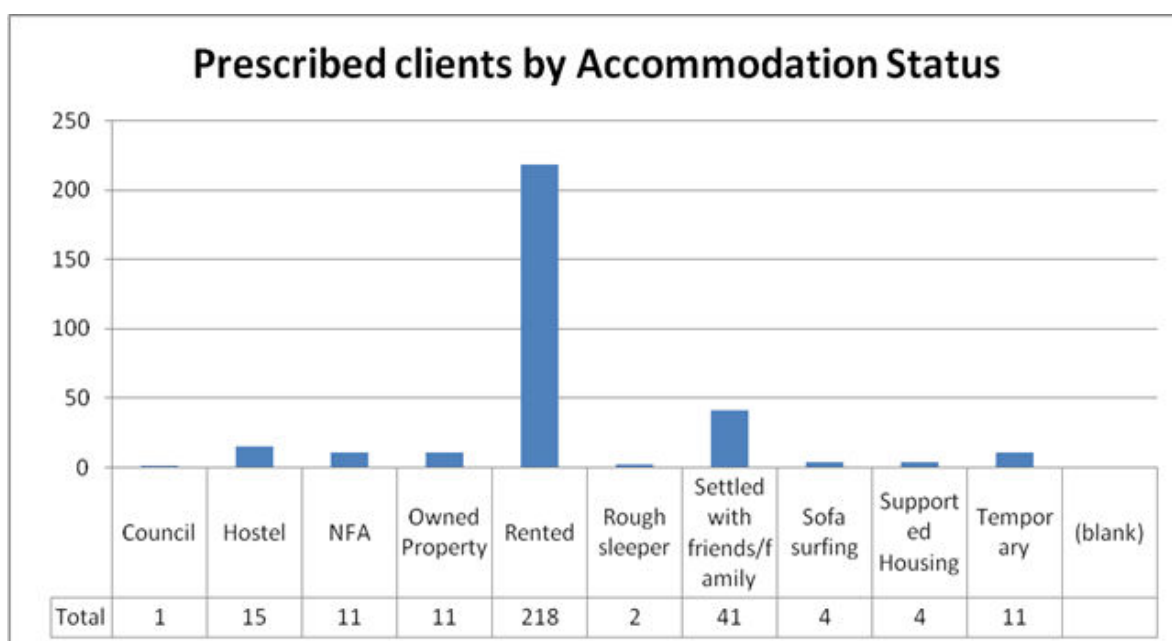
The Housing Needs Service needs to continue to work in partnership to enable that the programme continues to prevent homelessness whilst ensuring that vulnerable persons housing needs are met.

Drug and alcohol misuse and homelessness

Substance misuse has been an important health issue identified for all homeless groups. Aspire Drug Treatment Service provide a community recovery resource which supports people who misuse drugs. They work with individuals to develop life skills to help people enter education, training and employment so that each individual can build their personal recovery and reintegrate into the community. The name Aspire was chosen by service users and stands for service providing Inspirational Recovery Empowerment. Aspire offer the following services;

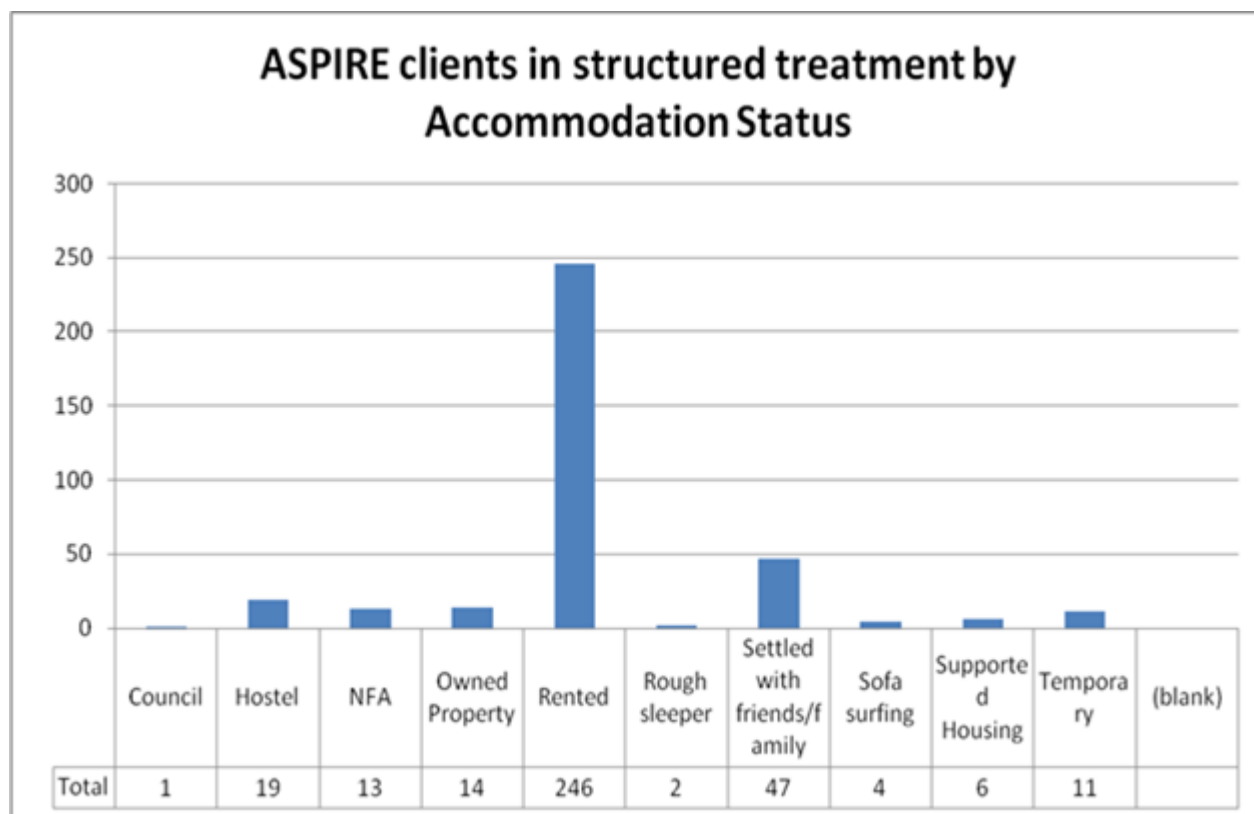
- Needle exchange and harm reduction
- Open access assessment services and referral to other agencies
- Advice and information
- One-to-one sessions and group programmes
- Services for cocaine, crack, ecstasy and amphetamine users
- Recovery and reintegration services
- Access to prescribing
- Parent and family support
- Opportunities to become a peer mentor or volunteer
- 24 hour free phone service

Graph 6: Accommodation status of prescribed clients supported by Aspire



Note: These figures represent a snapshot from November 2012

Graph 7: Accommodation status of clients supported by Aspire in structured treatment*



Note: These figures represent a snapshot from November 2012

*some clients may also have been counted in Graph 6

Drinksense is a non-statutory support agency offering support to people whom misuse alcohol through a number of services including a drop in. Drinksense takes an active role in working with homeless clients with alcohol problems. They provide adult treatment and support services, a hospital alcohol liaison project, criminal justice services and workforce development for professionals.

Rough Sleepers

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) requires local authorities to submit an annual figure indicating the numbers of people sleeping rough in their area. They can do this by means of an estimate or a count. Local Authorities can decide whether to count or estimate in order to determine their single figure and are encouraged to use the method that they think will reflect the number of persons sleeping rough in the local area.

In 2010 the Government widened the definition of rough sleeping:

People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations or 'bashes.')

The general perception of rough sleeping is usually based on the numbers of people seen begging or sitting in doorways during the day or in the evening; this is not usually a true reflection of the numbers of people actually sleeping rough.

Peterborough City Council consulted with Cambridgeshire police, faith groups, Peterborough Streets Day Centre, HMP Peterborough, and Aspire in November 2012 through the Task and Targeting Group to reach a decision on whether to carry out a formal count or an estimate. A decision was reached that the most accurate figure would be achieved through an estimate. In autumn 2012 Peterborough City Council submitted a multi-agency lead Rough Sleeper Estimate to government of 12. This estimate was reached with the guidance and support of Homeless Link. The estimate records a single figure for the number of people thought to be rough sleeping in the local authority area on a typical night between 01 October and 30 November. The figure should be as robust as possible and using the guidance provided will help to get the most accurate estimate.

Table 9: Results of Rough Sleeper Count Autumn 2012

Nationality	Age	Length of time on streets
British	53	2004
British	Unknown	Unknown
British	49	Jan-11
British	65	Jun-12
British	40	Mar-11
British	50	Nov-11
British	38	Dec-11
British	53	Jun-12
Lithuanian	35	Oct-12
Lithuanian	31	Oct-12
Slovakian	49	Aug-12
Lithuanian	45	Sep-12

Rough Sleeper Outreach Service

Peterborough City Council employs a Rough Sleeper Outreach Officer to assist individuals who find themselves sleeping rough after losing their accommodation. The Rough Sleeper Outreach officer has made great strides in ensuring that those who hit the streets are assisted before they reach a point where they are entrenched. In 2010, Peterborough was highlighted in the national media as a rough sleeping hotspot, with reported figures in excess of 70 individuals sleeping rough on any one night. Following the set up of a Task and Targeting group and a joint approach this number was quickly reduced with many being assisted to find work and accommodation, or being assisted to return to their country of origin. This work is continuing and we now have a hardcore of long standing rough sleepers in the city, which we are working with to assist them through a personalised approach to leave the streets.

Homelessness and other related themes

Homelessness is complicated and any response to it involves working with other agencies. Tackling homelessness needs a multi-agency approach.

Health and Homelessness

The homeless community often face many health inequalities. There is a lack of joined up working between health and Peterborough City Council. Homeless people access health services through the GP service at 63 Lincoln Road and the NHS Walk in Services in the city.

Focus Groups

During the month of November 2012 four focus groups were held to discuss the prevention of homelessness, rough sleeping, increasing access to accommodation and promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities. There were a number of re-occurring issues;

Preventing Homelessness

- Concerns rose over the length of time that housing benefit claims are processed.
- Court desk identified approximately 50% of claims are linked to housing benefit claims.
- GP letters are costly - reported up to £150 there is a need for a city wide agreement to reasonable charges.
- Homelessness prevention could be increased by generic floating support.

Rough Sleeping

- Partnership working has improved over recent years.
- No accommodation services for rough sleepers who are chronically excluded.
- Mental health services are unable to assess rough sleepers whilst they are on the streets.
- Flow from HMP Peterborough in particular persons with no local connection needs to be managed.

Increasing access to accommodation

- One of the identified barriers to private sector accommodation is the large housing benefit delays.
- Suggestion of small part of PCC's rent deposit is given to the accommodation provider and recycled.
- Persons with a poor housing history often end up in poor quality accommodation.
- There is a considerable waiting list for Peterborough Foyer.
- Need for more education in schools with regard to homelessness, and prevention.
- Concern over decrease in accommodation due to Universal Credit.
- The city needs a more accessible credit union to enable more private sector landlords to consider homeless households.

Promoting settled and sustainable communities

- Floating support needed for people who do not fit into specific support categories.
- Need for homeless persons to have essential items and support to resettle in the community.
- Need for more training, volunteering and education to give people a purpose.

Care Leavers

Care leavers are often vulnerable and prone to becoming homeless. Under the Leaving Care Act 2000, Children's Services have a duty to accommodate and provide financial support until they reach the age of 18 years. They are also required to support all care leavers until they reach the age of 21. Under the Homelessness Act 2002 priority is given to vulnerable 18 to 21 year olds who are homeless care leavers.

16/17 year olds

In 2011/12 a total of 17 persons aged 16/17 years old presented as homeless. The vast majority of this group were homeless due to parents no longer willing to accommodate.

It is difficult to accurately establish the levels of youth homelessness within Peterborough. This is due to the 'hidden homelessness' situation and the lack of recording or monitoring of approaches to organisations by homeless young people.

Children in need

Sixteen/seventeen year-olds may be the responsibility of Children's Services, if they are a "child in need". The prime causes of homelessness are breakdown of relationship with parents or stepparents and leaving care.

Following a review of procedures we have developed a protocol with children's services, confirming the responsibilities of the authority towards 16 & 17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Young people who present to the authority as homeless will now be referred into the Adolescent Intervention Service who, with the support of Housing Needs, will work with the young person and their family to enable the young person to return home with high level support to improve relationships. Those youngsters who are not able to return home will be provided with appropriate accommodation while the council determines whether they are a child in need and owed a duty under s.20 of the Children's Act 1989.

However, if they are not owed a duty they are offered help and assistance through the Housing Needs service.

Accommodation available for young people

YMCA Timestop

Temporary accommodation is available for young people through YMCA Timestop. However it is important to note that the YMCA Timestop have turned away 161 people this year as there is no bed spaces. During 2011-2012 125 young people were accommodated at Timestop, and 115 people were assisted into alternative accommodation and 19 people were assisted to return to their family home. The main reason for homelessness amongst this group is relationship breakdown. There was no data available on where residents held their local connection.

Peterborough Foyer

The Peterborough Foyer run by Axiom Housing Association provides accommodation for up to 49 young people between the ages of 16 and 25 years old. Support is available to develop independent living skills and advice and support in connection with training, education or employment. The 49 bed project has 35 dedicated foyer rooms and 14 move on rooms for residents who are ready to make the step towards independent living. During 2011-12 the foyer received 231 applications and had 74 vacancies, and 56 positive move ons.

Connexions

Connexions operate a service for all young people aged 13-19 (13-25 for people who have a learning disability). This service is designed to integrate existing advice and support services for young people by creating a single point of access through personal advisers. Connexions have a one-stop-shop service; offering advice and information to young people from the age of 13 onwards and are helping to identify homeless issues at an early stage.

Victims of domestic violence

Domestic violence is perhaps one of the most complicated of homelessness issues.

The number of presentations from people presenting as homeless due to 'relationship breakdown (violent)' in 2011/12 was 80. Although it is important to note that women experiencing domestic violence often present as homeless for other reasons due to the stigma attached to domestic violence.

The MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee) has traditionally met on a monthly basis to discuss the highest risk victims of domestic abuse in the area at that given time. Risk is usually determined by a score from the CAADA DASH risk assessment but cases can also be referred on the basis of professional judgement or as a result of repeat incidents. Peterborough MARAC is currently participating in a trial whereby meetings are held weekly via conference call in an attempt to reduce the number of cases discussed at each meeting and also to reduce the potential delay between the referral and the meeting. The meetings / calls are attended by a number of agencies including but not restricted to; Cambridgeshire Police, Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, Children's Services, Probation, Education, Mental Health, Health Visiting Team, Cross Keys Homes and Housing Needs. The purpose of the meeting is to share information held about both the victim and the perpetrator and to formulate action plans to decrease the risk to the victim

The Housing Needs Service has an essential role to play by providing information on housing rights and advise how the service can assist. This joined-up approach helps to prevent victims of domestic abuse simply waiving their housing rights before getting advice on what assistance we can give. The meetings may also identify that the victim would be suitable for the sanctuary scheme.

Offenders

Research has found that addressing the housing and support needs of ex-offenders is crucial in reducing repeat offending and social exclusion. It is important to note that priority need does not apply to all homeless offenders, only those who are found to be vulnerable.

Offenders will often not identify themselves when making an application for housing. The majority of offenders will present as homeless rather than applying to the housing register. Release from an institution is a recorded reason for becoming homeless but the type of institution is not specified.

The Bail Hostel based in Peterborough is the only hostel in Cambridgeshire and offers accommodation and support to offenders who are considered to be high risk to the public. People who are not considered to be in priority need, and whose offending or housing history has excluded them from accessing social housing are most likely to become homeless. This group of people often ends up 'sofa surfing' or staying in hostel.

HMP Peterborough

HMP and YOI Peterborough have 1008 places and is the country's only dual purpose-built prison for both men and women. The prison also has 12 places in the Mother and Baby unit for convicted female offenders. The prison accepts adult male prisoners from Cambridgeshire, and female prisoners from Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Northants and Warwickshire. This often results in prisoners from other areas without a local connection being released on the streets. Anecdotally, we are unable to ascertain the number of prisoners released without accommodation as there is a myth within the prison population that you will receive a larger release grant if you are no fixed abode.

The One Service

The One Service supports short sentenced male prisoners by offering early engagement, through and beyond the gate and individualised support in the community to address needs and prevent re-offending.

The One Service are members of the rough sleeper Task and Targeting Group and work closely with the Rough Sleeper Outreach Officer to prevent their clients from rough sleeping and empower them to leave the streets.

People leaving the armed forces

There are only a small number of persons who present to Peterborough City Council due to leaving the armed forces. In 2011/12 there were 3 recorded presentations from people leaving the armed forces. The Housing Needs officers work with SAFFA and the Royal British Legion to offer support to this client group.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME Groups)

Black and ethnic minority groups (BME) will often deal with issues arising within the community instead of approaching statutory organisations. The few people from this client group who do approach services are usually presenting at the point of crisis.

Day Centres for the Homeless

Peterborough Streets runs a day centre offering housing and welfare advice, positive activities, and Crisis PRS Scheme to support homeless persons into private sector accommodation. The day centre is used regularly by homeless persons and vulnerable people. The day centre sees on average 5 -8 persons per day.

Future Levels of Homelessness

One of the requirements of the Homelessness Act 2002 is for local authorities, in reviewing the homelessness situation in the district, to assess future levels of homelessness.

Impact of Welfare Reform

The direct impact of welfare reform and homelessness are currently unknown. Anecdotally there are suggestions that it will lead to increased homelessness as households are unable to afford increased rents created by access bedrooms in their accommodation or reductions in housing benefit. Additionally the introduction of Universal Credit could result many landlords no longer receiving safeguarded payments and in turn lead to rent arrears and eviction.

Supported Housing

This review requires that we consider all current activities which contribute to the provision of support for people in the city who are, or who may become homeless and people in the city, who have been homeless and need support to prevent them from becoming homeless in the future.

The Housing Related support service aims to ensure an ever improving range of housing related support services to the benefit of the most vulnerable sectors of the community. The annual budget for Peterborough is £2.3million.

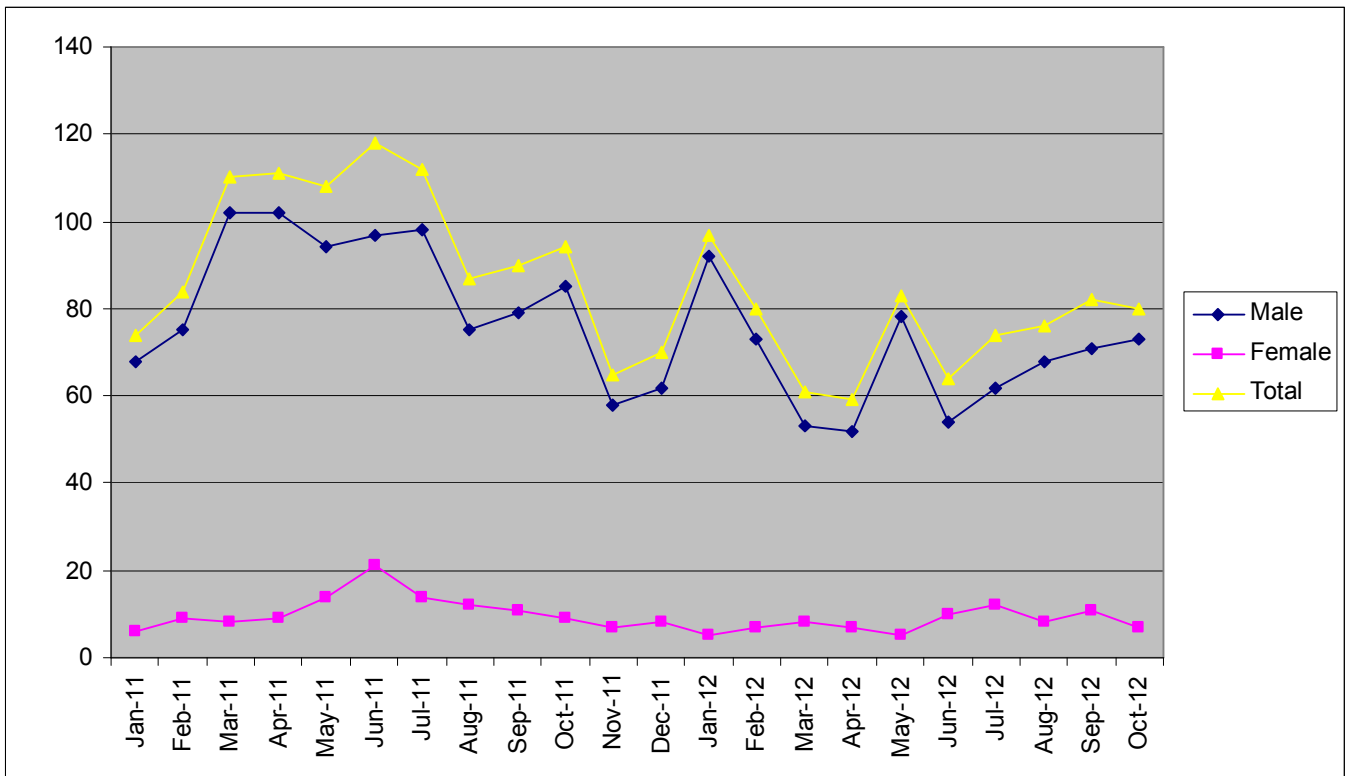
New Haven Night Shelter

The New Haven Night Shelter is the city's direct access hostel. The shelter is owned and managed by Axiom Housing Association and provides temporary accommodation for single homeless persons. There are 17 bed spaces within the shelter. During 2011/12 the most frequent reasons for homelessness were; eviction from private sector tenancy, relationship breakdown and friends no longer willing to accommodate.

The shelter is usually full and during 2010/11 there are only 4 voids recorded and in 2011/12 2 voids recorded. All these voids were due to late departures.

The majority of persons accessing the shelter are supported into private rented sector accommodation by the Homeless Hostel Resettlement Officer.

Graph 8: Single presentations mad at the New Haven Night Shelter between January 2011 and October 2012*



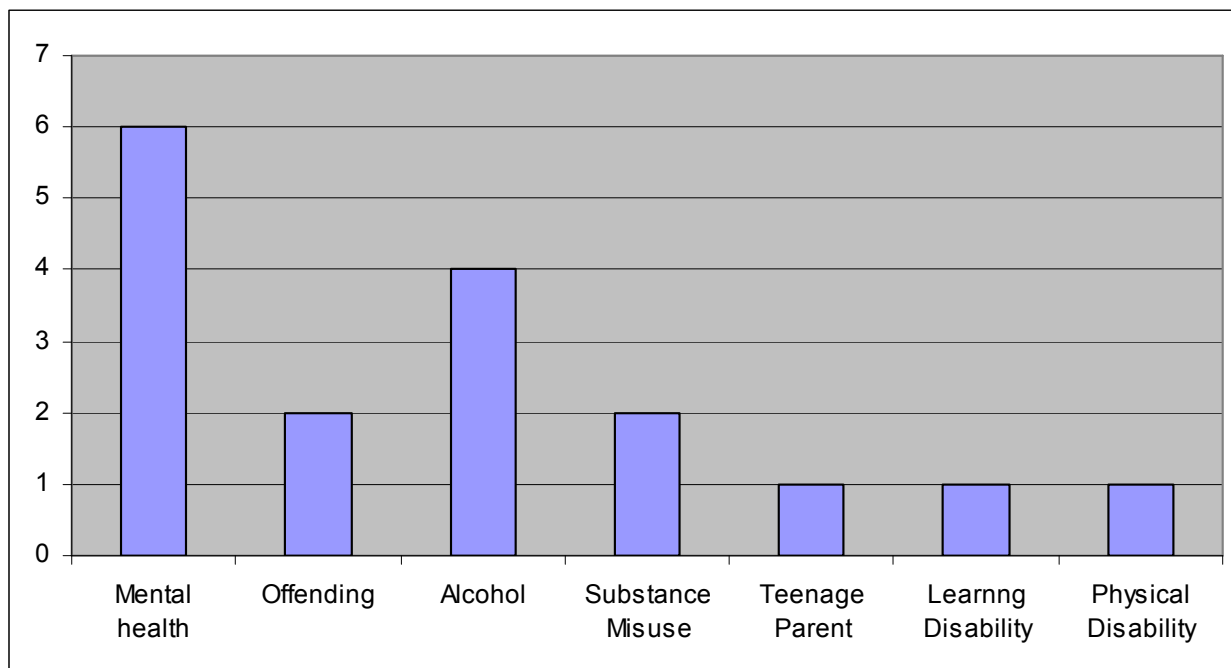
* persons may have presented on more than one occasion

The demand is high for bed spaces at the shelter. Persons are often turned away before they are able to secure a bed.

Fairview Court

Fairview Court is a supported housing project for people who have previously experienced tenancy failure. The project provides support for 17 people aged 17 +. The project through the support of partner agencies empowers people to move forward through training, support, and key working individuals to enable them to move through the support stages and into sustainable long term accommodation.

Graph 9: Snapshot of resident's primary support needs in November 2012



The majority of residents in Fairview Court were receiving support for their poor mental health.

Hope into Action

Hope into Action provides houses for the homeless in partnership with local churches. They train and enable churches to engage with and mentor those living in the house, whilst providing the necessary professional support. Hope into Action currently have 12 houses and accept referrals from agencies in the city including; Peterborough Streets, Housing Needs and HMP Peterborough.

Temporary Accommodation

At present there are a number of households in temporary hostel accommodation and a small number of households are placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. The Council believes that the use of bed and breakfast is unsuitable and is only used as emergency provision. The Government identifies a particular difficulty for families with children staying in bed and breakfast accommodation. Therefore it has set a target that, except when urgent, that is where the housing authority has less than 21 days notice of impending homelessness, no families with children should be placed in bed and breakfast accommodation after 31st March 2004. At the time of the report² the different forms of temporary accommodation in use and the numbers of households are as follows

- Bed and Breakfast: 8 households
- Hostel accommodation: 75 households

10 The Way Forward

Peterborough City Council is committed to preventing and relieving homelessness as well as improving partnerships with service providers in all sectors. The Housing Needs Service recognise that in order to provide a cost-effective and responsive service the Housing Needs team cannot achieve this in isolation. We need to continue to deliver our services in partnership with our statutory and voluntary partners.

² 1st February 2012

The multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Steering Group will be key to the development of the new draft Homelessness Strategy. Whilst the Local Authority recognises the need to lead on the draft Homelessness Strategy it also acknowledges that the success of the Strategy will only be achieved through shared ownership and a joint approach.

The key findings of this review will be feed into the development of the Draft Homelessness Strategy 2013- 2018.

11 Key Findings

Support Services

- Housing Advice is delivered by the Housing Needs Service, Citizens Advice Bureau and Peterborough Streets.
- The majority of clients prescribed by Aspire Drug Services are renting accommodation in the private rented sector.
- The majority of clients in structured treatment services with Aspire are renting accommodation in the private rented sector.

Resettlement Support

- There is very little resettlement support provided to people moving on from hostels or temporary accommodation to prevent the loss of tenancy, and the cycle of homelessness.

Provision of Support

- Homeless persons access health services at the NHS Walk In and at GP service at 63 Lincoln Road.
- Mental health services are unable to assess rough sleepers.
- Floating support is needed for people who do not fit into specific support categories.
- There is a need for more training, volunteering and education to give homeless persons a purpose.

Temporary Accommodation

- The number of applicants is temporary accommodation during October and December 2011 is lower than one regional local authority.

Information and Advice

- Partner agencies identified delays in the processing of housing benefit contributing to homelessness.
- Partner agencies reported GP letters are costly reported up to £150 there is a need for a city wide agreement to reasonable charges.
- The city needs a more accessible credit union to enable more private sector landlords to consider homeless households.

Preventing Homelessness

- Mortgage Rescue Service is essential in preventing homelessness amongst homeowners.
- Partner agencies reported homeless prevention could be increased by generic floating support.
- There is a need for more education in schools with regard to homelessness, and prevention.

Access to accommodation

- Peterborough Strategic Tenancy policy ensures that rents remain affordable.
- There is a high demand for social housing in the city.
- The draft Allocations policy will restrict new applicants to the housing register whilst reducing the number of applications.
- The majority of applicants on the housing register require a one bedroom property.
- The majority of applicants on the housing register will never receive an offer of accommodation

- A total of 20.5% of all letting through the housing register are made to homeless households.
- The percentage of applicants accepted by Peterborough City Council is marginally higher than other regional local authorities.
- Single Homeless Officer has been successful in assisting 82 people into accommodation while supporting them during the early stages of their tenancy.
- The majority of homeless persons aged 60 years and over are assisted into sheltered accommodation through an offer from the housing register.
- One of the identified barriers to private sector accommodation is the large housing benefit delays.
- Persons with a poor housing history often end up in poor quality accommodation.
- There is a considerable waiting list for Peterborough Foyer.

Sufficient Accommodation

- There is a need to secure that sufficient accommodation is available for people who are, or who may become homeless.
- There are no accommodation services for persons who are chronically excluded.
- There is an identified concern raised by partners over decrease in accommodation due to Universal Credit.

Private Rented Sector Accommodation

- Rent Deposit Scheme is essential to enable the continued access to the PRS.
- Mortgage Rescue Service is essential in preventing homelessness amongst homeowners.
- Childless couples presenting as homeless are usually assisted into the private rented sector.

Homelessness

- Welfare Reform will impact on the number of persons unable to meet their housing costs.
- Peterborough City Council has seen an increase in the number of homeless applications in 2011/12.
- The majority of homeless applications made to Peterborough City Council are from homeless families.
- The number of not eligible decisions made remain constant from 09/10 until the third quarter of 12/13.
- The number of intentionally homeless decisions has decreased over the last quarter.
- The number of applicants that Peterborough City Council had a full housing duty to assist has decreased over the last quarter.
- There has been a small increase in the number of persons found to be non priority homeless.
- The most frequently reported reason for households presenting as homeless to Peterborough City Council is 'parents no longer willing to accommodate.'
- The second most frequently recorded reason for households presenting as homeless is 'other relatives or friends no longer willing to accommodate.'
- The third most frequently recorded reason for households presenting as homeless is 'termination of AST (private).'
- The rough sleeper estimate for Autumn 2012 identified 12 rough sleepers.
- The Rough Sleeper Outreach Officer has continued to reduce rough sleeping.
- Court Desk identified approximately 50% of all claims are linked to housing benefit delays.

Repeat Homelessness

- There is no data available on the number of households experiencing repeat homelessness due to lack of data. More robust recording systems need to be established.

Partnership working

- There are identified delays in the processing of the payment of housing benefit.

- Partners suggested of small part of PCC's rent deposit is given to the accommodation provider and recycled.

Effective Partnerships

- There is a need for joint protocols and partnerships to be strengthened between housing and adult social care to further enable homeless persons to be supported.

Linking with other strategies

- There is a need for the homeless Strategy to link in with all appropriate strategies including health, housing, education and community safety.

12 Recommendations

The Homelessness Strategy will be informed by the findings of the Homelessness Review. The key areas that the Homelessness Strategy needs to consider are:

The prevention of homelessness

To develop services to ensure that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people who are, or who may become homeless

To secure that there is satisfactory provision of support for people who are or who may become homeless again.

To promote and maximise the Mortgage Rescue Scheme through the Housing needs team.

There is a need to develop prevention initiatives to respond to the main causes of homelessness.

Accommodation for chronically excluded persons

There is a need to develop accommodation for this group.

Repeat Homelessness

We cannot demonstrate the number of households experiencing repeat homelessness due to lack of data. Robust recording systems need to be established to show levels of repeat homelessness.

Support Services

Training, education and volunteering opportunities for homeless persons need to be developed.

Explore options for generic floating support services to be developed to prevent homelessness.

Housing Benefit

There is a need to explore reasons for housing benefit delays and develop solutions.

Health Services

Research needs to be carried out to assess the feasibility of a city wide agreement for GP information letters for homeless persons.

Information Services

There is a need to consider introducing homelessness education sessions in schools.

Access to accommodation

Consideration needs to be given to developing services to respond to the one bedroom need identified through the Housing Register.

There is a need to explore alternative ways for the rent deposit scheme finances to be maximised

Effective Partnerships

There is a need for joint protocol and partnership to be further developed between housing and HMP Peterborough.

Provision of Support

There is a need for adequate support for people who are, or who may become homeless.

Bed and breakfast accommodation

Bed and breakfast accommodation should continue to be used as emergency accommodation only.

Sufficient Accommodation

- There is a need to secure that sufficient accommodation is available for people who are, or who may become homeless.

Resettlement Support

- Support services need to be mapped and where possible there needs to be a focus on tenancy support and homelessness prevention.
- Floating support is needed to prevent the impact of welfare reform.

Rough Sleepers

- There is a need for mental health services to be developed to enable rough sleepers to be assessed.

Linking with other strategies

- There is a need for the homeless Strategy to link in with all appropriate strategies including health, housing, education and community safety.

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The Homelessness Strategy
2013 – 2018

Draft

1.0 Vision and Strategic Aims

Our Vision is: To prevent and respond to homelessness by ensuring that we provide a range of effective targeted services that respond to our customer needs

We have 4 key strategic aims:

Strategic Aim 1 – Preventing and relieving homelessness through a robust partnership approach

We are aware that in order to provide cost-effective and responsive services we cannot work in isolation. We will deliver our services in partnership with our voluntary and statutory sector partners to provide the best possible solutions.

Strategic Aim 2 - Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation

We will continue to maximise the opportunities for differing accommodation choices for homeless persons and person threatened with homelessness and continuing to increase the accommodation choices available persons in housing need.

We will continue to develop and deliver a suitable private rented sector offer for all client groups that includes support for both clients and landlords. We need to ensure that those most affected by the welfare reforms are able to access a range of accommodation solutions and we will make best use of the private rented sector.

Every resident of Peterborough should have access to safe warm healthy and affordable housing. The ability to live in decent housing has prime influence on their quality of life, their life expectancy and the opportunities available to the to work study and access leisure, sport and cultural activities.

Strategic Aim 3 – Reduce and prevent rough sleeping

Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness and where people are the most vulnerable. We will continue to build on our partnership approach to reducing and relieving rough sleeping. This work will include projects that will enable the city to deliver the No Second Night Out principles.

Strategic Aim 4 - Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities

Ensuring that homeless households are given the support to resettle within the community and thrive through purpose and encouragement.

2.0 Introduction

This is our third refresh of the Homelessness Strategy and sets out the strategic aims for Peterborough City Council and its partners for tackling and preventing homelessness between 2013 and 2018.

The strategy has been developed within the context of national and local issues and identifies four strategic aims that will drive forward the homelessness agenda in the coming years in Peterborough.

The Homelessness Act 2002 placed a duty on local authorities to develop a Homelessness Strategy and to renew this every five years.

The previous Homelessness Strategy published in 2008 made an important contribution to both tackling and preventing homelessness in Peterborough. The strategy built on partnership working whilst maximising homeless prevention opportunities and contributed to an increase in homeless

preventions.

The key achievements from the 2008 Strategy include;

- Mortgage Rescue Scheme established and assisted 27 households who would have become homeless without intervention.
- Multi-Agency rough sleeping Task and Targeting Group established in April 2010.
- All homeless persons provided with information on where they can register with a GP.
- Framework established for Unlawful Evictions and 3 successful convictions achieved.
- Rough Sleeper database established with multi-agency viewing rights.
- Tenancy Relations Officer post created and recruited to.
- 2010 Temporary Accommodation target action plan created and implemented.
- Notification system established to notify the Local Education Authority (LEA) within 10 working days when children in temporary accommodation are not attending school.
- Continued prevention of homelessness with partners
- Waiting times reduced by new delivery of Housing Needs Service.
- All homeless persons attending the Housing Needs service are signposted to Peterborough Streets Day Centre and other support services.

This strategy will build on our achievements whilst strengthening our partnerships and seek to address our new challenges.

With the 2002 Homelessness Act, the government made homelessness prevention a priority by providing increased funding to tackle homelessness, setting challenging targets for prevention and placing requirements on local housing authorities to produce Homelessness Strategies. The Homelessness strategy was to be informed by a review of performance, current service provision and estimated future need. The Act stated that the focus of these strategies was to be on prevention measures, as well as emphasising the importance of offering advice to all people in housing need.

There are a number of National strategies and guidance that have helped to shape this Homelessness Strategy these include:

Making every contact count: A joint approach to preventing homelessness (2012) sets ten local challenges for housing authorities to ensure that every contact local agencies make with vulnerable people and families really counts to ensure that we prevent households, regardless of household make up from reaching a crisis point where they are faced with homelessness.

Sustainable Communities: settled homes; changing lives (2005): Homelessness Prevention, reduction in the use of temporary accommodation by 50% by 2010, from 2010 B&B no longer suitable for 16/17 year olds.

Sustainable Communities: Homes For All (2005): Choice Based Lettings schemes in all local authorities in England by 2010.

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM), September 2009

Tackling Homelessness (2006): recognises the role of registered providers of social housing in preventing homelessness through partnership working, sustainable communities, allocation and management policies and better use of existing stock.

No One Left Out: Communities Ending Rough Sleeping (Nov 2008): aimed to end rough sleeping in UK for more than one night by 2012.

No Second Night Out. This government plan sets out six joint commitments to ensure multi agency working to give local people the tools to tackle rough sleeping and put an end to second nights out on the street.

Developing Homelessness Strategies, Specialist Advisors' Local Authority Toolkit, December 2012

We have embraced homelessness prevention and have made considerable progress with developing tools and services that are able to maximise our opportunities to prevent homelessness. During 2011/12 we prevented homelessness for 206 households and relieved homelessness for 48 households.

We will continue to build on our partnerships and will develop innovative ways to deliver services and prevent homelessness alongside addressing the impact of Welfare Reform.

There is an unprecedented amount of policy and economic change that will impact on homelessness during the life of this strategy. Preparing for the impact of welfare and policy reform will be a key priority.

The Localism Act 2011 brings local authorities more freedom and flexibility in the allocation of social housing through being able to reorganise how housing registers are managed to reflect local need. The private rented sector will be able to be used to bring the main homelessness duty to an end.

These changes will enable local authorities to make flexible decisions on accommodation and whether the need can be met adequately without the offer of social housing. In adopting this new approach the valuable resource of social housing will be freed up for those in the greatest need.

Registered Providers will be able to create new forms of tenure. Tenancies for life for new social housing tenants can be replaced by fixed term flexible tenancies of two, five or 10 years renewable depending on household circumstances.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced a wide range of initiatives to make the benefits system fairer and easier to navigate, with the overarching emphasis of getting people back into work, and making work pay.

However, these changes are likely to have a negative impact on levels of homelessness across the country. These changes are:

Change to the Shared Room Rate

Since April 2012 those under 35 will only be eligible for housing benefit to rent a room in shared accommodation. This will mean an increase in demand for cheaper accommodation more often than not family dwellings, which have been converted into houses in multiple occupation. These properties have to meet minimum standards and should be licensed.

Change to Local Housing Allowance Rates [LHA]

Also since April 2012, LHA rates have been increased annually in line with the Consumer Price Index instead of being varied by the average market rents in an area. These levels have previously been changed from being set at 50% of the average rent in the broad market rental area (BMRA) to 30%. This has meant benefit claimants are now only able to afford three out of ten properties in the private rented sector.

The effective change is that households may have a shortfall in available funds to pay rent. Raising awareness of these changes to those affected will be essential, Discretionary Housing Payments may be able to assist with short term shortfalls.

April 2013 saw the introduction of the a size criteria. This only applies in the social rented sector (eg council and housing association properties) for working age tenants replicating the size criteria that applies to housing benefit claimants in the private sector under LHA rules.

This means that people living in houses larger than they need (under occupiers) will have to move somewhere smaller or make up the difference in rent because their housing benefit will be reduced.

There is a 14% cut for those deemed to be under occupying by one bedroom and a 25% for those under occupying by two or more bedrooms.

Capping Local Housing Allowance

Changes in the LHA rates in April 2012 removed the 5 bedroom rate. This meant that households living in a five bedroom or more property are now only be able to claim up to the maximum rate for a four bedroom property. This means that large families renting in the private rented sector may have a shortfall in rent if they are living in a property with more than four bedrooms.

Universal Credit 2013

Will bring households benefit payment including housing cost into one single payment for people of working age. Direct payments to landlords will cease. This will result in landlords having no guarantee that rent will be paid and will directly impact of the numbers of private sector landlords willing to consider claimants alongside a possible increase in rent arrears that may lead to eviction and homelessness.

The Benefit Cap 2013

The benefit cap will apply to people aged 16 - 64 of working age receiving benefits including housing cost. The benefit cap will ensure that families who are not engaged in employment do not receive more in benefits than the average working family. Maximum benefits will be set at £26,000 annum for couples & £18,000 per annum for singles out of work.

All the above will place additional strain on services, whilst households struggle to cope with their income reductions and struggle to meet their housing costs. Additionally, public spending cuts, changes to the Housing Allocations policy to reflect localism, the introduction of affordable rents, new forms of tenure and the impact of un-ring fenced supporting people funding and imminent reductions that this will bring offer further challenges for the delivery of services. We will continue to monitor the impact of these changes through the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and when necessary update the Strategy to tackle the impacts.

Changes to the homelessness duty – In November 2012, as a result of the Localism Act 2011, the law changed and gave Council's the power to discharge their homelessness duty into suitable accommodation with a private landlord.

However, in order for the offer to be considered suitable the property and landlord must meet certain minimum standards.

The Council must be of the view that the accommodation is in a reasonable physical condition; that the landlord has taken reasonable fire safety precautions; has taken reasonable precautions to prevent the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning in the accommodation; the landlord is a fit and proper person; the property has a valid energy performance certificate (EPC) and gas safety certificate and that the tenancy is for a minimum fixed term of 12 months. Where applicants become homeless again within two years, the original authority will retain the duty. This homelessness strategy fits with the overall housing strategy framework

Strategic Aim 1 - Prevent homelessness and reduce levels of homelessness against the main causes for presentations through evidence based research and resource allocation

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
1.1	Deliver early intervention to prevent homelessness	1. Increase the number of households where homelessness is prevented or relieved by advice provided.	Increase number of homelessness preventions reported in P1E return by 20% year on year.	3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Housing Needs Housing Needs Information & Data Officer
1.2	Develop self-help tools for those able to turn information into action.	1. Utilise the PCC website, the Peterborough Homes website and web-kiosks in the customer service centre to provide information relating to private sector landlords, social housing, tenant and landlord rights, direct access hostels, supported accommodation and homelessness.	Develop universal text that can be used across all media types and update the relevant web pages by the end of December 2013	2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation		Rob Smith – Housing Needs Review & Procedures Officer Housing Needs – Information & Data Officer
		2. Develop information pages for non-priority homeless persons.	Produce information text for the web pages and upload by the end of August 2013			Rob Smith – Housing Needs Review & Procedures Officer Housing Needs – Information & Data Officer
		3. Update the PCC web pages to include details of private sector landlords who are accredited with contact information and types of property they offer.	Produce the accredited landlords list and upload to the PCC website by the end Oct 2013. Update the list monthly to ensure it is current			Adam Cliff – Empty Homes Officer Housing Needs – Information & Data Officer
		4. Add pages to the PCC website detailing, which private sector landlords who have been prosecuted in the last 12 months to prevent flow of tenants towards poor landlords.	Produce a list of landlord prosecuted and upload to the PCC website by the end December 2013. Update the list monthly to ensure it is current.			Joanne Hodges – Senior Enforcement Officer Gareth Brighton – Housing Needs Tenancy Relations Officer Housing Needs – Information & Data Officer

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
		5. Produce a potential tenant checklist detailing what to look for when viewing properties i.e. EPC, gas safe certificate, security, working heating	Produce information text for the checklist for the web pages and upload by the end of August 2013			Joanne Hodges – Senior Enforcement Officer Gareth Brighton – Housing Needs Tenancy Relations Officer
1.3	Offer a comprehensive prevention service, with advice and support for single people as well as families in need	1. Ensure continued funding to maintain the current Single Homeless Project Officer Role in the Housing Needs team or ensure the knowledge and working practices are transferred across the rest of the Housing Needs Team.	Continued funding for role agreed or roles and responsibilities of the Single Homeless Project Officer are distributed amongst the remaining members of the Housing Needs Team	2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Jurga Tonkuniene – Housing Needs Single Homeless Project Officer
		2. Demonstrate effectiveness of the role in order to support bid for funding of role by producing report to show number of single persons supported into accommodation and employment since 2012	Report produced demonstrating the effectiveness of the role by the end of December 2013	3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Jurga Tonkuniene – Housing Needs Single Homeless Project Officer
1.4	Work with RSL partners to develop an action plan to minimise homelessness as a result of welfare reform and the introduction of universal credit	1. Establish working group through the Financial Inclusion Forum.	Working group established by the end June 2013	None		Leonie McCarthy – Social Inclusion Manager RSL partners Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager
		2. Carry out research to establish jam jar scheme.	Research completed and information/literature is made available for clients by the end August 2013			Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager
		3. Set up jam jar scheme for RSL tenants in receipt of welfare benefits.	Ensure 'Jam Jar' scheme is available to all renting tenants prior to the introduction of universal credit in October 2013			Leonie McCarthy – Social Inclusion Manager RSL partners Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager
1.5	Improve partnership working, joined up services, communication	1. Develop a joint training programme for front line staff.	Training Matrix developed and delivered to all front line housing staff by the end March 2014.	None		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager

Develop a basic training

Rob Smith – Review & Procedures Officer

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
	and understanding of homelessness and housing issues at an operational level.		programme for customer service and children's services staff to be introduced as part of their induction by the end of July 2014.			
		2. Ensure all forums and meetings focus on improving communication, dispelling myths, joint working and assessing good practice.	Ensure attendance at relevant forums/meeting by March 2014			Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Housing Needs Team
		3. Develop a training programme specifically around private sector landlords, houses in multiple occupation and selective licensing to be delivered to partner services.	Training Programme developed and schedule completed to deliver to partners by December 2013. 1 st round of training delivered by August 2014			Joanne Hodges – Senior Enforcement Officer Gareth Brighton – Housing Needs Tenancy Relations Officer
		4. Develop and deliver training courses/drop in question and answer sessions (with appropriate advertising) for private sector landlords to provide education on the legislation relating to housing standards, houses in multiple occupation, selective licensing, tenancy relations.	Training Programme developed and schedule completed to deliver to private sector landlords by March 2014. 1 st round of training delivered by December 2014			Joanne Hodges – Senior Enforcement Officer Gareth Brighton – Housing Needs Tenancy Relations Officer
1.6	Reduce number of homeless presentations as a result of private sector landlords taking possession action through s.21 accelerated possession procedure to end an Assured Shorthold Tenancy	1. Produce questionnaire to establish reasons for evictions, etc.	Questionnaire produced by September 2013	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager Carole Wheatley – Information & Data Officer Private Sector Landlords Peterborough County Court
2. Contact Court to establish top 10 private sector landlords applying for possession orders.	Contact made with court and information obtained by November 2013					
3. Distribute questionnaires to Top 10 and through the Landlords Forum	Questionnaires distributed by January 2014					

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
		4. Responses collated and key findings used to develop prevention tools.	Responses collated and findings examined. Recommendations considered by April 2014			
1.7	Provide tailored advice to homeowners at risk of homelessness Reduce the number of homeless presentations due to mortgage arrears.	1. Continue to maximise the Governments Mortgage Rescue Scheme	Continue to promote the Governments mortgage rescue scheme with a view to increasing the uptake by 20% until the scheme ceases during 2013/14	2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Hayley Flaxman – HNO Mortgage Specialist
		2. Develop systems to identify households at risk of homelessness due to mortgage arrears at an early stage	Develop procedures for dealing with pre action notifications received from mortgage lenders to engage with households before possession action in the courts is taken by August 2013			Hayley Flaxman – HNO Mortgage Specialist
		3. Develop the role of a Housing Needs Officer specialising in mortgage advice.	Provide training to the mortgage specialist to assist clients in exiting homeownership where homelessness prevention is not possible by December 2013			Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager
1.8	Reduce the number of homeless presentations due to parents no longer willing to accommodate their children.	1. Develop literature to dispel myths with regard to youth homelessness	Literature produced, uploaded to the PCC website and available in the Customer Service Centre by January 2014	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager PCC Media Team
		2. Work with supported housing providers to maximise opportunities for young people to access accommodation	Develop a local supported housing allocations panel to manage referrals and accommodation pathways to ensure appropriate allocations of accommodation at supported housing projects by March 2014			Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager Supported Housing Providers
		3. Work with voluntary sector organisations to support a bid to re-establish education in schools programme	Training programme established and agreement made with education to include on the PHSE programme by March 2014			Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager Education
		4. Work with Children's social services to develop a protocol to ensure all 16/17 year olds who present to the authority are dealt with via joint assessment process at the point of	Introduce protocol and integrate joint assessments by April 2013			Sean Evans - Housing Needs Manager Wendi Ogle-Welbourne – Assistant Director

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
		crisis.				Childrens Services Adolescent Intervention Service
		5. Develop information on the reality of private renting (info on houses in multiple occupation, rent and top ups, pictures etc on the reality of house sharing, managing on limited income, pitfalls to watch out for etc aimed at young people and which can be used to try and prevent homelessness and offered in schools as training under PSHE sessions	Information produced and agreement made with education to provide info include on the PHSE programme by March 2014			Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager Education
1.9	Review the prison release procedure to maximise the opportunities to prevent homelessness	1. Review the current prison release procedures and produce a protocol, which ensures prisoners who will be NFA on release have information relating to housing prior to release.	Procedure for NFA persons agreed and implemented by September 2013	3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping		Sarah Scase – Housing Needs Officer HMP Peterborough The One Service
1.10	Take steps to reduce the number of homeless presentations due to friends and relatives no longer willing to accommodate	1. Integrate home visits into the process of taking a homeless application. 2. Produce literature detailing alternative housing options and assist households with alternatives prior to them becoming homeless.	Integrated visits established by December 2013 Literature produced and made available by January 2014	3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping		Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager PCC Media Team
1.11	Take steps to reduce the number of homeless presentations due to hospital discharges.	1. Refresh, agree and implement Hospital Discharge Protocol. 2. Stop Hospital discharges to Bayard Place	Hospital Discharge Protocol implemented and discharges to Bayard Place stopped by March 2014.	2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Peterborough City Hospital CPMHT Jeanette Gibson – Housing Medical Advisor Adult Social Care - Transfer of Care Team

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
1.12	Research the development of an eviction prevention fund using funds from Homelessness Grant to prevent families becoming homeless.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out research to establish average level of rent arrears for families presenting as homeless. 2. Project cost of piloting scheme to provide interest free loan to repay rent arrears and stay in current accommodation. 3. Present cost of establishing scheme against cost of accommodating in temporary accommodation. 4. Establish scheme. 	<p>Research completed by August 2014</p> <p>Report produced with recommendations by October 2014</p> <p>Reduction in homeless presentations and use of temporary accommodation year on year</p>	None		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Carole Wheatley – Intelligence & Data Officer</p>
1.13	Carry out quarterly Mystery shopper exercise on all Housing Services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partner agencies to carry out quarterly mystery shopper exercise. 2. Utilise results of mystery shopping experience to improve service 3. Review outcomes to ensure all services are acting on results 	<p>Mystery shopper exercises produced and timetables completed by October 2013</p> <p>1st round of exercises completed by March 2014</p> <p>90% satisfaction ratings achieved by March 2015</p>	None		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sharon Malia – Housing programmes Manager</p> <p>Russell Carr – Care & Repair Manager</p> <p>Partner Agencies</p>
1.14	Work with Drink sense to consider options for community detox for alcohol dependant tenants at risk of homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrange meeting with Drinksense to establish feasibility of community detox. 2. Conclude on feasibility of establishing community detox for this group. 	<p>Meeting arranged and discussions completed by November 2013</p> <p>Feasibility established by January 2014</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Drinksense</p> <p>RSL Partners</p>
1.15	Research reasons for repeat homelessness and develop an action plan to work to reduce levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse applications and produce report for the reasons of repeat homelessness within the last 12 months. 2. Develop action plan 	<p>Reasons for repeat homelessness established by December 2013</p> <p>Action plan developed by March 2014</p> <p>Repeat Homelessness numbers reduced year on year</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Carole Wheatley – Intelligence & Data Officer</p>

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
1.16	Review staff training and requirements for all Housing needs staff and develop staff training plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review individuals training history and training needs. 2. Establish individuals training plan. 	Training identified and matrix drawn up by October 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Rob Smith – Review & Procedures Officer</p>
1.17	Invest time and resources into regional and national joint working through appropriate representation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend Regional Homelessness meetings. 2. Attend national and regional seminars. 3. Work with Homeless Link to ensure knowledge of national and regional good practice. 	Ensure representation at both regional meetings and national and regional seminars by December 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p>
1.18	Promote homelessness prevention as the cornerstone of Housing and maximise prevention opportunities through utilisation of the available homelessness prevention grant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximise opportunities to prevent homelessness by Housing Needs staff utilising Homelessness Prevention Fund in innovative and creative ways. 2. Promote homelessness prevention amongst other council departments and partners 	A 20% increase in the number of homelessness preventions recorded year on year throughout the life of the strategy.	None		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>All Housing Needs Officers</p>
1.19	Ensure applicants experiencing difficulties in meeting their housing costs are able to access appropriate specialist advice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map current debt advice provision available in the city and analyse referral data 2. Prioritised advice for those who are threatened with homelessness within the next 28 days because of debt management issues 3. Produce an information leaflet for service users to advise what is available and where 	<p>Debt advice mapping exercise completed by September 2013</p> <p>Ensure prioritised debt advice remains available for clients faced with homelessness throughout the period of the strategy</p> <p>Information leaflet produced and information made available on the PCC website by the end of December 2013</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Hayley Flaxman – Housing Needs Officer</p> <p>Citizens Advice Bureau</p> <p>Salvation Army</p> <p>PCC Media Team</p>

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
1.20	Take appropriate steps to ensure that following the removal of the eligibility for the 1 bedroom LHA rate for people aged between 25 – 34 those who fall into the exemption categories are aware of the exemptions and how to apply.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce information on the exemption groups and make it available in the customer service centre and on the PCC website. 2. Create and maintain a list of hostels that meet the DWP guidance to be excluded from housing benefit reforms. 	<p>Produce Literature and upload to PCC website by March 2014.</p> <p>List produced by August 2013</p>	3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>All Housing Needs Officers</p> <p>Serco – Housing Benefits</p>
1.21	Work with partner RSL's and private sector landlords to develop a tenant at risk panel to identify at earliest opportunity vulnerable tenants at risk of homelessness.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a working group including RSL's and key private sector landlords in the city. 2. Develop procedures to increase opportunities to prevent homelessness. 3. Utilise information through a Task and Targeting working group. 	At risk panel established and terms of reference and procedures established by the end August 2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Rob Smith – Review & Procedures Officer</p> <p>RSL partners</p> <p>Private Sector Landlords</p>
1.22	Work with RSL partners to develop a training flat for those who have experienced previous tenancy failure.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact LA's and Homeless Link to establish good practice when setting up training flat. 2. Investigate outcomes from MEAM training flat in Cambridge. 3. Establish a working group including partner agencies and RSL's to develop training flat. 	<p>Pathway developed for those who are excluded from accommodation because of behaviour or previous tenancy sustainment issues by October 2013</p> <p>Accommodation and support is available for vulnerable persons whose behaviour does not meet social norms and who are currently excluded from hostels by March 2014</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>RSL partners</p> <p>CPMHT</p> <p>Housing Related Support</p> <p>Adult Social Care</p>

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
1.23	Ensure that the Housing Needs Service continues to be able to utilise part of DHP pot as a homelessness prevention tool.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that Housing Needs contributes to the review and development of the DHP policy. 2. Maintain current access arrangements 	Continued use of the DHP pot to prevent homelessness through the life of the strategy	None		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager PCC Serco Client Team Serco– Housing Benefit
1.24	Raise awareness of Impact of welfare benefit reforms and discharging of duty into the private rented sector.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver information workshop to partner agencies. 2. Printed Information produced for the public 3. Information uploaded to the PCC website 	<p>Information workshops delivered by end December 2013</p> <p>Information leaflets produced by the end of October 2013</p> <p>Info uploaded to the OPCC website by November 2013</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 		Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager Housing Needs Officers
1.25	Set up and facilitate quarterly Homelessness Strategy review & steering group meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate Homelessness Strategy Steering Groups on a quarterly basis. 	Strategy Steering Groups established and delivered quarterly from adoption of the strategy to its conclusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager
1.26	Promote homelessness prevention on a strategic level with partner RSL's through the CBL Operations Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to develop prevention agenda through the RSL partners Operations Board 2. Develop and implement pre eviction protocols with all partners 	A reduction in RSL eviction resulting in rent arrears year on year throughout the life of the strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager RSL Partners

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
1.27	Mortgage Scheme for first time buyers	1. Maximise opportunities for first time buyers to access Lloyds TSB Mortgage Scheme through promotion of scheme as a 'real' option.	An increase in the number of first time buyers accessing Lloyds TSB Mortgage Scheme.	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Stephen Pilsworth
1.28	Work with Job Centre Plus to identify key persons as a contact for all homeless persons	1. Identify contact at Jobcentre and arrange to meet. 2. Establish joint working procedures. 3. Protocol agreed and implemented.	Contact identified and protocol established by end March 2014	3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping		Sarah Scase – HNO Rough Sleeper Outreach
1.29	Ensure the needs of homeless people are considered in relevant strategies	1. Attend meeting and events to ensure homeless persons are considered in all local strategies.	Housing representations at key meetings and events by end December 2013	2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Belinda Child – Strategic Housing Manager Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager
1.30	Ensure effective referral processes between Housing and Children's Specialist Services	1. Develop protocol and joint working procedures. 2. Deliver joint training to Housing Needs and Children's Services. 3. Implement protocol and joint working. 4. Review on a quarterly basis.	Protocol and joint working procedures established. Joint training delivered. Protocol implemented. Quarterly reviews completed.	2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Wendi Ogle Welbourne - Children's Services
1.31	Deliver Sanctuary Scheme work to enable the victims of domestic violence to continue to live	Work allocated on receipt and completed in a timely manor.	Work allocated on receipt and completed in 7 days for < £200 jobs 14 days for £200 - £500 and 28 days > £500	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Russ Carr Housing Options Vetted Contractors

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
	in their current homes preventing violence and homelessness.					
1.32	To deliver benefits advice to care & repair clients and where appropriate refer on to expert advice services. The aim is to maximise the income of vulnerable people to enable them to maintain their tenancies or freeholds and not fall into arrears which prevents illness and homelessness.	Staff trained in the changes April and Oct 2013	To check benefit entitlement in all grant cases and increase income for over 30 clients in 2013/14	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Agency Caseworkers Housing Programmes Ferret Systems DIAL
1.33	Provide advice and refer clients to other services to ensure they are housed in suitable, safe and warm properties	n/a	Refer on 500 clients in the final year	None		Russ Carr
1.34	Maintain Housing Related Support funding to focus on preventing homelessness by developing a supported housing pathway	<p>1. Continue to fund support staff delivering housing related support in hostel settings, delivering drop services and delivering floating, outreach support.</p> <p>2. Re-design services to deliver support in hostels to move on accommodation to independent accommodation with floating support in order to achieve an effective pathway of support to obtain and maintain suitable accommodation in both</p>	<p>Funding for Housing Related Support is maintained at existing levels throughout the life of the strategy</p> <p>A clear pathway of support to tenancy sustainment is achieved</p> <p>An increase of clients moving through the support services into independent accommodation and</p>	<p>2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation</p> <p>3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping</p> <p>4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable</p>		Sharon Malia – Housing Programmes Manager

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
		the social and private rented sector for the vulnerable client groups supported.	a reduction in homeless presentations	communities		
1.35	Maintain a strategically placed Home Improvement Agency	1. Ensure the Home Improvement Agency continues to operate within Strategic Housing to ensure effective processes and procedures, data sharing and decision making is maintained and enhanced.		2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable		Belinda Child – Strategic Housing Manager

Strategic Aim 2 - Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
2.1	Maximise opportunities for persons accessing private rented sector accommodation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and develop Rent Deposit Scheme. Work with Peterborough Streets to maximise referrals of single persons to Crisis Private Rented Sector scheme. Work with partners to make best use of funding sources 	<p>Increase in the number of Rent Deposits awarded year on year throughout the life of the strategy.</p> <p>Increase in the number of persons assisted by Peterborough Streets while Crisis funding is maintained</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing homelessness through partnership working Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Peterborough Streets</p> <p>Axiom Housing Association</p>
2.2	Develop relationships with private sector landlords	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve relations with private sector landlords through education delivered by Tenancy Relations Officer. Ensure attendance at the Housing benefit private sector landlords forum & the quarterly NLA meetings. Carry out survey with private sector landlords to establish barriers and suitable solutions in encouraging them to rent to households who may be in receipt of benefit. 	<p>Increase in the number of private sector landlords working with the Housing Needs service.</p> <p>Ensure attendance at the Housing benefit private sector landlords forum & the quarterly NLA meetings throughout the life of the strategy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing homelessness through partnership working 		<p>Gareth Brighton – HNO Tenancy Relations</p> <p>Private Sector Landlords</p>
2.3	Continue on-going support, advice and enforcement with private sector landlords to improve housing conditions and management.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with private sector landlords providing both support and enforcement to improve housing conditions. 	<p>Fewer homeless presentations as a result of accommodation being unreasonable for persons to continue to occupy by December 2014</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing homelessness through partnership working Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Jo Hodges – Senior Housing Enforcement Officer</p> <p>Housing Needs Team</p>
2.4	Promote and encourage private landlords to become accredited with the NLA and develop an Approved Register of Private Sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an Approved Private Sector Landlords list. Promote accreditation and encourage good practice within the private rented sector in the city. 	<p>Approved landlord list produced and made available on the PCC website by end August 2013</p> <p>Landlord accreditation scheme introduced with a substantial base of landlords to further market and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 	<p>Accreditation scheme launched in February 2013, with some landlords already signed up, and further enquiries received</p>	<p>Adam Cliff – Empty Homes Officer</p> <p>Carole Wheatley – Intelligence &</p>

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
	Landlords in the city.		promote the scheme by march 2014			Data Officer
2.5	To increase housing stock availability through the reuse of empty homes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To promote and actively market the Empty Homes Partnership to empty home owners. To increase interest in the scheme through members, the public and through media release 	<p>To increase stock availability by introducing a minimum of 100 properties to the scheme, and have them let through the CBL system.</p> <p>Promote the scheme so that all those eligible are aware of what is on offer to them</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing homelessness through partnership working Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 	Currently, there is one lease signed and in the hands of Cross Keys for refurbishment, with a further two in the pipeline to join the scheme in the near future.	Adam Cliff – Empty Homes Officer
2.6	Explore options for the development of supported lodgings scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contact YMCA to discuss the feasibility of establishing supported lodging in line with model currently operated in Cambridgeshire. Develop report to outline costs, savings to be made and recommendations for establishing model of supported lodgings. Establish a supported lodging scheme in Peterborough. 	<p>Discussion undertaken by end March 2014</p> <p>Report produced by end August 2014</p> <p>Scheme established by</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing homelessness through partnership working Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>YMCA</p>
2.7	Maximise the opportunities for the best use of social housing stock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh of Bedrooms Standards Policy in line with welfare reforms. Promote the benefits of CBL2 and maximise the opportunities it brings to improve the CBL experience for customers 	<p>Bedroom Standards Policy refreshed.</p> <p>CBL2 established.</p> <p>August 2013</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing homelessness through partnership working Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager
2.8	Refresh of allocations policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Re-write allocations policy to reflect changes as a result of localism and housing needs. 	<p>New Allocation Policy agreed and implemented by August 2013</p> <p>Northgate Housing System upgraded to latest supported version and maintained by December 2013</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Northgate</p> <p>Serco ICT</p>

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
2.13	Explore options for rooms in a Home where the Landlord befriends	<p>1. Investigate good practice in this area.</p> <p>2. Explore feasibility through voluntary and faith based groups.</p> <p>3. Identify suitable Landlords and pilot for 6 months.</p>	<p>Investigations complete by March 2014</p> <p>Feasibility established.</p> <p>Scheme piloted by March 2015</p>	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>All voluntary sector and faith based partners</p>
2.14	Process Disabled Facility Grant applications to assist aged & disabled adults & children to live independently to the full extent the budget allows.	Continued flow of applications throughout the financial year in line with quarterly targets	Spend 100% of the DFG budget in 2013/14	<p>1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working</p> <p>4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities</p>		<p>Russ Carr Occupational Therapy Housing Programmes Vetted Contractors Supporting People</p>
2.15	Install Minor Aids & Adaptations to assist aged & disabled adults & children to live independently	Continued delivery to June. New contract tender and award by 1 June 2013. Continued delivery to April 2014	Delivery A&A in line with contract details in 2013/14	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		<p>Suzanne Baronowski Occupational Therapy Vetted Contractors</p>
2.16	To deliver the Repairs Assistance programme to improve HHSRS defect in properties of vulnerable people to enable them continue to live safely in their homes.	Continued flow of applications throughout the financial year in line with quarterly targets	Spend 100% of the RA budget in 2013/14	<p>1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working</p> <p>4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities</p>		<p>Russ Carr Housing Programmes Vetted Contractors Supporting People</p>
2.17	Complete Repairs & Disabled Adaptation work that is privately funded. To ensure properties are suitable for the resident to continue to live in.	Steady flow of work throughout the year.	Undertake 20 jobs in the 2013/14 financial year.	<p>1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working</p> <p>4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities</p>		Agency Surveyors
2.18	Find alternate funding to assist with disabled facility and repairs grant work to enable independent living.	Continues work privately funded or part funded e.g. client/charitable contributions	Achieve £100,000 of alternate funding in 2013/14	<p>1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working</p> <p>4. Promoting settled lifestyles and</p>		Agency Caseworkers

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
				sustainable communities		
2.19	Delivery Disabled Relocation Grants to allow disabled adults and children to remain living at home.	Completion of identified cases without delay	Completion of all identified cases in 2013/14 within 4 weeks of identification of an alternate property.	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working		Russ Carr Housing Programmes Housing Options Vetted Contractors
2.20	Maximise supply of available housing by bringing empty homes back into use	<p>1. Identification of suitable properties for the Empty Homes Partnership with Cross Keys Homes</p> <p>2. Identification of nuisance , long term empty properties for potential enforcement action – including Empty Dwelling Management Orders, Enforced Sale and Compulsory Purchase</p> <p>3. To investigate all reported empty property and to negotiate, advise and monitor owners to bring back the properties into use through informal means</p> <p>4. To raise awareness of the Empty Homes issue and to promote the service and strategy to owners, neighbours and those affected by empty homes</p>	<p>100 properties brought back into use through the Empty Homes Partnership and available through CBL by March 2015</p> <p>80 properties brought back into use and available through CBL per annum</p>	<p>1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working</p> <p>4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities</p>		<p>Sharon Malia – Housing Programmes Manager</p> <p>Adam Cliff – Empty Homes Officer</p>
2.21	Maximise opportunities for people to access suitable accommodation in the private rented sector	<p>1. Promote and encourage private sector landlords to become accredited on Peterborough's Accreditation Scheme run in conjunction with the NLA</p> <p>2. Work in conjunction with the NLA to develop training materials and packages to achieve skill and knowledge development of accredited landlords and encourage</p>	<p>Increase in number of accredited landlords operating in the city</p> <p>All properties operated by accredited landlords meet the suitability of accommodation criteria and are free from Cat 1 hazards</p> <p>Approved Register of private rented sector properties is</p>	<p>1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working</p> <p>4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities</p>		Adam Cliff – Lead Officer for Accreditation

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
		<p>good practice within the private rented sector</p> <p>3. Ensure the suitability of accommodation requirements are met in properties used for discharging duty</p>	compiled and maintained			
2.22	Provide Disabled Facility Adaptations to enable independent living	<p>1. Maintain the PCC's capital programme for Disabled Facility Grants at levels to meet anticipated demand for adaptations</p> <p>2. Provide reasonable and practicable adaptations to meet the long term housing needs of disabled people</p> <p>3. Match clients on the housing register with medical priority to appropriate properties becoming available through CBL ensuring existing adapted social housing is fully utilised with minimal additional adaptation required</p> <p>4. Work with Occupational Therapy and Housing Programmes to identify suitable solutions for young disabled people living in fully adapted parental homes to achieve independence when parents report difficulty with continuing care.</p>	<p>100% of capital programme for Disabled Facility Grants is achieved per annum</p> <p>All adapted social housing is fully utilised</p>	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working		Sharon Malia – Housing Programmes Manager
2.23	Utilise Repairs Assistance Funding to enable vulnerable, low income home owners to remain living in suitable accommodation	1. Maintain the PCC's capital programme for Repairs Assistance at levels to meet anticipated demand for assistance to remedy Category 1 hazards in the home	100% of capital programme for Repairs Assistance is achieved per annum	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Sharon Malia – Housing Programmes Manager
2.24	The continued delivery of Works in Default cases to mitigate HHSRS hazard in privately	Completion of identified work ad hoc	Completion of all referrals within the agreed time limits in 2013/14	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and		Russ Carr / Paul Evans Housing Enforcement Vetted

Objective	Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
rented properties to allow people to reside in safe environments and prevent homelessness.			sustainable communities		Contractors

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Strategic Aim 3 – Reduce and prevent rough sleeping

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
3.1	Reduce flow of rough sleepers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partner agencies to identify persons at risk of rough sleeping. 2. Deliver training sessions to partner agencies to prevent homelessness including tenant rights and responsibilities. 	<p>Risk factors identified and group established to identify individuals by August 2014</p> <p>Training delivered by October 2014</p>	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working		<p>Sarah Scase – HNO Rough Sleeper Outreach</p> <p>Peterborough Streets</p> <p>Aspire</p> <p>Drinksense</p> <p>Police</p> <p>UKBA</p> <p>Housing Forum members</p>
3.2	Reduce incentives for people to remain in street based lifestyles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with police and city centre services to reduce begging and busking. 2. Work with faith-based sector to ensure services are accessed by the needy not the greedy to sustain street based lifestyles. 3. Work with police and UKBA to continue to carry out enforcement action. 	<p>Reduction in anti social behaviour in anti social behaviour and the numbers of persons becoming entrenched in street based lifestyle</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Police</p> <p>City Centre Manager</p> <p>Safer Peterborough Partnership</p> <p>UKBA</p>
3.3	Develop point of arrest service to persons with no fixed abode.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact police to discuss risks, positives, negatives of establishing a point of arrest service. 2. Create and agree protocol using good practice evidence. 3. Establish services to enable all rough sleepers in custody are 	<p>Meet with police to discuss feasibility of the service.</p> <p>Protocol agreed.</p> <p>Service established by March 2015</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities 		<p>Sarah Scase – HNO Rough Sleeping Outreach</p> <p>Police</p> <p>UKBA</p>

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
		contacted by the rough sleeper outreach officer.				
3.4	Work with voluntary sector organisations to deliver 'No Second Night Out.'	1. Support partner agencies to deliver NSNO through the funding of the Homelessness Transitions Fund.	NSNO implemented. April 10th	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager Partner Agencies Axiom Housing Association Peterborough Streets
3.5	Continue to work with faith Sector to develop services to empower rough sleepers to leave the streets and not sustain street based lifestyles.	1. Map current service provision provided by Faith Sector. 2. Identify gaps and duplicated services. 3. Contact all Faith Based Groups to deliver information training including service awareness and referral routes.	Faith sector provision mapped, gaps identified and training delivered by the end May 2014	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager Sarah Scase – HNO Rough Sleeper Outreach All faith based groups
3.6	Develop personalised budgets for entrenched rough sleepers	1. Research and produce reports identifying good practice and cost based outcomes for personalised budgets. 2. Identify persons to be considered for personalised budgets and project cost in line with pilot projects. 3. Produce report on outcomes, associated costs and feasibility of establishing in Peterborough.	Personalised budgets established for entrenched rough sleepers developed by April 2014.	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 4. Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities		Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manger Christine Spooner -Homeless Link

Strategic Aim 4 - Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
4.1	Explore options for developing resettlement programme for people with substance misuse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrange meeting with Aspire to discuss resettlement programme. 2. Conclude on feasibility of establishing programme. 	Meeting arranged, and discussions completed Feasibility established and programme established by January 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Aspire</p>
4.2	Work with partners on a strategic level to promote and develop access to mental health services for homeless persons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify referral routes into mental health assessment services 2. Ensure clients are referred into services where required 	<p>Referral routes identified.</p> <p>Referrals made and mapped to progress provision by August 2014</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 		<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>CPMHT</p>
4.3	Work with partners to improve mental health amongst homeless persons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify level of support and map services alongside opportunities for improving mental health. 	Supported mapped and opportunities identified by October 2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 		<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite Adult Social Care Assertive Outreach Team</p>
4.4	Explore the need for detoxification facilities in Peterborough	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify key partner agencies. 2. Map existing services and levels of need. 3. Quantify cost of alcohol misuse to the city. 4. Produce report outlining findings and detailing clear recommendations 	Aims to enable that detoxification facility are accessible to vulnerable adults in the city	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 3. Reduce and prevent rough sleeping 	The investment in detox services should reduce costs to homelessness and health service by contributing to minimising harm and chaos experienced by service users.	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Drinksense</p> <p>Safer Peterborough partnership</p>
4.5	Continue to develop joint working with the Learning Disabilities Partnership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue representation on the learning disabilities partnership board and associated forums 2. Ensure that service users with learning disabilities receive the required support to make applications and obtain suitable accommodation through the choice based lettings scheme 	<p>Continued attendance at the LDPB</p> <p>Link into the service for the accommodation officer in adult social care to assist clients in applying for accommodation</p> <p>Literature produced and uploaded to the PCC website by December 2014</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working 		<p>Hayley Flaxman – Housing Needs Officer</p> <p>Learning Disabilities Partnership Board</p>

Objective		Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
		3. Develop literature relating to services offered by Housing Needs in easy read formats				
4.6	Apply and utilise available Warm Homes & Healthy People funding to prevent excess winter deaths, falls and accidents and enable people to live in warm and safe homes	Dept of Health Announcement Oct 2013. Application Nov. Award Dec.	Application in Nov. If successful full utilisation of funding Dec to March 2014 Dec-March 2014	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working		Russ Carr Dept of Health PECT Salvation Army Age UK Public Health Housing Programmes Vetted Heating Engineers
4.7	Deliver Heating Grants to utilise the entire budget to enable people to continue to lived independently in homes with adequate heating and hot water.	Continued flow of applications throughout the financial year in line with quarterly targets	Spend 100% of the Heating budget in 2013/14	2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation		Paul Evans Housing Programme WHHP partnership. HP scheme Supporting People
4.8	Deliver a Handyperson Service to older & vulnerable people to enable people to continue to live independently	The amount of Interventions and spend at quarterly intervals compared to targets	Help 3,000 people to live independently in 2013/14 and up to the allocated budget. Limit.	2. Increasing access to safe, warm, healthy & affordable accommodation		Lorraine Game Supporting People. Vetted Handyperson Contractors Age UK
4.9	Ensure people who are in fuel poverty or are experiencing difficulties in meeting their energy costs are signposted to appropriate funding streams and advice services	1. Utilise the Winter Warmth Partnership referral mechanism to signpost eligible clients to: Peterborough's Collective Switching Scheme Care & Repair Benefit Entitlement Checks DIAL Benefit Entitlement Checks Affordable Warmth ECO funding through British Gas Heating Grants through Care & Repair Peterborough Community	100% of capital programme for Repairs Assistance allocated to Heating measures is achieved per annum An increase in Affordable Warmth ECO referrals into British Gas by 31 st March 2015 ECO funded energy efficiency improvements in pilot project areas delivered by 31 st March 2015	1. Preventing homelessness through partnership working		Sharon Malia – Housing Programmes Manager Russ Carr – Care & Repair Manager

Objective	Key Actions / Milestones	SMART targets	Linked Strategic Aims	Progress	Lead Officer/Key Partners
	<p>Assistance Scheme CAB/Salvation Army for debt advice</p> <p>2. Signpost eligible clients to ECO and Green Deal funding opportunities provided by the Council's Strategic Partnership with British Gas</p>	<p>An increase in Green Deal Assessments being carried out and Green Deals being taken up in the LA area</p>			

Draft

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
4 JUNE 2013	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director

Contact Officer(s) – Leonie McCarthy, Social Inclusion Manager
Contact Details - 01733 864308

THE IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM

1. PURPOSE

To inform the Committee of the impacts of Welfare Reform and the work being undertaken through the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme to tackle poverty and destitution

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To review the programmes of work identified to tackle poverty and endorse or make recommendations for amendments and/or additions

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- Creating Stronger and Safer Communities by making Peterborough Safer and empowering local communities
- Creating Opportunity, Tackling Inequality by supporting vulnerable people, improving skills, education and health
- Delivering Substantial and truly sustainable growth by increasing economic prosperity.

4. BACKGROUND

In 2012 the Welfare Reform Act was introduced to the UK. This was the biggest reform of social security in 60 years.

The reform of the welfare system was designed to deliver £18billion savings nationally initially, with a further £10billion thereafter.

The aims were also to make the system of benefits and tax credits fairer and simpler, create incentives to get more people into work by ensuring that 'work always pays', protect the most vulnerable in our society and deliver fairness to those claiming benefit and to the tax payer.

The changes for Peterborough include

- Council Tax Benefit (c8,000 households now paying for the first time)
- Under occupancy rules (1,737 households will be unable to meet their rents through housing benefit payment)
- Social Fund and Community Care Grants (£1.2m removed in grants and loans, but replaced with Local Welfare Provision)
- Benefit Cap (expected to affect c200 households in Peterborough from July 2013)

There are also some major infrastructure changes in the way that benefits will be awarded including the introduction of Universal Credit in early 2014 to replace current welfare benefit support, the introduction of Personal Independence Payments for new claimants (October 2015 for existing claims) and Employment Support Allowance (income benefit/income support –

claims limited to one year)

Total loss of direct benefit income to Peterborough as a result of welfare reform is estimated to be in the region of £26.20m.

Our research into the impacts of welfare reform also included looking at the unintended consequences which we believe may include:

- A reduction in High Street economy
- Increased evictions
- Overcrowding
- Increased acquisitive crime and shoplifting
- Domestic Abuse
- Loan sharks
- Substance misuse
- Mental and Public Health issues
- Fuel Poverty

5. KEY ISSUES

In replacement of the £1.2m social fund, which incorporated Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants, Peterborough City Council was this year awarded £803,904 to tackle poverty and destitution.

To ensure these funds would mitigate the significant impacts of Welfare Reform, a group of strategic partners from the voluntary, private and statutory sector, working on issues to tackle poverty, were brought together to form a Welfare Reform Steering Group.

The purpose of this group is to:

- Provide a strategic overview of future welfare changes and implications
- Oversee delivery of a Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS) and any emerging trends/issues
- Understand the impact of Universal Credit and other welfare changes and to provide the necessary support and resources to enable a smooth transition for affected clients in Peterborough

Through research and wider consultation the group have agreed an action plan to provide the following outcomes for Peterborough:

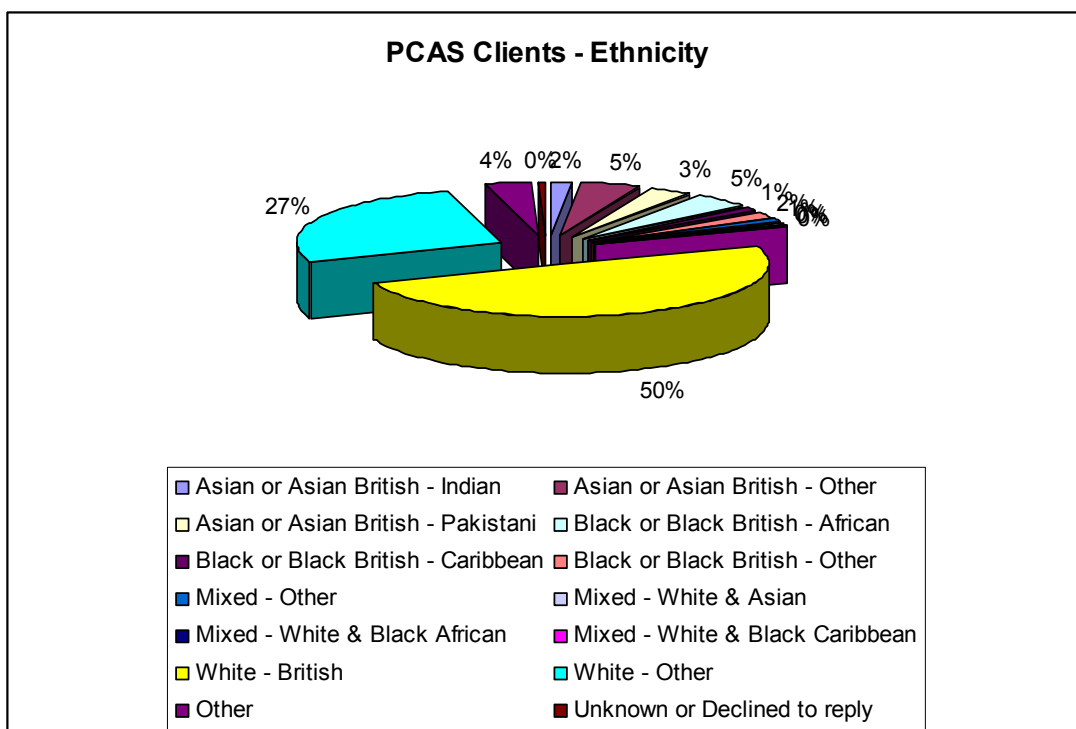
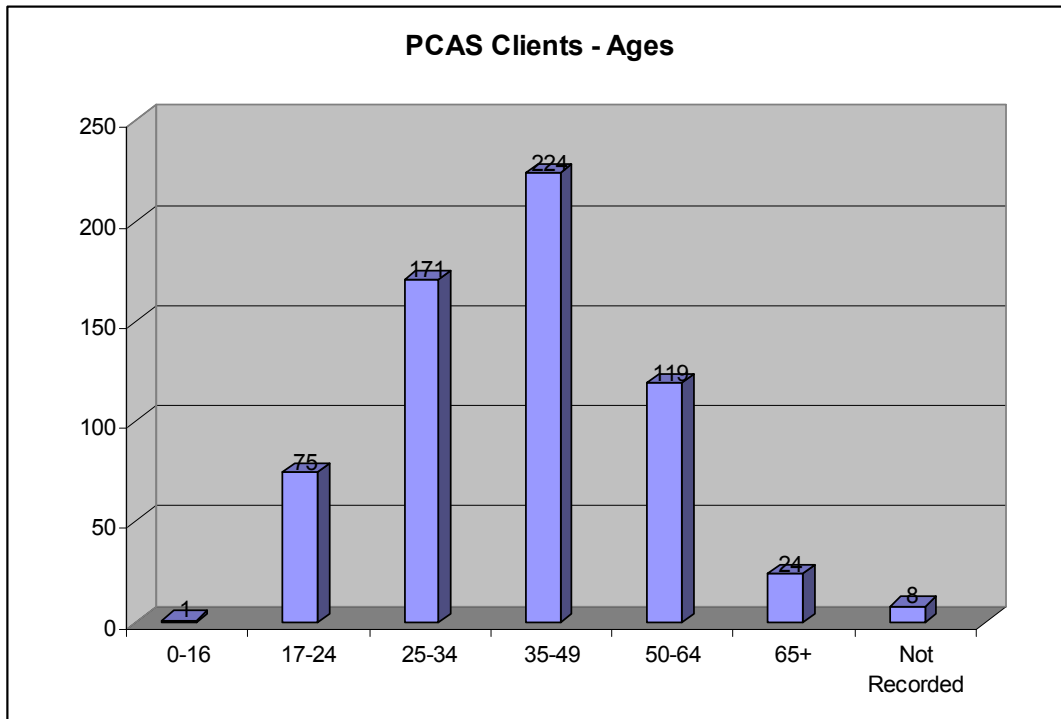
- Maximisation of Income
- Reduction of debt
- Crisis intervention

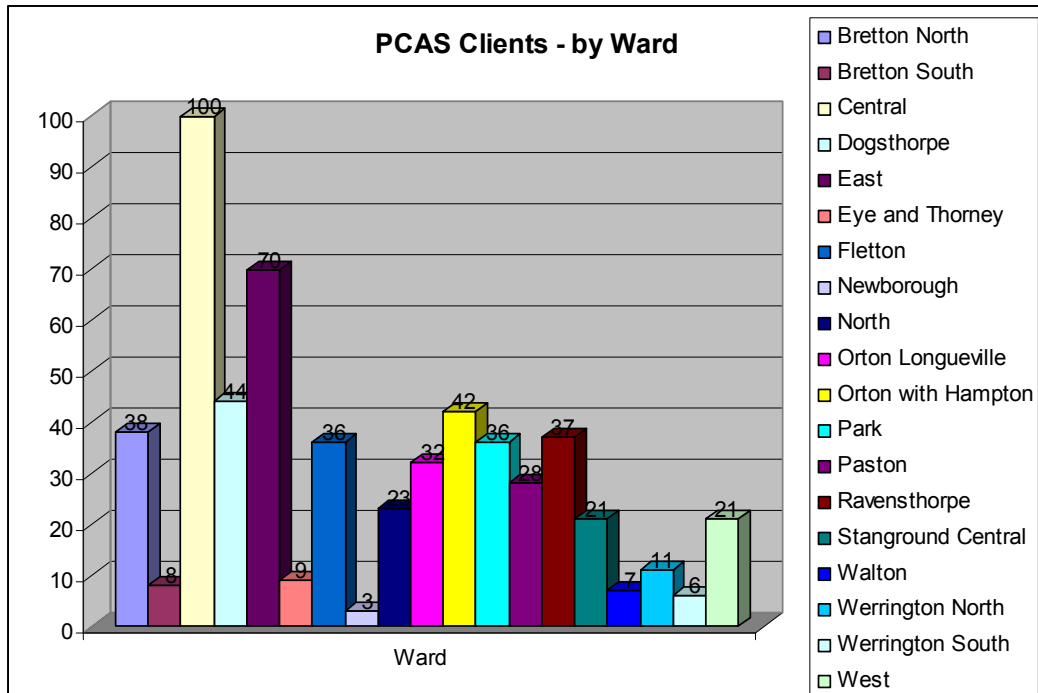
To ensure delivery of these outcomes the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS) was set up to provide:

- Peterborough's first Credit Union (managed by Rainbow Saver Credit Union)
- A basic needs facility for furniture, white goods and general crisis provision (managed by Carezone, Kingsgate)
- A specialist voluntary information and advice network (incorporating Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureau, Disability Information and Advice Line, Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service and Peterborough and Fenland MIND)
- Peterborough's first citywide Foodbank with 6 outlets to date (led by Kingsgate Church)

The first three months of the programme are to ascertain the need of clients and the level of

resources required going forward. The majority of clients eligible for PCAS assistance have been referred directly from the Department of Work of Pensions to the Citizens Advice Bureau for screening and advice. This enables the scheme to ensure that those most in need and eligible for support are assisted to maximise income and reduce debt. A breakdown of the clients who accessed the service in April 2013 is illustrated in the following graphs:





Where appropriate a voucher system enables clients to access basic needs – food, beds, clothing, heating, essential household items, furniture, white goods, etc.

If clients are assessed to require specialist information and advice, i.e disability, mental health, volunteering opportunities etc, they are referred to the relevant PCAS advice agencies.

Data is collected at all points of contact with clients to ascertain trends and issues, including information relating to Equality and Diversity.

During phase one work will be undertaken to provide a City Centre Hub which will be a one stop service for the PCAS scheme. The hub will also incorporate access to employment opportunities, volunteering, business start up, information and advice, fuel poverty initiatives, financial management and budgeting training, ICT access and training.

There will also be a roll out of basic benefits and debt training for community based agencies and groups to provide early intervention and support to local residents and communities affected by welfare reform.

During the coming months we will deliver a Rogue Traders Action Plan and Tackling Illegal Money Lenders action plan.

6. IMPLICATIONS

We are exploring methods to measure the performance of our work which will include:

- Reduction of clients returning after early intervention
- No of clients securing voluntary, business start up or employment opportunities
- No's of individuals and community groups trained in basic advice support
- No' s of clients joining the credit union and undertaking money management training
- Decrease in basic needs provision
- Increase in skills development course completions
- Reduction in rough sleepers and destitution
- Increase of rogue traders and illegal money lenders fined or imprisoned
- Increase in private organisations committed to support the work of PCAS
- Increased befriending and neighbourhood support schemes

7. CONSULTATION

Consultation on this work has been developed from the Tackling Poverty consultation which has been undertaken over the past 2 years. Groups involved in the consultation are below:

Accent Nene	MIND
Age UK Peterborough	New Hope Charity UK
Axiom Housing Association	Peterborough Primary Care Trust
Barnardos	Peterborough Citizen's Advice Bureau
Birmingham City Council	Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service
CHS group	Peterborough Environment City Trust
Circle Anglia	Peterborough British Red Cross
City College Peterborough	Peterborough RePaint Scheme
Cross Keys Homes	Peterborough Streets
Department of Work and Pensions	Rainbow Saver Anglia Credit Union
DIAL Peterborough	Salvation Army
Cambridgeshire Re-Use and Recycle Network CCORN	Serco
Faith and Communities Network	Social Finance Group
Greater Peterborough Partnership	Sodexo Justice Services
St Giles Trust	Spurgeons
Home Group	
Hyde Housing	
Kingsgate Community Church	

8. NEXT STEPS

- The PCAS steering group will now explore the options for a central one stop service.
- An overarching Poverty Strategy to incorporate the work of PCAS is being developed.
- Data sharing, research and intelligence gathering protocols will be expanded across relevant agencies.
- Monthly performance management reports on outcomes achieved will be shared among partners.
- Networking and good practice sharing with authorities across the UK

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10. APPENDICES

PCAS Briefing document

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Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme

Changes to the Social Fund and Community Care grants

What is happening?

From 1 April 2013, the Social Fund and Crisis Loans will cease. This means that the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will no longer be providing money to deal with emergency situations. A scheme is being established to support people facing hardship and requiring urgent assistance; this is called the **Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS)**

What is the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme?

The Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS) can help people going through unexpected difficulties who require urgent assistance. The scheme aims to help you meet your basic needs as quickly as possible and will provide you with the support and advice to help you avoid similar problems in the future.

Who can Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme help?

- You must be over 16 years of age
- You must be on means tested benefits
- You must be facing hardship or dealing with an emergency situation
- You must be registered for council tax in the Peterborough council area
- If you are not in receipt of benefit payments, we may still be able to help you if you are experiencing exceptional difficulties

What help is available?

We can help you in the following ways:

- By providing emergency food
- By providing emergency furniture or other basic needs such as a pram, clothing, toys or household items
- One off emergency heating or lighting payment
- Emergency electrical appliances such as a fridge, microwave, toaster or kettle
- Debt advice
- Helping you to manage your money better
- Banking and saving with Rainbow Saver Credit Union
- Housing and employment advice

If you are provided with help and support through PCAS, please be aware that we will share your information with other partner agencies in order to signpost you to the appropriate organisations for further long term support.

Where do I go for help?

- Emergency food and furniture are provided through a voucher system issued by a number of different agencies in the city. **Please contact one of the agencies listed on the reverse of this leaflet for further information.**
- For advice around debt, housing, employment, emergency heating/lighting, emergency electrical appliances or for any general enquiries, please contact **Citizens Advice Bureau** on pcas@peterboroughcab.org.uk **0844 4994120** or in person at **16-17 St Marks Street, Peterborough PE1 2TU.**



Who can help with referrals for emergency food or furniture?

Cross Keys Homes	01733 385000
Accent Nene Housing	01733 295400
Axiom Housing	01733 347135
(If you are a tenant of one of the above landlords)	
Citizens Advice Bureau	0844 4994120
Peterborough City Council	01733 747474
British Red Cross	01733 557472
Aspire Drug Treatment Service	0800 1114354
Drinksense	01733 555532
Women's Aid	01733 894455

Other useful contacts

Rainbow Saver (for advice around budgeting and saving)
3 Cattlemarket Road, Peterborough, PE1 1TW

Peterborough and Fenland Mind (advice and support for people with mental health issues) 01733 758211

Dial Peterborough (advice and support for people with physical disabilities) 01733 265551

Age UK – (advice and support for people aged over 55) 01733 564185

Care and Repair (an agency which assists disabled, aged and vulnerable people to access funding for work in their home) 01733 863895

Department for Work and Pensions (for information on job seekers allowance and other benefits) 0845 6088603

Connexions (for information and advice aimed at young people up to 19 year olds) 01733 864500



STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
4 JUNE 2013	Public Report

Report of the Strategic Manager: Safer and Stronger Peterborough

Contact Officer(s) – Gary Goose

Contact Details – 863780

Head of Service – Adrian Chapman, Head of Neighbourhoods

SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2011-14 (2013 Revision)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report presents the 2013 revision of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan (2011-2014) to committee ahead of its presentation to Cabinet.
- 1.2 The Safer Peterborough Partnership is the City's statutory Community Safety Partnership as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve this Plan and recommend it to Cabinet for approval.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The ambition of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough taking advantage of the inherent opportunities we have and at the same time tackling the challenges we face in order to deliver a higher quality of life for all. This Plan sets out how the CSP will contribute to this overall vision and contribute to the outcome of:
 - 'Making Peterborough Safer' – so that people of all ages and abilities can live, work and play in a prosperous and successful Peterborough without undue crime or fear of crime'.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that a Community Safety Partnership is formed in each local authority area within England and Wales. Community Safety Partnership's bring together agencies who are responsible for tackling crime and disorder in the local area.

The Crime and Disorder Act specifies 'responsible authorities'; in Peterborough these are Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, NHS Peterborough (now replaced by the Clinical Commissioning Groups), Cambridgeshire Fire Authority, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust. These responsible authorities also invite other agencies who are able to contribute to the work to *co-operate* and Cross Keys Homes (representing Registered Social Landlords in the City) is one of these organisations. Other agencies, particularly from the voluntary and community sector are also *invited to participate* in the work of the Partnership. At present these organisations are PCVS, Peterborough Racial Equality Council, HMP Peterborough, The One Service, and the City's Director of Public Health. Other voluntary groups are represented on other partnership groups.

The Safer Peterborough Partnership is one of the partnerships that forms the Greater Peterborough Partnership.

- 4.2 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a legal responsibility upon designated authorities to consider the community safety implications of their actions.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires that the Community Safety Partnership publishes an annual Partnership Plan. This report brings the 2013 revision of the plan for 2011-2014.
- 5.2 The priorities within the Partnership Plan are agreed following a Strategic Assessment which considers the performance in the previous twelve months and takes into account the concerns of the public.
- 5.3 The Safer Peterborough Partnership have agreed one single target for the three year plan – to reduce victim based crime by 10% by end of March 2014.

The priorities in this plan reflect the partnerships desire to support our statutory partner agencies in delivering their core functions with the partnership taking a lead role in co-ordinating and delivering schemes that address root causes of crime and disorder within our City.

A summary document will be published to ensure that the public can clearly understand the priorities and improvement targets set.

The priorities set out in the Plan attached are:

- Reducing Crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and hate crime
- Building stronger and more supportive communities

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Focussing on three broad outcome-based programmes will help to ensure that communities become safer and stronger and that crime anti-social behaviour continues to reduce.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The development of this Plan has been informed through extensive consultation and engagement with officers, partners and members of the public throughout the previous year.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The Plan will need to be approved by Cabinet before being presented to Full Council for final approval.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011-2014
Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2013 revision



Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan

2011/2014



SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP¹

COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2011 – 2014

Reviewed on an annual basis

Our Vision Statement

Peterborough Together: reducing crime, building safe and confident communities

1. INTRODUCTION

The plan represents of a new way of tackling crime and disorder within our City.

It builds on the success of the last year in driving down rates of reported crime. It will demonstrate commitment to Peterborough's preventative agenda by clear linkage with the City's Sustainable Community Strategy whilst not losing the focus on tackling here and now issues of crime, disorder and community safety within our neighbourhoods.

This plan will demonstrate the direction of travel for making the City and its people safer.

- It will show our resolve in protecting those who are vulnerable within our communities.
- It will be clear about our partnership's commitment to tackling the underlying causes of offending but will be equally clear that those who continue to offend or bring risk of harm to our City will be targeted with the full weight of the criminal justice system.
- It will illustrate how we intend our approach to be sustainable and improve the lives of the people living, working and visiting our City.

This three year plan will need to be flexible, adaptable and responsive to the ever changing landscape of financial restraint, the drive for localism and greater community engagement, the introduction of the new Policing and Crime Commissioner, changes funding arrangements and partner organisations all undergoing individual and significant structural reviews.

This new approach, freed of considerable bureaucracy, aims to bring long-term sustainable reductions in crime and disorder and to lead in the creation of stronger, supportive and cohesive communities.

2. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 2.1** HM Government sets out certain requirements for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006. One such requirement is for CSPs to produce a Partnership Plan ('The Plan'). The Plan will cover three years but be updated annually in light of findings from annual strategic assessments.

Peterborough's current plan covers the period 2008 – 2011 and thus requires formal revision. This document forms the revised plan.

- 2.2** The CSP is responsible for delivery of the outcomes within this plan. The constitution of the partnership sets out the principles of how the day to day business will be conducted. This will ensure decision making processes are efficient, transparent and accountable to the public it serves.
- 2.3** The CSP brings together the responsible authorities as set down in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006. Responsible authorities have a duty, under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, to consider the community safety implications of their actions.

Responsible authorities are:

- Peterborough Unitary Authority
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Cambridgeshire Fire Authority
- NHS Peterborough
- Cambridgeshire Police Authority
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust

- 2.4** Co-operating authorities are local groups or agencies that contribute significantly to community safety. The Crime and Disorder Act makes co-operating bodies key partners in the setting and delivery of objectives. Co-operating authorities should provide data and information to improve the understanding of local crime and disorder problems, thereby benefiting the community and contributing to the core functions of their respective agencies.

Co-operating authorities within the Peterborough CSP are:

- Cross Keys Homes (representing Registered Social Landlords).

- 2.5** The CSP also invites others to join the partnership on the basis that they can assist in the delivery of the goals of the Partnership. These are known as Invitees to Participate. This provides the opportunity for the voluntary and community sector to be fully engaged in the work of the Partnership.

Invitees to participate are:

- HMP Peterborough
- Peterborough Racial Equality Council
- Peterborough and Fenland Mind (representing the voluntary sector)
- The Social Impact Bond

- 2.6** As structures and needs develop the partnership is able to flex to allow new invitees to participate.

3. LINKS TO OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

3.1 The Greater Peterborough Partnership: Sustainable Community Strategy

The Sustainable Community Strategy produced by the Greater Peterborough Partnership² sets out the direction for the overall strategic development of Peterborough.

A Single Delivery Plan for the City, aligned to the Sustainable Community Strategy, is nearing completion. This Community Safety Plan will support the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Single Delivery Plan.

The ambition of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough taking advantage of the inherent opportunities we have and at the same time tackling the challenges we face in order to deliver a higher quality of life for all. This Plan sets out how the CSP will contribute to this overall vision and contribute to the outcome of:

- 'Making Peterborough Safer' – so that people of all ages and abilities can live, work and play in a prosperous and successful Peterborough without undue crime or fear of crime'.

3.2 Other strategies and plans

Whilst this Partnership Plan sets out the key priority areas for the Safer Peterborough Partnership, it is recognised that these priorities are not delivered entirely by the CSP but are contributed to by other plans and strategies from across the full range of partner organisations.

This plan will not reproduce or duplicate much of what can be found in these other plans, in particular the City-wide Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which is being refreshed at this time.

² Available at www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk

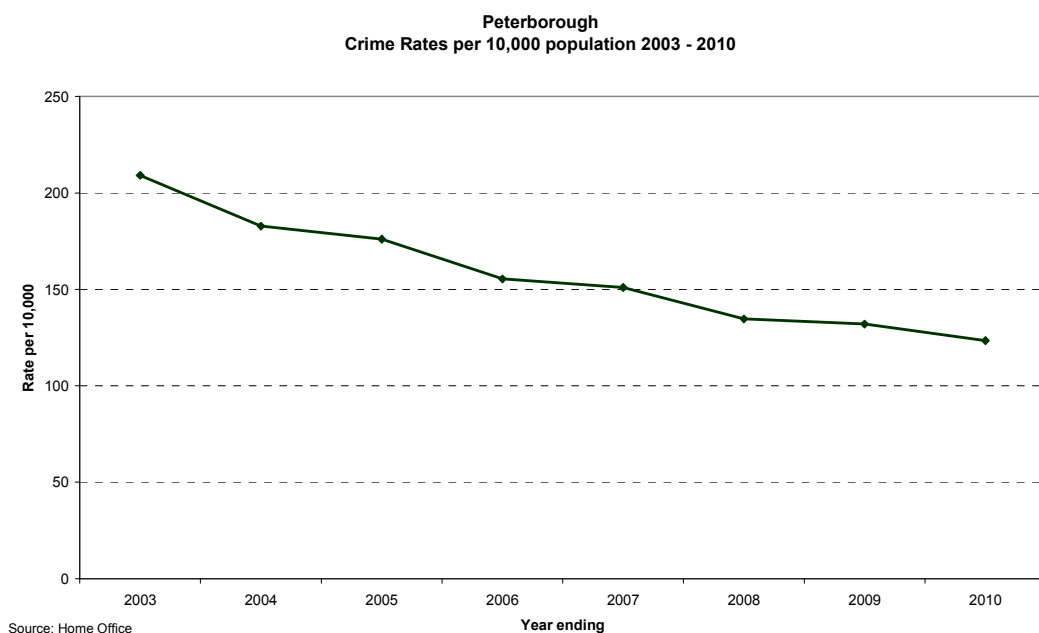
4. CHANGES TO COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1** The coalition Governments strategy for Community Safety Partnerships is set out in the cross-government letter 'Cutting Crime Together' (17th December 2010).
- 4.2** The removal of central reporting regimes such as the Local Area Agreement and National Indicator set has freed the partnership allowing it to:
- Determine what is important locally;
 - Consider how we decide our local priorities;
 - Consider how we deliver outcomes that make a real difference; and
 - Decide how we measure our performance against those outcomes.
- 4.3** The Government is committed to the introduction of a new Policing and Crime Commissioner for each Police force area. Certain funding streams hitherto passed to the local authority or the police will fall under the direction of that new function from 2012/13.
- 4.4** The introduction of the Policing and Crime Commissioner will take place during the life-time of this plan and thus the plan recognises its need to be flexible and adaptable to the new relationship between CSP and this new elected role.

5. MAKING PETERBOROUGH SAFER AND STRONGER: A NEW APPROACH

5.1 The plan set for 2010 – 11 had a total of nine individual priority areas identified for activity. These were, in the main, activity based with numeric targets set against the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and National Indicator set (NIs). They were largely based upon the imperative set by the Audit Commissions ‘red flag’ for crime levels in the City and required reporting against a national reporting framework. As has been previously mentioned within this plan that framework has now been removed.

5.2 However, there has been considerable progress against those targets; in particular against levels of crime. Overall crime has reduced by **over 9%** and the priority area of serious acquisitive crime has **fallen by over 26%** (equating to in excess of 280 fewer offences).



5.3 The success of the partnership over the last twelve month provides us with a platform upon which to develop sustainable interventions that chime with the Government’s direction of travel for CSPs, the City’s Sustainable Community Strategy, are cognisant of local needs and of each partner organisation’s own priority work streams.

5.4 We have an opportunity to make the City significantly safer, to protect vulnerable people and reduce the vulnerability of some high risk localities.

5.5 It is clear that whilst crime levels have fallen across the City there remains significant issues that any City the size of Peterborough will face:

- There remains a level of acquisitive crime underpinned a group of offenders who disproportionately commit high levels of crime by re-offending.
- There remains a level of violent crime that requires co-ordinated partnership activity; some of that violent crime is drug and alcohol related and a significant level of all the City’s violent crime is ‘domestic violence’.
- Our communities remain concerned about the levels of ‘anti-social behaviour’ as is evidenced by all neighbourhood panels having some elements of anti-social behaviour as a priority on each and every occasion.

- 5.6** The previous approach focussing on particular crime types and issues, in the main tightly focussed around numeric performance has resulted in reduced levels of crime. There is merit in considering a similar approach because of its success however, that way of working is unsustainable given the structural changes necessary across the partnership. However, more importantly, that approach was largely reactive and reactive approaches are unlikely to bring long-term sustainable success.
- 5.7** Priorities for the partnership should be just that; not priorities that are delivered as business as usual by one of our partners, but priorities that are better achieved by working in true partnership.

Thus the partnership has adopted three priorities for the coming year:

- **Reducing Crime**
- **Tackling Anti-Social behaviour and Hate Crime**
- **Building Stronger and more supportive communities**

- 5.8** These priorities will be delivered through specific areas of work managed through the Safer/Stronger Peterborough Team’s performance framework under scrutiny of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Board. Such an approach will ensure that the progress made during 2010 is not lost freeing the City to consider the wider outcomes of the three priority areas alone with much greater discussion about the longer term cause and effect rather than short term target based priorities. This suggested way of working accords with the City’s Sustainable Community Strategy’s ‘preventative agenda’.
- 5.9** The table below also demonstrates the impact these priorities will have on other workstreams, and how those workstreams will influence the three priorities.

Reducing Crime	Tackling Anti-social behaviour and hate crime	Building Stronger and more supportive communities
Delivered by:	Delivered by:	Delivered by:
Reducing re-offending by the development of Integrated Offender Management	The creation of a single city-wide anti-social behaviour system	Embedding neighbourhood management process into core SPP work and culture
Linked to:	Linked to:	Linked to:
Family recovery project	Family recovery project	Family recovery project
Police ‘impact’ teams	Police ‘impact’ teams	Neighbourhood crime and justice programme
Police performance scrutiny	Protecting vulnerable people	Integrated Offender management programme
Social impact bond	RSLs anti-social behaviour provision	Social impact bond
ASB programme	IOM development	ASB programme
Neighbourhood policing	Neighbourhood policing	Neighbourhood policing
Neighbourhood management	Neighbourhood management and neighbourhood delivery	City cohesion/hate crime agenda
City Drugs services	City Drugs services	Arson task force
City Domestic violence service	City cohesion/hate crime agenda	Neighbourhood delivery teams
Links to the SARC	Youth Offending Service	Youth Offending Service
Youth Offending Service	City Domestic violence service	Safer Schools teams
Safer Schools teams	Safer Schools teams	Protecting vulnerable people
Protecting vulnerable people	Arson task force	

6. DELIVERY OF THE THREE PRIORITY AREAS

6.1 Reducing Crime

The best way to reduce crime is by a partnership approach tackling those most disproportionately responsible for the bulk of that crime. National figures suggest that around only 10% of offenders are responsible for up to 50% of all crime.

This City has had considerable success over the last 12 months in reducing crime; a number of factors have led to this but one contributor is the revised and expanding partnership based Integrated Offender Management initiative.

Integrated Offender Management is the overarching framework that encourages:

- All partners tackling offenders together;
- Delivering a local response to local problems;
- Offenders facing their responsibility or facing the consequences;
- Making better use of existing (and proven) programmes and governance;
- All offenders at high risk of causing serious harm and/or re-offending are in scope.

This developing approach in Peterborough has effectively gripped offenders and managed them either away and out of offending or enabled a more agile and swifter response by partners to recapture those who are continuing to offend. In Peterborough this approach is strengthened further by the national pilot of the Social Impact Bond working with all male prisoners who enter and leave Peterborough prison having been sentenced to less than 12 months imprisonment; these are some of the 10% mentioned above.

This approach offers people the opportunity to change their lives by focussing on the causes of their offending behaviour across a range of seven tried and tested pathways to reduce re-offending. All partners are committed to IOM and the scheme has the ability to link-up a number of other areas of work within the City to make longer-term change a real prospect (for example the Family Recovery Project, the Safer Schools Commitment, the developing Anti-Social Behaviour team).

It is also an approach that is about to develop significantly within the next three years to bring even bigger wins in terms of cutting crime.

Integrated Offender Management will include all of the new restructured drugs services for the City (including the Drugs Intervention Programme) which are currently being re-tendered and due to start in April 2011.

A partnership-led Reducing Re-offending group will replace the old-style task and finish group to locally develop Integrated Offender Management. A national reducing re-offending evaluation tool will be available at some point during 2011 to help evidence the direct impact of this scheme across the City.

The City's IOM approach is being developed jointly with Cambridgeshire under guiding principles and an overall strategic direction provided by the Criminal Justice Board. This ensures partner agencies; most of whom are geographically county-wide managed organisations, are as effective as possible and responsive to local need.

6.1.1 Mental Health

The Partnership acknowledges the role that mental health plays as an overarching theme and we will be ensuring that it is embedded in all of our priority areas. We will build on existing structures and relationships to implement the recommendations of Lord Bradley's report following his 'review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system'.

In particular, the partnership will aim to secure mental health provision within its IOM team and support the development of Criminal Justice Mental Health teams and ensure a focus on early intervention for those who are at risk of offending .

6.1.2 Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

The Partnership is aware of the statutory guidance on safeguarding vulnerable adults. The Partnership will maintain a link with the Peterborough Adult Safeguarding Board in order that any policy/legislation changes impacting on the wider community safety agenda are addressed. This joint approach will help protect those vulnerable within our communities.

6.2 Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Hate Crime

The best way to reduce anti-social behaviour over the next three years is to make ASB socially unacceptable. To make that social unacceptability sustainable is best achieved by peer support and community engagement. This is a medium to long-term aim that this plan will address.

In the short-term we will develop a co-ordinated approach that involves local policing teams, dedicated ASB staff for complex cases (and let us not under-estimate the complexity of some neighbour disputes for instance), links into the City's regulatory services (pollution control and environmental health for example), links to partnership ASB teams such as Cross Keys Homes and, importantly, the City's Neighbourhood Managers and the Cohesion agenda.

We will work towards co-locating our ASB response to maximise its effectiveness, in particular in the field of information sharing, in order to resolve issues as quickly and effectively as possible. We will seek to provide specific support to the vulnerable who often suffer ASB in silence.

6.2.1 The 'broken window theory'.

We will work to embed the 'broken window theory' as a bedrock of our approach to reducing crime, tackling ASB and building stronger, supportive and more cohesive communities. This approach prevents escalation into more serious issues that can destroy communities, increase crime and the fear of crime and reduce cohesion.

Although the broken window theory began in the USA it is equally applicable in Peterborough. It is about pride, opportunity for and fear of crime, but it is also about improving our neighbourhoods and that improvement being ultimately self-driven.

As a social experiment a brand new car was parked in a high crime, high deprivation area of Chicago. It remained untouched for two weeks. At the end of two weeks those controlling the experiment smashed a single small quarter-light. Within the space of 24 hours the car was stripped completely.

In Peterborough we have empty buildings, we have new developments that are fenced off when the developers are not working, and we have other communities that are mostly graffiti and damage free. We will work with our neighbourhoods to ensure that we do all we can not to allow empty premises to become derelict, fences to be breached and damage/graffiti that allows areas to degenerate quickly. We will utilise our neighbourhood delivery arrangements to ensure agencies respond quickly and responsibly to deal with issues before they escalate and look at longer term preventative solutions to problems as they arise.

6.3 Transformation of neighbourhood delivery

Peterborough City Council is responding to local, regional and national policy changes by implementing a Neighbourhood Management solution for our communities. This is essentially a multi partner approach to problem solving, community planning and driving the improvement agenda, which connects the bottom up approach through community engagement, local aspirations and local needs, with the top down, such as legislation, regional policy data and intelligence.

Whilst a key focus of this new approach will be to resolve the root causes of current issues affecting a neighbourhood, there will be an element of medium and long term planning. The ethos is to ensure that all communities have the opportunity, and are empowered, to action and influence services and change in their local neighbourhoods through Community Action Plans.

Neighbourhood Councils have been introduced across the City and have a key role in developing and monitoring the implementation of Community Action Plans. These councils are an extension of Peterborough City Council's decision making structures to support the local needs of the community and are chaired by elected members. The Councils have an Advisory Panel of high level key partners including Peterborough Probation, Courts, Health, Education and Young People, Fire and Rescue and the Police. The existing mechanisms for engaging with communities, including the Neighbourhood Panels and Parish Councils will continue and be strengthened and will work in partnership with Neighbourhood Councils.

6.3.1 Vulnerable Neighbourhoods

Within these priorities, activity will be focused upon the most vulnerable neighbourhoods in the city. Listed below are those wards, by crime type, that are considered to be the most vulnerable:

Total Crime	Central (including city centre) East Orton Longueville
Serious Acquisitive Crime	Central (including city centre) East Paston
Violent Crime	Central (including city centre) East Orton Longueville
Domestic Abuse	Central (Including city centre) Orton Longueville East
Alcohol related incidents	Central (including city centre) East Fletton
Anti social behaviour	Central (including city centre) East Orton Longueville

Whilst all neighbourhoods will benefit from the resources of a Neighbourhood Manager and team, as set out earlier in the document, any activity around these priorities will be, where appropriate, focused in those areas where the prevalence is highest.

6.4 Other areas of focus

Whilst the three priority areas cover a wide raft of the City's safety issues there are other areas of work that will be continued as they contributed significantly to safety and feelings of safety within Peterborough.

6.4.1 Domestic Abuse and sexual assault

Domestic abuse is physical, psychological, emotional, sexual and financial abuse that takes place within an intimate or family-type relationship and forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Any person can experience domestic abuse regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, class, sexuality, disability or lifestyle. Crime statistics and research show that domestic abuse is heavily gender biased: usually the perpetrator of a pattern of repeated assaults is male, while women experience the most serious physical and repeated assaults.

However, the Safer Peterborough Partnership also recognises that men can be victims of domestic violence, women can perpetrate domestic violence, and that it can take place in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender relationships. The Partnership therefore aims to support anyone affected by this issue.

Sexual violence has a devastating effect on the lives of victims and their families and inspires fear in local communities. These crimes violate the basic right of women, men and children to be treated with dignity and respect, to have control over their own bodies and to live without fear of sexual violence and abuse.

The most vulnerable in society are disproportionately affected by sexual violence, causing severe and long lasting harm to victims. There are also low rates of detection and conviction. Direct physical health consequences of sexual violence include physical injury, sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy. Rape is associated with the most severe cases of domestic violence, and is a risk factor for domestic homicide. Long term consequences of sexual violence include: post traumatic stress disorder; anxiety and panic attacks; depression; social phobia; substance abuse; obesity; eating disorders; self harm and suicide; domestic violence and in some cases offending behaviour.

The partnership will continue to support the work of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and maintain links with the developing police-led county wide Multi Agency Referral Unit.

6.4.2 Road Safety

Road Safety is the combination of education, engineering, enforcement and encouragement activities focussed on reducing the number of road traffic casualties that occur on the highway network.

It is widely accepted that human action is involved in virtually all, and the sole cause in many collisions, whether it be through deliberate action e.g. wilful speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; or failure to take some action, e.g. driving without due care and attention, becoming distracted (mobile phone usage), failure to maintain the car in a road worthy condition. The environment and vehicle factors contribute to approximately 20% of accidents but are rarely the sole cause, and thus often exacerbate the human action and magnify the effects resulting in a greater severity of injury particularly if excessive or inappropriate speed is involved.

The Road Safety Task and Finish Group runs under the auspice of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership, which is an existing partnership responsible for the delivery of Road Safety across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The membership of the strategic board comprises Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Highways Agency along with the Emergency Services and Primary Care Trusts. Beneath the Strategic Board there exists a series of six sub-groups focussing on particular elements of road safety namely, Safety Cameras, Intelligence, Enforcement, Education, Engineering and Emergency Services.

In 2007 the Audit Commission published its report “Changing Lanes – Evolving Roles in Road Safety” which reviewed the good progress achieved in reducing road traffic casualties. It also stated that whilst improving road safety will always be a priority, greater emphasis would need to be placed on working in partnership with the police, primary care trusts and fire services to positively impact on the attitudes and behaviours of all road users irrespective of the mode of travel.

6.4.3 Community cohesion and population change

Issues of community cohesion and population change will be monitored closely. We will consider community cohesion issues in all the work that is done by the Partnership to ensure that every community and their needs are considered in the work that is undertaken and that all have equal access to the Partnership. The move of the City's cohesion lead back into the Authority will ensure strengthened links between the safety agenda and cohesion agenda.

Hate crime is addressed in a number of ways co-ordinated by the Hate Crime Co-ordinator. These include the Open Out Scheme which allows third party reporting for victims of hate crime and Tension Monitoring Group³ which brings together a number of agencies to consider hotspots within the city

The Partnership acknowledges that there is always more work that can be done to ensure that everyone in our city has equal access to the services that are provided and that they benefit equally from the improved safety and confidence that the work of the Partnership will bring to residents and visitors of the city. Over the past 12 months we have establish a process for undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment of each of our priority areas to ensure that we are doing all that we can to ensure that this aspiration becomes a reality. This is now embedded within the strategic planning process

Preventing Violent Extremism is addressed by the Cohesion Board (reporting to Greater Peterborough Partnership). The links between the Safer Peterborough Partnership Board are addressed by the Chair of the Cohesion Board (Paul Phillipson) and the lead officer (Jawaid Khan) both sit on the Safer Peterborough Partnership Board.

6.4.4 Victims and Witnesses

The Partnership is very aware that the needs of victims and witnesses must be paramount in all the work that we undertake. We will continue the work of Neighbourhood Crime and Justice to ensure that we better understand our communities' perceptions and concerns regarding crime and justice in their neighbourhoods. Much of the work over the last year has been focused on developing a much more visible 'Community Payback' which ensures that justice is not only done but is seen to be done. The public have had opportunity to nominate areas that should have work undertaken as part of this scheme.

³The Tension Monitoring Group is a multi agency partnership meeting to address community cohesion issues at a tactical and operational level and reports to the Community Cohesion Board.

We have recruited and trained Community Crime Fighters. These volunteers will act as advocates within their communities. During this year we will be developing mechanisms for them to come together to share experiences and explore the feasibility of developing their roles to support victims of anti social behaviour.

A key area of activity this year will be to ensure that communities receive feedback about the outcome of prosecutions in their area

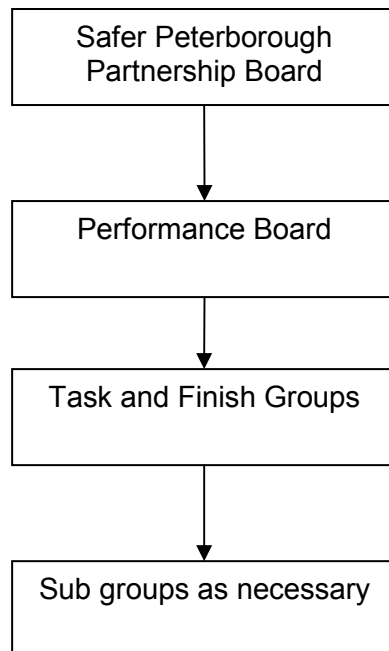
We will continue to work with other organisations offering support to victims and witnesses.

7. PERFORMANCE

- 7.1** The abolition of a rigid performance framework such as the LAA/NI's allows our local partnership to determine its own way of measuring our performance. Whilst it is an attractive prospect to be free of significant bureaucracy we must be mindful that the attention to detail and intense performance scrutiny of the partnership framework over the last twelve months is likely to have been one of the factors of its success.
- 7.2** Thus a move to three wider-ranging longer-term priorities could have risks that an insufficient performance monitoring regime leads to lack of focus and lack of identifiable results. To counter this, a strengthened monthly Safer Peterborough Partnership Performance Meeting will be responsible for monitoring progress against the priorities and responsible for exception reporting to the board. This will allow the partnership board to be responsible for unblocking blockages to performance and focussing on the direction of travel without being burdened by the detail of performance.
- 7.3** By way of example: crime levels are scrutinised on a daily basis by the police and managed through their Daily Management Meeting process – using the partnership team where necessary – it is their core business; there seems little to be gained by others scrutinising the same levels of performance.
- 7.4** The partnership can be responsible for setting appropriate targets for the three headline priorities.
- An overall numeric reduction in crime target will be introduced for the Reducing Crime priority.
 - The second priority of tackling anti-social behaviour and hate crime will require more thought. In order to fully understand our ASB/Hate Crime levels in the City may well require more reporting streams to be centralised thus an increase in figures in the first year may be the result. However, any attempt to deal with the root causes of such issues would be bound to fail unless that true picture is revealed. A measure of success may be an increase in reported cases to a single system but a true and worthwhile outcome would be a lack of escalation of offending by those identified as responsible.
 - The third priority will focus on achieving better outcomes and measures will be developed aligned to the appropriate projects and priorities in the Single Delivery Plan.
- 7.5** Priority work streams will be the main deliver of the three priority areas, each of these work streams will have an identifiable lead who will report to the performance group, a table setting out initial linkage is shown overleaf.

8. STRUCTURE OF SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP

8.1 The table below shows the governance structure of the Partnership:



8.2 Partnership Board

The Partnership Board fulfils the duties of a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) as set out within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The Police and Crime Act 2009 now extends these duties to include a duty to implement a strategy to reduce re-offending by adult and young offenders and to take reducing re-offending into account when exercising their functions (Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

The Partnership Board is currently chaired by Chris Strickland, Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. This board provides strategic direction for the work of the Partnership by:

- Assessing the needs within the area
- Overseeing all planning and strategy
- Establishing the performance targets
- Resource management
- Compliance with the national guidance in relation to crime, drugs and anti social behaviour
- Commission of drug treatment services

8.3 Performance Board

Following the reviews of the Partnership in 2008 and 2010 the Delivery Board has been abolished and an enhanced Performance Challenge meeting introduced. This group, made up of performance leads from the Partnership and the theme leads for each area of business, meets between the Task and Finish Groups and Partnership Board each month to allow a thorough scrutiny of the performance for the previous month.

8.4 Task and Finish Groups

Task and Finish Groups exist for the key priority areas of partnership business and other key areas of activity. Each Task and Finish Group has a Theme Lead who is responsible for leading delivery in their business area and producing the Action Plan.

The purpose of the Task and Finish Groups is to:

- To use intelligence led problem solving to develop action plans that will facilitate performance against the Partnership Plan
- To monitor performance against targets within the Partnership Plan
- To report performance, using provided templates, to the Delivery Board on a monthly basis
- To identify necessary funding to deliver the agreed action plans
- To report problems and blockages to the Delivery Board to allow support to be provided to the Task and Finish Group
- To form sub groups where necessary for a distinct area of business
- To identify areas of success and use these to influence the work of other Task and Finish Groups

8.5 Safer Peterborough Partnership Team

The restructure within the Neighbourhoods Division of the Unitary Authority has created a quite different 'community safety' team. The new Safer/Stronger Peterborough Team is structured in the main to deliver against two areas of business to keep the City safe:

- Cutting Crime
- Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

However, the addition of the Neighbourhood Management and road safety functions move the department away from its hitherto narrow crime and disorder remit, into a department that can lead on the development of stronger and more supportive communities; communities that have a sustainable resistance to crime and disorder by addressing longer term causation factors and include much more community based activity (i.e. the 'Big Society' agenda).

The activity undertaken over the last twelve months to address the previous 9 priority areas has driven crime down. It has provided us with a platform to build a programme of work that makes those reductions sustainable and without the high levels of necessary bureaucracy that accompanied those previous work streams.

The Safer Peterborough Team is now a truly multi-agency team developing Peterborough's solutions to Peterborough's issues and has developed a set of vision and values to drive its work forward.

8.6 The Safer Peterborough Team Vision and Statement of Intent

To lead on the creation and sustainability of Strong and Supportive Communities by making Peterborough a safer place to live, work and visit.

We will do this by working in partnership to empower communities and to cut crime and reduce anti-social behaviour. We will consult with our communities to address issues that concern them most and keep them informed. We will deliver this through a partnership that is flexible, responsive and innovative; with a delivery style that is based upon integrity, respect and sensitivity for all.

We will aim to be:

The best partnership team in the country;

A team that understands the needs of our citizens and uses its influence and powers working with them to deliver positive and lasting change;

A team that others want to join because we;

- Are a team
- Listen
- Notice each other
- Say thank you internally and externally
- Enable people get on with their job
- Care for and support each other
- Have a positive identity
- Foster professional development
- Deliver results

A team that sets the standards others will follow because we;

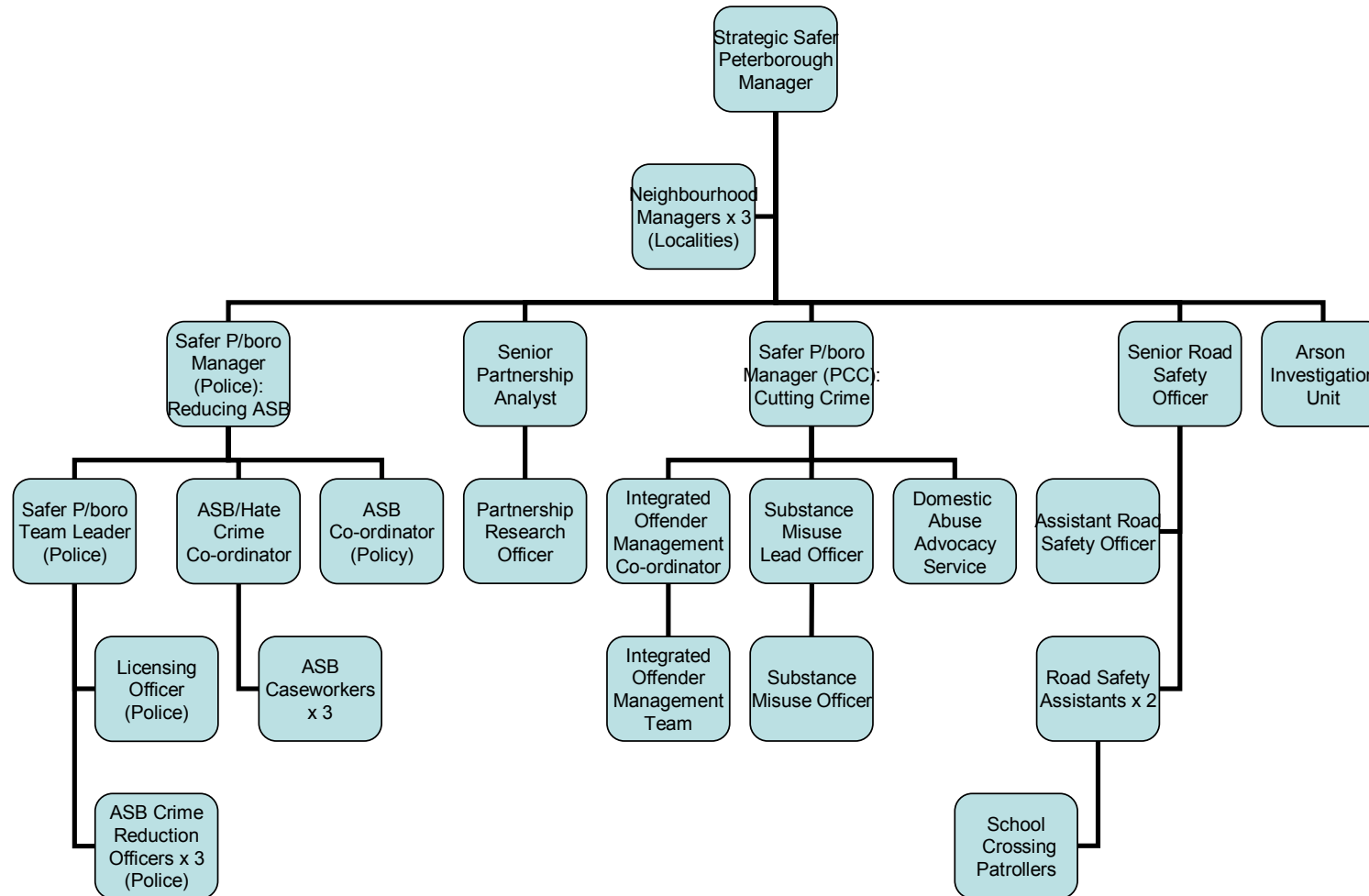
- Are a team
- Hold ourselves to account
- Continually check and improve
- Do what we say we will do
- Seek feedback, act on feedback
- Are responsive to our partners and communities
- Are passionate, enthusiastic and care about what we do

A team that is professional at all times because we/it;

- Are a team
- Set realistic expectations
- Keep people informed
- Tell it like it is
- Listen and show respect
- Embrace diversity
- Acknowledge the contribution of others
- Build and sustain positive relationships
- Responsive to what our partners and communities want
- Do the right thing

8.7 The structure of the team is set out on the next page.

Structure of the Safer/Stronger Peterborough team



9. FEAR OF CRIME

9.1 We know that people's fear of crime is disproportionate to the chances of them being a victim of crime. For some people, this can be debilitating and affect their quality of life. The fear of crime of local people can be affected by many things, many of which are beyond our control such as national events such as gun and knife crime in London or the reporting of certain issues by the national press.

9.2 We will strive to lower the fear of crime of our residents. We believe that we will do this by:

- Setting clear targets to reduce crime and anti social behaviour
- Achieve the reduction targets that we set
- Take every opportunity to tell the public about the reductions in crime and anti social behaviour that we have achieved

9.3 This last twelve months has seen a major improvement in our communication with the public. Through the appointment of a Communications and Marketing Manager we have clear direction ensuring that we take every opportunity to convey to the public the work that is being done. This year has seen the recognition of our partnership brand grow.

10. ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES IN REVISING AND DELIVERING THE PLAN?

10.1 Over the past twelve months we have focused our efforts on addressing the need to ensure that our stakeholders and the wider public can be part of the work that we are undertaking. It is important that they feel that we have effectively:

- Consulted with them – that is to say that we have listened to them and we have responded to what they have told us
- Informed them about what we are doing
- Involved them wherever possible in identifying priorities, planning activity and, in some cases, delivering this activity
- Partnered with them – working together to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes

10.2 Stakeholder Forums

Over the past twelve months we have further developed the stakeholder groups so that we now have a group for each of our priority areas.

The purpose of these stakeholder groups is to:

- Allow a networking opportunity for those working in this area
- Allow them to influence the priorities for our action plans and input into these
- Comment upon the activity that has been undertaken and their perception of its effectiveness
- Challenge the Task and Finish Group as and when necessary

Any member of the public or partner agency is welcome to attend the Stakeholder Forums which meet on a quarterly basis.

10.3 Special Interest Groups

This last year has seen us develop our engagement with particular groups with the formation of special interest groups. These will vary depending on the needs of the group involved. It will sometimes be appropriate to set up a specific group and other times it will be more appropriate to work with and through mechanisms that are already there.

10.4 Voluntary Sector

All of our Stakeholder Groups have voluntary sector representation, as does the Partnership Board. We have worked with Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service to improve our relationships with the voluntary sector and assist in identifying their appropriate representation. Over the coming year, we will be working with the voluntary sector to consider how we can strengthen their contribution to our work and allow them to engage as an equal partner.

We have also strengthened our commissioning arrangements to ensure that we can receive the valuable input from the voluntary sector to our work without comprising any commissioner/provider relationship. In the coming year, we will be developing this area of work, looking to work with the voluntary sector to access more external funding into the city.

10.5 Community Sector

Over the coming year our primary engagement with local people will be through the Neighbourhood Panels and Neighbourhood Councils in each geographic location. The Partnership now has an accredited 'Problem Solving in Practice' course to ensure that those responsible for implementing the priorities of these panels are appropriately trained to do this effectively. This training is also available to community groups. We are now able to offer this training free of charge to all living or working in Peterborough.

The Community Crime Fighters scheme will provide members of the public who are already active in their communities - like tenants and resident group leaders, neighbourhood watch co-ordinators or community activists - with training, information and support to work with the Partnership to help make communities safer. This scheme will be developed further over the coming year.

In working to fulfil the Partnership Plan the partners will be guided by the following principles (as adopted by the Greater Peterborough Partnership):

- **Leadership and Ownership** – recognising that the Community Safety Plan is owned and will be delivered by all of the partners, who have responsibility to ensure that its vision and priorities are understood in their own organisations and reflected in their own corporate documents and performance management.
- **Openness** – recognising that as partners we need to inspire and challenge each other to deliver the vision of the Community Safety Plan and that this will require us to be open and honest in our communications, offering each other constructive feedback on all aspects of our collaborative performance.
- **Partnership working** – recognising that every individual and every organisation has a role to play in delivering the Community Safety Plan and that we need to work together to tackle our priorities and deliver our vision.
- **Engagement** – recognising throughout our work that the Community Safety Plan is a document for every individual and every organisation, and that therefore we need to work hard to involve, listen and respond to people and communities.
- **Responsibilities** – recognising that the Community Safety Plan is relevant to all of the people, communities and organisations of Peterborough, we need to be informed, empowered and encouraged to take responsibility for helping deliver it.
- **Diversity** – recognising that Peterborough's diversity is one of its established key strengths and that all our work should promote and celebrate diversity across all our communities and people.
- **Prioritisation** - recognising that we cannot achieve all of our goals at once and that we need to take tough decisions to allocate resources to support the four priority areas in the Community Safety Plan.
- **Delivery** – keeping our promises and delivering what we have committed to.

10.6 How will we tell the public if we are succeeding?

The Partnership is committed to ensuring that any member of our community can have access to the information about the Partnership Plan. It is important that the public know:

- The areas of business that we consider to be most important
- What we are going to do to improve in these areas
- How we will know if we have been successful

To ensure that people have access to as much information as they wish we will:

- Publish a summary of this plan in easily understood language
- Ensure that the full plan is easily accessible to those who wish to see more detail than contained in the summary
- Report on a quarterly basis our performance against the targets – this will be done in a clear and concise manner that is easily understood

- Hold at least two 'Face the People' sessions to allow the public to question the partnership about the performance

We will make the Partnership Plan available in a number of ways including:

- Safer Peterborough Partnership website
- Greater Peterborough Partnership website
- Responsible authorities websites
- Hard copies of the summary to be made available in sports centres, libraries and other public buildings
- Through 'Your Peterborough' to ensure that it goes to every household in the city
- Copies of the full version of the report will be available on request
- Copies in minority languages will also be available in selected locations

11. CONCLUSION

This Partnership Plan will continue to be refreshed on an annual basis following an updated Strategic Assessment. This past year has seen major developments for the Partnership which has been reflected in performance. Over the coming year we will build on the improvements made and continue to strengthen and further develop the work of the Partnership.

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Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011-14

2013/14 Priorities

Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2013



SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES 2013

(Part of the 2011-14 three-year Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan)

Our Vision Statement

Peterborough Together: reducing crime, building safe and confident communities

1. Introduction

The plan provides details of the Safer Peterborough Partnership's priorities for 2013/14.

This does not replace the three-year Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011-2014, rather it should be read as an addendum representing a continuation of the three-year journey to reduce crime in our City. It is informed by the in-depth evidentially based 2012/13 Safer Peterborough Partnership Strategic Assessment.

It continues with the three-year plan's overall strategy and strengthens our approach in tackling the root causes of crime rather than reactively responding only to the symptoms. It also takes account of the impact of the country's austerity measures and public service reforms.

2. Legislative Framework

This plan is written in accordance with the responsibilities placed upon Community Safety Partnerships as set out within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It represents the annual refresh of the three-year plan as mandated within the above named Act.

Full details of the legislative framework can be found within section two of the aforementioned three-year plan.

3. Three year priorities

The three-year partnership plan identified three areas of overarching priority for its duration. These priorities will remain for the coming year; the Partnership will concentrate its resources on activity to support these priorities. The overarching priorities remain:

- **Reducing crime**
- **Tackling anti-social behaviour and hate crime**
- **Building stronger and more supportive communities**

Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2013

The Partnership will continue to have only **one measurable target**: a 10 per cent reduction in victim based crime over the three year duration of the plan.

We will deliver that target by prioritising a number of themes where the Partnership can add real value. Each of these themes will be led by an identified member of the Partnership Board who will take responsibility for ensuring these themes make a positive contribution to the overall agenda of reducing crime and disorder. The Partnership will continue to support each of its statutory agencies in delivering their core functions.

We will continue to relentlessly monitor our performance against our peers and, by developing more in-depth local analysis, we will ensure:

- Continuous improvement;
- Closing the gap on our peers;
- Out-performing our most similar group's average crime rates.

A performance framework will support this single target and will continue to be reported to the Partnership Board on a monthly basis.

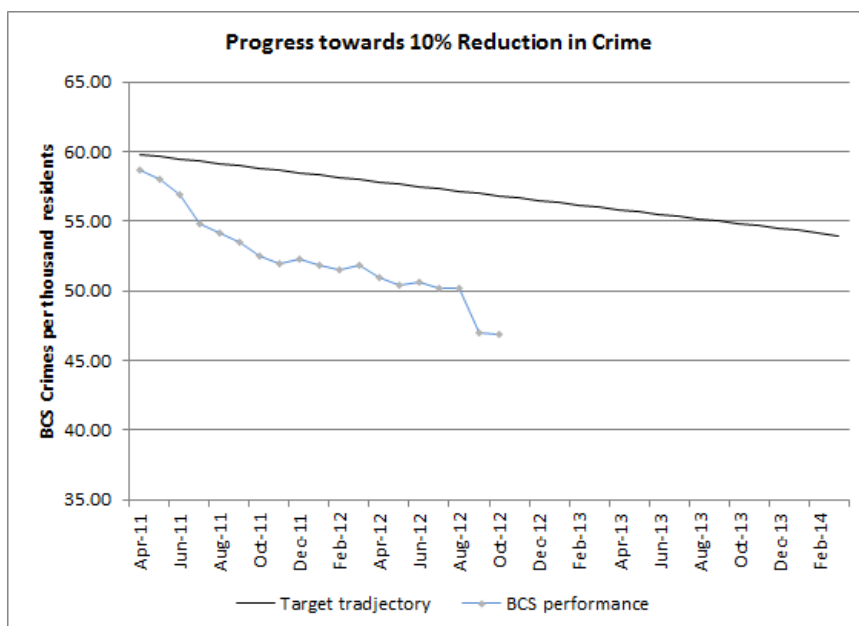
4. Background

This plan is informed by the 2012/13 Safer Peterborough Partnership Strategic Assessment which sets out a number of recommendations for continuing the fight against crime and continuing to make Peterborough a safer place.

The potential impact of the country's austerity measures, cuts to public sector budgets and welfare reform, coupled with significant changes to public service structures make 2013/14 an increasingly challenging year in maintaining our recent successes at reducing crime and disorder.

2012/13 saw crime continue to fall in Peterborough. However, the pace of reduction has slowed considerably and a new plateau seems to have been reached in levels of recorded crime. It will require thought, imagination and strengthened resolve to move over this plateau and continue our downward trend.

Peterborough ranks 48th highest nationally out of all 322 CSPs in England and Wales for crimes per thousand population. In 2009, when the Audit Commission raised significant concerns about crime levels in Peterborough, Peterborough was the 19th highest CSP in the country.



Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2013

The three-year plan is clear that the Partnership will be committed to tackling the **underlying causes of crime and offending**, but **equally clear** that **those who continue** to break the law will be **targeted** with the full weight of the criminal justice system. It remains the Partnership's view that this approach will bring sustainable reductions in crime by preventing crime and escalation in offending further 'upstream'.

The Partnership will ensure that the direction of travel for community safety work in the City places the law abiding citizen at the heart of its approach and one of its priority work streams will reflect this. Work will be prioritised to ensure the City benefits from modern up-to-date services for victims.

The Partnership will therefore **continue to support** our statutory agencies in delivering their own core function but will co-ordinate and lead on the work where it feels it can **provide the biggest impact - that of prevention**.

Peterborough's Community Safety Partnership benefits hugely from the positive engagement of the City's largest social housing provider, Cross Key's Homes; Sodexo Justice Services who operate the privately run HMP Peterborough; and representatives from the voluntary sector. All add valuable contributions to the crime and disorder debate.

In addition, one of the country's first criminal justice based 'payment by results' initiatives operates within the City under the working title of The One Service. The One Service has engaged fully at a strategic board level and has embedded their work at a practical operational level with existing criminal justice providers.

The Partnership will continue to develop its multi-agency team approach to tackling the underlying causes of crime and it is these areas that will form the basis for continuing partnership activity for the coming twelve months.

True and sustainable change comes from within and as such the Partnership will continue to support the work of the Council in integrating its approach to neighbourhood management with the community safety agenda to improve the quality of life in each area and the Partnership supports the view that improving quality of life and equality of opportunity for all will reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. It fully embraces the broken window theory.

The integration of public health within the local authority adds an extra and important dimension in helping to tackle the long term effects of crime, as well as playing its part in preventing the opportunity for offending behaviour to deteriorate; in particular this will include developing further links with mental health and learning disability professionals in order that the most vulnerable victims and offenders gain the support they need.

The City continues to develop its Single Delivery Plan (SDP). The Partnership is committed to playing its part in moving the City forward by embracing the guiding principles of the SDP:

- Outcomes not organisations
- Tackling root causes
- Being innovative
- Embracing localism

Programme six of the Single Delivery Plan is dedicated to reducing crime and the Safer Peterborough Partnership Board will continue to act as the Programme Board for this area of work.

5. SAFER PETERBOROUGH PRIORITY WORKSTREAMS FOR 2013/14

We will continue on our three year journey to reduce the number of victims of crime by supporting our partner agencies in delivery of their core roles and will prioritise our partnership work as follows:

Vulnerable People and Groups

The Partnership will ensure that vulnerable people and groups, and those at risk of becoming vulnerable, are identified and supported appropriately and not disproportionately suffer as victims of crime.

This theme will be led by Wendi Ogle-Welbourn (Assistant Director, Children's Services, PCC) and Adrian Chapman (Head of Neighbourhoods, PCC)

We will do this by:

- Prioritising a role within the partnership delivery team to lead and co-ordinate services for victims within the City. This role will link with the Cambridgeshire-wide work being conducted by the Office of the Policing and Crime Commissioner in readiness for the commissioning of victims services from 2014 onwards.
- Prioritising work within the partnership delivery team as Connecting Families Programme 'Connectors'. Both of the above roles will work alongside the City's Anti-Social Behaviour team ensuring that victims of ASB are included in such support work.
- Ensuring the Partnership actively contribute to the work led by Adult Social Care (Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults) and Children's Social Care (Safeguarding Children).
- Ensuring that the Partnership have more visibility and active involvement in supporting the work around Child Sexual Exploitation by the appointment of a Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Co-ordinator who will also lead on this area of work for the partnership delivery team.
- Developing a solid understanding of the potential impact of welfare reform upon crime and the effect this may have on performance and regularly reporting this as part of the Partnership performance framework.
- Ensuring that the Partnership strengthens its work and support of Neighbourhood Watch and other community groups and associations in order that those vulnerable in the community have greater support.
- Forge greater operational links across the various programmes with colleagues from Children's Services, in particular the Youth Offending Service.
- Scrutinising shoplifting as a specific theme as an indicator of the potential impact of welfare reform.
- Work together with businesses against crimes, including the Business Against Crime Scheme, to help develop and deliver the most effective strategies for gathering knowledge of shoplifting and its perpetrators.
- Work together with soon to be established Credit Union and other charitable organisations to ultimately mitigate any increasing trends of shoplifting arising from the impact of welfare reform.

Anti-Social Behaviour /Quality of Life and Road Safety Services

The Partnership will prioritise work around ASB and quality of life issues within the City; cognisant of the 'broken window theory'. Analysis has shown that there are clear correlations between ASB, criminal damage, alcohol related issues and deprivation; in addition looking more holistically at quality of life incidents, as opposed to looking at these issues in isolation, provides the opportunity

Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2013

to make real savings in terms of the time taken by different teams to address problems which may have been identified to more than one agency.

This theme will be led by Paul Phillipson (Executive Director Operations, PCC) and Councillor Irene Walsh (Cabinet Member for Safety and Cohesion, PCC)

We will do this by:

- Developing a City-wide anti-social behaviour strategy and development plan led by the Board.
- Continuing to develop robust case management of individual cases and an intelligence led approach to the identification of emerging trends.
- Improve and develop data sharing as a priority.
- The ASB task and finish group should be reinstated and be the lead group for developing the approach to ASB
- ASB will be a standing performance item at monthly board meetings.
- Continuing to deliver Road Safety Services within the Partnership delivery team to ensure that the numbers of those killed or seriously injured on the City's roads are reduced.
- Developing the City's road safety services through a specific road safety task and finish plan that is reported to the Board on a quarterly basis or at whatever other intervals the Board feel necessary.

Integrated Offender Management

The Partnership will continue to support the view that a relatively small number of individuals have a disproportionate impact upon crime levels in the City and that targeted work with these individuals will have the biggest impact upon levels of recorded crime. Thus, the Partnership will continue to develop the integrated approach to offender management.

This theme will be led by Mike Dyson (Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust)

We will do this by:

- Integrated Offender Management will continue to have its own task and finish group reporting dually to the Cambridgeshire-wide CCJB IOM Strategic Group and to the SPP. The group will continue to work for opportunities for better case management tools and co-location.
- Ensuring continued work on the Performance Framework and more specifically on the Outcome Tool to assess which interventions are most effective and identify any gaps in meeting offender needs.
- Developing further the work with JobCentre Plus to address the impact of the welfare reforms for the offenders, and the potential impact on their offending behaviour.
- Supporting the work of the Probation Trust through proposed Government changes.
- The Partnership should ensure that the work being developed to ensure an increase in capacity for access to mental health services for victims and offenders continues.

Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2013

- Performance of the Integrated Approach to Offender Management will be reported to the Board on a quarterly basis

Domestic Abuse

The Partnership will continue to prioritise, develop and improve the City's response to Domestic Abuse.

This theme will be led by Paul Phillipson (Executive Director Operations, PCC) supported by Karen Kibblewhite (Safer Peterborough Manager, Cutting Crime, PCC)

We will do this by:

- Developing a joined-up City-wide approach to domestic abuse through the Domestic Abuse Governance Board.
- Increasing the capacity of the services in line with the Domestic Abuse Needs Audit 2012, and continue to review and develop services for both perpetrators, and for children and young people.
- Prioritising funding to employ a Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Co-ordinator to lead this work.
- Learning the lessons from any Domestic Homicide Reviews in order to ensure improvements in service delivery
- Undertaking further work with all partners to ensure that data they collect in relation to domestic abuse is in a compatible format so a clear picture to the extent of the issue in Peterborough can be developed.

Reducing the Harm caused by Substance Misuse

The Partnership will continue to support the development and delivery of high class modern drug and alcohol services for the City based upon the latest Government drug and alcohol strategies.

This theme will be led by Gary Goose (Safer Peterborough Strategic Manager and Chair JCG) supported by Karen Kibblewhite (Safer Peterborough Manager, Cutting Crime, PCC)

We will do this by:

- Continually monitoring the performance of drug and alcohol delivery services within the City; holding them and ourselves to account for performance.
- Report back performance on a quarterly basis to the Board or at any other intervals they see fit.
- Develop services further through a comprehensive treatment plan reported to and agreed by the Board.
- Ensure that drug and alcohol providers are included in other complimentary harm reduction schemes such as IOM, ASB and Connecting Families

Dwelling Burglary

The Partnership will continue to prioritise burglary as a core indicator of levels of serious acquisitive crime. We will support work that drives down burglary further.

This theme will be led by Dan Vajzovic (District Policing Commander)

We will do this by:

- Burglary offenders will continue to be prioritised within the Integrated Offender Management Scheme.
- Burglary suspects will be tested where appropriate for drugs at point of entry into the criminal justice system.
- The Partnership continuing to offer support as necessary to the police in support of the victims of burglary.

Violent Crime linked to the Night-Time Economy.

The City will continue to prioritise its response to violent crime and in particular violent crime linked to the night-time economy.

This theme will be led by the City Council's City Centre team.

We will do this by:

- Undertaking full analysis of violent crime to ensuring a proper understanding of the amount of violent crime linked to the night time economy, the use of the Police marker by the Constabulary to indicate violence in a licensed premise should be improved.
- Taking the lead role in ensuring that violence in the City Centre and otherwise linked to the night-time economy is reduced. That activity across partners is balanced and that the City compliments the need to improve the vibrancy and economy of the City Centre with the need for people to be safe and feel safe.

Racially Aggravated Offences and Hate Crime

The Partnership will continue to recognise the special impact of racially aggravated offences and hate crime in all its forms.

This theme will be led by M J Ladha (Chief Executive of Peterborough Racial Equality Council)

We will do this by:

- Prioritising funding to appoint a new role to lead on Anti-social behaviour/hate crime and victim services.
- Carrying out further, in-depth analysis around all prejudicial incidents and crimes across the city to provide more detailed insight. Developing a more comprehensive performance framework that is reported back to the Board on a quarterly basis or at intervals decided by the Board.

Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2013

- Raising awareness of reporting – through Open Out Scheme/ effective network of reporting centres that in the victim's perception can be trusted.
- Improving our knowledge from schools.

Sustainability, Performance, Value for Money and Communication

The Partnership recognises the drivers that pose a potential threat to sustainability of current structures and will look to increase sustainability in order to maintain and improve the City's safety and feelings of safety.

This theme will be led by Nick Leader (Governor, HMP Peterborough) and Gary Goose (Safer Peterborough Strategic Manager)

We will do this by:

- Continuing to work together as a cohesive partnership; one that is flexible, adaptable and responsive to changing need and demand.
- Looking at different operating models, including greater co-operation with other areas; in order to maintain sustainability of service in the years ahead.
- Developing the partnership performance framework to include all available data and that where there are gaps in local data the Partnership influences closure of those gaps.
- The Partnership should continue to fund the specific partnership analyst post.

6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this plan sets out the Safer Peterborough Partnership's desire to make real and long lasting positive improvements to the safety and perceptions of safety within our City. It is innovative in that it does not simply concentrate on traditional categories of crime; but does that in the knowledge that this approach is already making real change in the city and in with belief in the City's preventative agenda.

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STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
4 JUNE 2013	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Contact Officer – Paulina Ford, Senior Governance Officer, Scrutiny
Contact Details – (01733) 452508 or email paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk

REVIEW OF 2012/2013 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a review of the work undertaken during 2012/13 and to develop a work programme for 2013/14.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the 2012/2013 year in review and makes recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.
- 2.2 That the Committee determines its priorities, and develops a work programme for the forthcoming year.

3. REVIEW OF 2012/13

- 3.1 The Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee was established by Council at its annual meeting on 18 May 2009. During the year 2012 -2013, the Committee considered the following issues:

Information / Update

- Strong and Supportive communities: introduction, Overview and Work Programme
- Review of 2011/12 and Future Work Programme
- City Centre – Priorities and Vision

Monitoring / Calling to Account

- Neighbourhood Committee Implementation Task and Finish Group Final Report
- Portfolio Progress Report from Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods
- Citizens Power – Task and Finish Group Final Report
- Vivacity – Annual Report

Policy / Plans / Consultation

- Consultation and Engagement Strategy
- Community Cohesion Strategy and Delivery
- Empty Homes Strategy 2012 - 2015
- Peterborough Homes Allocations Policy
- Review of the Homelessness Strategy 2008 - 2012
- Budget 2013/14 and Medium Term Financial Plan

As the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee the Committee considered the following issues:

- Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels

- Protecting the Public Through Regulatory Services
- Responsible Dog Ownership
- Reducing Reoffending Through Behaviour Change

No Call-in's were received by this Committee during 2012/2013.

3.2 For the information of the Committee, copies of the recommendations made during the year are attached at Appendix 1.

4. WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

4.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee is responsible for setting its own programme in line with the Council's key priorities and the Committee's remit.

4.2 The Committee's remit is:

To review and scrutinise the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy priority of creating strong and supportive communities. This will include reviewing and scrutinising the performance of other public bodies in their activities and performance in the delivery of the Single Delivery Plan targets.

Hold the Executive to account for the discharge of functions in the following ways:

- by exercising the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive or key decisions which have been delegated to an officer.
- by scrutinising Key Decisions which the Executive is planning to take, as set out in the Forward Plan
- by scrutinising Executive decisions after they have been implemented, as part of a wider policy review.

To review and scrutinise the planning, decisions, policy development, service provision and performance relating to the following service areas:

- Cohesion
- Cultural Services
- Neighbourhood Services
- City Centre

To assist and advise the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues in relation to the terms of reference of the committee.

Make recommendations to the Executive and/or Council arising from overview and scrutiny activity.

Establish ad-hoc Task and Finish Groups to investigate specific topics on behalf of the Committee on a time-limited basis.

To undertake all of the Council's statutory functions in accordance with Sections 19 & 20 and associated regulations of the Police and Justice Act 2006, relating to scrutiny of crime and disorder matters, including acting as the Council's crime and disorder committee.

4.3 A draft work programme which shows the items which are currently scheduled along with items carried over from last year is attached at Appendix 2.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 5.1 Minutes of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 6 June, 25 July, 12 September, 20 November 2012 and 16 January, 6 February, and 7 March 2013.
- 6. Appendices**
- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Responses to recommendations made during 2012/2013
- Appendix 2 – Draft Work Programme 2013/14

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**STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013**

APPENDIX 1

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>25 July 2012</p> <p>The Community Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the following be included in the Community Engagement Strategy:</p> <p>1) Engagement and consultation with disability groups</p> <p>2) Engagement and consultation with the Youth Council</p>	<p>Heather Darwin</p>	<p>The strategy will be updated to include these elements.</p>
<p>The Roles and Functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel for Cambridgeshire</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that Peterborough has a member of the Strong and Supportive Scrutiny Committee on the Police and Crime Panel.</p>	<p>Adrian Chapman</p>	<p>Email received from Cllr Cereste to advise that he had already appointed the members for the Police and Crime Panel therefore was unable to take forward the recommendation.</p>
<p>Final Report of the Neighbourhood Committee Review Implementation Task and Finish Group</p>	<p>The committee recommends that the following recommendations made in section 5.1 of the report are agreed and monitored:</p> <p>(i) To move away from general presentations at meetings that do not allow for interaction debate and challenge</p>	<p>Adrian Chapman</p>	<p>It was decided at the medium term financial budget meeting that Neighbourhood Committees would be disbanded.</p>

**STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013**

APPENDIX 1

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>(ii) Ensure that the agenda items are in the main, to enable decision making rather than for information only</p> <p>(iii) Adopt a Scrutiny-style approach to key agenda items, where council officers and staff from partner organisations are called to provide evidence, information and advice to Neighbourhood Committee members and to present on key issues affecting the neighbourhood in a more appropriate manner</p> <p>(iv) Produce a communications and PR strategy that includes a detailed calendar of communications and PR activity that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the overall objectives of Neighbourhood Committees • Promotes each Neighbourhood Committee in each area in advance of the meeting • Publicises the outcomes from each Neighbourhood Committee after each meeting <p>(v) Organise and run an annual Peterborough Peterborough-wide Neighbourhoods conference at which:</p>		

**STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013**

APPENDIX 1

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall performance and progress made in the previous year is highlighted and discussed. • Any barriers, issues and opportunities arising from the previous year are highlighted and discussed. • Overall strategic and operational principles for the forthcoming year are identified, discussed and agreed. <p>(vi) Alongside the Community Action Plans agree a performance plan for the year for the for each Neighbourhood Committee that sets out required performance across multiple domains (e.g. litter picks, grass cuts, meters of footpath replaced, £25k spend deadlines etc), and then monitor its performance at the monthly Neighbourhood Management meetings and the quarterly Neighbourhood Committee meetings. Performance data should be shared visually at each Neighbourhood Committee meeting.</p> <p>(vi) Ensure that all Council Departmental Business Plans include commitments</p>		

**STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013**

APPENDIX 1

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>about how services will engage with and be shaped by Neighbourhood Committees and their Community Action Plans</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the Neighbourhood Committee Implementation Task and Finish group be disbanded as the work of the group is now concluded.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that an annual report be presented at the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee on the performance of Neighbourhood Committees.</p>		
12 September 2012			
Reducing Reoffending through Behaviour Change	The Committee recommends that Cambridgeshire Constabulary take a proactive stance to make representations against new alcohol licensing applications where there are reasonable grounds relating to alcohol issues in the area.	Gary Goose	This was brought to the attention of the Peterborough District Policing Commander on 20 September 2012.
Responsible Dog Ownership	The Committee recommends that the council be more proactive when dealing with reported cases of noise nuisance due to dogs being left alone all day.	Peter Gell	In the last financial year the Council received 144 complaints alleging statutory nuisance from dog barking of which a number were repeat complaints, or more than one resident complaining about the

**STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013**

APPENDIX 1

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
Responsible Dog Ownership	The Committee recommends that the Council be more proactive in following up reported cases to the police regarding dangerous dogs.	Peter Gell	<p>same barking dog or dogs. Following a proactive approach in investigating these complaints, all but two were resolved informally by the Council through communications with both the complainant and the owner, or following mediation referrals. In the case of the two which required formal action, statutory noise abatement notices were served. A breach of a notice is a criminal offence; to date it has not been necessary following the serving of a notice to pursue the matter to court for breach of the notice.</p> <p>The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide a stray dog service, this being delivered through a contract with an external service provider Midland Environmental Contract Ltd. As part of this Service the contractor will respond to calls of stray dogs, picking them up and taking them to kennels. Providing the dog is not a prohibited breed it can be reunited with the owner on payment of a fee. The electronic chipping of dogs has made it easier to identify dog owners. If the owner does not take their dog back attempts are made to re-home it. On average Midland receive one call a week regarding the behaviour of dogs; there is a tendency for people to report every dog which appears more excited than they perceive it should be. A proportion of these reports also relate to stray dogs and consequently Midland will attempt to locate the dog and remove it from the streets, if the dog</p>

**STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013**

APPENDIX 1

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
			<p>meets the criteria to be classed as a 'dangerous dog' the Police are notified. To date it has not been necessary to report a dog to the police due to it being dangerous. If a report was made by the public to Midland of a dog that could be classified as a 'dangerous dog', but it wasn't a stray, they would liaise with the police, this again has not been necessary to date. Due to the expertise of the dog warden with regards to the behaviour of dogs he does during the course of his work provide advice and guidance to owners to promote responsible dog ownership. There has been a greater emphasis on this since the committee's recommendations. Cambridgeshire Police are the statutory body that takes legal proceedings against the owners of dangerous dogs, as well as action to permanently remove the threat itself where appropriate. The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 defines what in law can be classified as dangerous. It does this by first of all prohibiting certain types of dog and secondly making the link between the behaviour of dogs, in particular dogs that are dangerously out of control. It is worth noting that the law seeks to protect the public from dogs, not other animals through this legislation. As a result of proactive meetings between the Council and the police during the year there is a good understanding of the scope of each body with regards to the handling of dog related matters.</p>

**STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013**

APPENDIX 1

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
16 January 2013			Midland and the police are able to seek support and advice where required in relation to the handling of 'dangerous dogs'. Because of the understanding developed it has only been necessary for the Police to seek support from the Council via Midland once regarding a dangerous dog, this being to help identify a prohibited dog type.
<p>Citizens Power Programme – Final Report of the Task and Finish Group</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that Peterborough City Council when considering commissioning a similar programme to the Citizens Power Programme in the future should undertake following actions prior to committing to the programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a full investigation into whether the proposed programme would be value for money. 2. Appoint a project manager at the earliest stage to prepare a full business case and financial plan. 3. Communicate key messages of the programme to all councillors to avoid unnecessary delays or misunderstanding over the outcomes and objectives of the initiative. 	Adrian Chapman	<p>Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED to: Endorse the final report of the review of the Citizen Power Peterborough programme conducted by the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee and to approve the recommendation in the report as below:</p> <p>Should future programmes of any similarity be considered within the city that the appointment of a project manager at the earliest stage is essential. The role of that project manager should incorporate business and financial planning and the communication of the key messages of the programme to Councillors to avoid unnecessary delays or misunderstanding over the outcomes and objectives of the initiative.</p>

**STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013**

APPENDIX 1

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Peterborough Homes Allocations Policy</p>	<p>The Committee recommends to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning that the household income level of £40,000 to allow a person to access the housing register is reconsidered as the Committee considers it to be too high for Peterborough households.</p> <p>The Committee recommends to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning that Section 9.9 of the Peterborough Homes - The Common Housing Register Allocations Policy which refers to Local Connection and in particular bullet point 3 be closely monitored to ensure that it is being implemented correctly.</p> <p>9.9 Local Connection iii. The applicant or a member of their household has immediate family (parents, children, brothers, sisters and other family members if there is a particularly close relationship) who have lived in the district for at least the past 5 years,</p>	<p>Councillor Hiller</p>	<p>Councillor Hiller introduced the report at a Cabinet meeting on 25 February 2013 highlighting that the current arrangements for the housing list were unsustainable and that priorities would change to increase the ratings for ex-service personnel and those with a link to the area.</p> <p>Further comments raised during debate included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income threshold was based across the entire household, not individuals; • Must have a local link of six months or more to be on the housing list; • Those applicants resident for five years would be prioritised; and • The obligation remained to provide for homeless households first following investigation into their status but they could be directed to private accommodation. <p>Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED to: Note and agree the proposed Common Housing Register Allocations Policy and to agree for the proposed policy to be presented to full council for agreement and adoption.</p>

**DRAFT STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

APPENDIX 2

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
<p>4 June 2013 <i>Draft Report 16 May</i> <i>Final Report 23 May</i></p>	<p>Review of 2012/13 and Future Work Programme To review the work undertaken during 2012/13 and to consider the future work programme of the Committee Contact Officer: Paulina Ford Draft Homelessness Strategy – Final Sign off</p> <p>Contact Officer: Sarah Hebblethwaite Impact of the Welfare Reform</p> <p>Contact Officer: Adrian Chapman CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>Annual Community Safety Plan Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gary Goose</p>	
<p>24 July 2013 <i>Draft Report 8 July</i> <i>Final Report 15 July</i></p>	<p>Impact of the Housing Allocations Policy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Sean Evans Portfolio Progress Report from Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Waste Management Contact Officer: Kevin Tighe/ Cllr Elsey</p>	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	<p>Localism Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Adrian Chapman</p> <p>Proposal of Selective Licensing</p> <p>Contact Officer: Belinda Child</p> <p>CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>City Centre Policing</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gary Goose</p>	
<p>11 September 2013</p> <p><i>Draft Report 23 Aug</i></p> <p><i>Final Report 2 Sept</i></p>	<p>CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>Portfolio Progress Report from Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Public Health</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jawaid Khan/ Cllr Walsh</p> <p>Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gary Goose</p> <p>Update on Responsible Dog Ownership</p>	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	Contact Officer: Peter Gell	
19 November 2013	CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
<i>Draft Report 1 Nov</i> <i>Final Report 8 Nov</i>	Substance Misuse	
	Contact Officer: Gary Goose	
	Domestic Abuse	
	Contact Officer: Gary Goose	
	Portfolio Progress Report from Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods	
	To Scrutinise and comment on the progress of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods	
	Contact Officer: Adrian Chapman/Cllr North	
15 January 2014		
<i>Draft Report 30 Dec</i> <i>Final Report 6 Jan</i>		
8 or 20 January 2014	Budget 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Plan	
	To scrutinise the Executive's proposals for the Budget 2013/14 and Medium	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
(Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions)	Term Financial Plan. Contact Officer: John Harrison/Steven Pilsworth	
26 March 2014	Vivacity – Annual Report	
<i>Draft Report 10 Mar</i> <i>Final Report 17 Mar</i>	Contact Officer: Kevin Tighe City Centre Plan including Car Parks	
	Contact Officer: Annette Joyce CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	Annual Community Safety Plan Strategy	
	Contact Officer: Gary Goose	

To be programmed into work programme:

- Introduction to Selective Licensing to Improve Standards in Private Rented Housing – Briefing Note – Belinda Child
- Update on the Impact of the New Police and Crime Commissioner – Briefing Note- Gary Goose
- Strong and Supportive communities: introduction, Overview and Work Programme – Briefing Note – Adrian Chapman

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
4 JUNE 2013	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Paulina Ford, Senior Governance Officer, Scrutiny

Contact Details – 01733 452508 or email paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE KEY DECISIONS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee outlining the content of the Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The latest version of the Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions is attached at Appendix 1. The Notice contains those key decisions, which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) can make after. No new decisions have been added.
- 3.2 The information in the Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information.
- 3.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.
- 3.4 As the Notice is published fortnightly any version of the Notice published after dispatch of this agenda will be tabled at the meeting.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Notice of Intention to Take Key Decisions

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PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE KEY DECISIONS

PUBLISHED: 16 MAY 2013

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO TAKE KEY DECISIONS

In the period commencing 28 days after the date of publication of this notice, Peterborough City Council's Executive intends to take 'key decisions' on the issues set out below. Key decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000 and/or have a significant impact on two or more wards in Peterborough.

If the decision is to be taken by an individual cabinet member, the name of the cabinet member is shown against the decision, in addition to details of the councillor's portfolio. If the decision is to be taken by the Cabinet, it's members are as listed below:
Cllr Cereste (Leader); Cllr Lee (Deputy leader); Cllr Scott; Cllr Holdich; Cllr Hillier; Cllr Seaton; Cllr Fitzgerald; Cllr Dalton; Cllr Walsh.

This Notice should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions for the forthcoming month and it will be updated on a fortnightly basis. Each new notice supersedes the previous notice and items may be carried over into forthcoming notices. Any questions on specific issues included on the Notice should be included on the form which appears at the back of the Notice and submitted to Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 01733 452483). Alternatively, you can submit your views via e-mail to alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk or by telephone on 01733 452447.

Whilst the majority of the Executive's business at the meetings listed in this Notice will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. In these circumstances the meeting may be held in private, and on the rare occasion this applies this is indicated in the list below. A formal notice of the intention to hold the meeting, or part of it, in private, will be given 28 clear days in advance of any private meeting in accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed (unless a notice of intention to hold the meeting in private has been given).

You are entitled to view any documents listed on the notice, or obtain extracts from any documents listed or subsequently submitted to the decision maker prior to the decision being made, subject to any restrictions on disclosure. There is no charge for viewing the documents, although charges may be made for photocopying or postage. Documents listed on the notice and relevant documents subsequently being submitted can be requested from Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 01733 452483), e-mail to alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk or by telephone on 01733 452447. For each decision a public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is taken.

All decisions will be posted on the Council's website: www.peterborough.gov.uk/executivedecisions. If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'key decisions' outlined in this Notice, please submit them to the Governance Support Officer using the form attached. For your information, the contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated within this notice.

PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED DECISIONS

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DECISION MAKER	MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE DECISION SUBMITTED TO THE DECISION MAKER (IF ANY OTHER THAN PUBLIC REPORT)
<p>Moy's End Stand Demolition and Reconstruction - KEY/03APR/12 Award of Contract for the Demolition of the Moy's End Stand and Reconstruction</p>	<p>Councillor David Seaton Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Internal and External Stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Richard Hodgson Head of Strategic Projects Tel: 01733 384535 richard.hodgson@peterboro.ugh.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.</p>
<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Dickens Street Car Park - KEY/03JUL/11 To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of Dickens Street Car Park.</p>	<p>Councillor David Seaton Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Richard Hodgson Head of Strategic Projects Tel: 01733 384535 richard.hodgson@peterboro.ugh.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.</p>

Rolling Select List - Independent Fostering Agencies - KEY/01 JUL/12 To approve the list for independent fostering agencies.	Councillor Sheila Scott OBE Cabinet Member for Children's Services	N/A	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.	Oliver Hayward Commissioning Officer - Aiming High Tel: 01733 863910 oliver.hayward@peterborou.gh.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.
Clare Lodge Service Review Outcome - KEY/13NOV12/06 To approve the outcome of the service review of Clare Lodge Secure Unit.	Councillor Sheila Scott OBE Cabinet Member for Children's Services	N/A	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal and External Stakeholders as appropriate.	Oliver Hayward Commissioning Officer - Aiming High Tel: 01733 863910 oliver.hayward@peterborou.gh.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.
Residential Approved Provider List - KEY/13NOV12/08 Create a compliant Approved Provider List for Residential units for children and young people.	Councillor Sheila Scott OBE Cabinet Member for Children's Services	N/A	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.	Oliver Hayward Commissioning Officer - Aiming High Tel: 01733 863910 oliver.hayward@peterborou.gh.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.
Future of Children's Play Services - KEY/13NOV12/09 To determine the future of Play Services in the city	Councillor Sheila Scott OBE Cabinet Member for Children's Services	N/A	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities.	To be undertaken with key stakeholders.	Oliver Hayward Commissioning Officer - Aiming High Tel: 01733 863910 oliver.hayward@peterborou.gh.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.

<p>Care and Repair Framework Agreement - KEY18DEC12/01 To approve a framework agreement and schedule of rates to deliver disabled facility grant work. specifically providing disabled access to toilet and washing facilities and associated work in domestic properties.</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Hiller Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Strong and Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Relevant Internal Departments.</p>	<p>Russ Carr Care & Repair Manager Tel: 01733 863864 russ.carr@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.</p>
<p>Award of Contract for the 413 Bus Service - KEY27DEC12/01 Award of Contract for Route 413 (Maxey to City Centre) from 1 April 2013.</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Hiller Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Relevant internal departments and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Mark Speed Transport Planning Team Manager Tel: 317471 mark.speed@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.</p>
<p>Environment Capital Action Plan - KEY24JAN13/02 Approve the Plan for public consultation.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Four week public consultation.</p>	<p>Charlotte Palmer Climate Change Team Manager charlotte.palmer@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.</p>
<p>Fletton Parkway Junction 17 to 2 improvement scheme - KEY24JAN13/07 To agree funding is brought forward between 2012 and 2015 in Medium Term Financial Strategy and the contract awarded for the works.</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Hiller, Councillor David Seaton Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning, Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Relevant internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Mark Speed Transport Planning Team Manager Tel: 317471 mark.speed@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.</p>

Sale of Craig Street Car Park - KEY/25MAR13/01 To approve the sale of land known as Craig Street Car Park.	Councillor David Seaton Cabinet Member for Resources	N/A	Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital	Relevant Internal and External Stakeholders and ward councillors.	David Gray Capital Projects Officer Tel: 01733 384531 david.gray@peterborough.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.
Short Breaks Service - KEY/08APR13/01 Approval to award a contract for the provision of short break services for families with children and young people with disabilities.	Councillor Sheila Scott OBE Cabinet Member for Children's Services	N/A	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Relevant internal departments.	Oliver Hayward Commissioning Officer - Aiming High Tel: 01733 863910 oliver.hayward@peterborough.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.
Peterborough Highway Services 2013-2023 - KEY/18APR13/01 To approve the preferred bidder and award the contract for Peterborough Highway Services.	Councillor Peter Hiller Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning	N/A	Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital	Relevant Internal and External Stakeholders.	Andy Tatt Transport and Engineering Group Manager Tel: 01733 453469 andy.tatt@peterborough.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.
The Expansion of Gladstone Primary School onto the site of the Gladstone Community Centre - KEY/18APR13/02 Award of Contract for the Expansion of Gladstone Primary School on the site of the Gladstone Community Centre.	Councillor David Seaton, Councillor John Holdich OBE Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Cabinet Member for Resources	N/A	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Relevant internal and external stakeholders, ward councillors and public.	Brian Howard Programme Manager - Secondary Schools Development Tel: 01733 863976 brian.howard@peterborough.gov.uk	It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.

<p>Passenger Transport - Subsidised Service Provision - KEY/30MAY13/02 To decide on the level of subsidised services to be provided by Peterborough City Council from the 1st of October 2013 in line with the revised budget allocation.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Cross-group working group.</p>	<p>Mark Speed Transport Planning Team Manager Tel: 317471 mark.speed@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents.</p>
<p>Energy Performance Contract (EnPC) - KEY/30MAY/13/03 To award the contract for the provision of energy efficiency services for the council's property portfolio including Schools.</p>	<p>Councillor Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Economic Development, Business Engagement and Environment Capital</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital</p>	<p>Relevant Internal Departments</p>	<p>John Harrison Executive Director-Strategic Resources Tel: 01733 452398 john.harrison@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be any further documents</p>

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Communications
Strategic Growth and Development Services
Legal and Governance Services
Policy and Research
Economic and Community Regeneration
HR Business Relations, Training & Development, Occupational Health & Reward & Policy

STRATEGIC RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Director's Office at Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Finance
Internal Audit
Information Communications Technology (ICT)
Business Transformation
Strategic Improvement
Strategic Property
Waste
Customer Services
Business Support
Shared Transactional Services
Cultural Trust Client

CHILDRENS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT Bayard Place, Broadway, PE1 1FB

Safeguarding, Family & Communities
Education & Resources
Strategic Commissioning & Prevention

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT Director's Office at Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Planning Transport & Engineering (Development Management, Construction & Compliance, Infrastructure Planning & Delivery, Network Management, Passenger Transport)
Commercial Operations (Strategic Parking and Commercial CCTV, City Centre, Markets & Commercial Trading, Tourism)
Neighbourhoods (Strategic Regulatory Services, Safer Peterborough, Strategic Housing, Cohesion, Social Inclusion, Neighbourhood Management)
Operations Business Support (Finance)

ADULT SOCIAL CARE Director's Office at Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Care Services Delivery (Assessment & Care Management; Integrated Learning Disability Services and HIV/AIDS; Regulated Services)
Strategic Commissioning (Mental Health & Integrated Learning Disability; Older People, Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment; Contracts, Procurement & Compliance)
Quality, Information and Performance (Performance & Information; Strategic Safeguarding; Business Support & Governance; Business Systems Improvement; Quality and Workforce Development)