



**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD PAPER
FORMAL PUBLIC MEETING**

Report of: Cllr Douglas Johnson

Date: 12th December 2024

Subject: Homes, health and wellbeing

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Summary:

This report presents a summary of why homes matter for health and wellbeing, key work since the Board last collectively reviewed this issue, and how the Board can support progress to ensure that everyone in Sheffield has a decent affordable home.

Questions for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

What else do you think the Board and its members can do to support progress in this area?
How would the Board like to ensure accountability for agreed actions today?

Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

Board members are asked to:

- Note that there is a range of good work across the City to ensure that people have homes that support good health and wellbeing, but that there is an opportunity for greater, coordinated partnership working that moves from talk to action.
- Champion and embed a clear narrative about why homes matter for health and wellbeing within the individual organisations and sectors they represent.
- Ensure that the organisation or sector they represent are clear on their role and what they want to take responsibility for in relation to homes, health and wellbeing.
- Commit to resourcing the work, including ensuring that there is a named person to lead on the work and liaise with regarding homes, health and wellbeing.
- Commit to focussing together on the priorities that have already been identified since July 2022 and collectively endorse the new Housing Strategy for the City.
- Ensure that the sector or organisation they represent fully participates in partnership spaces in the city to work on these priorities together where relevant, including:
 - Housing, Health and Care Executive Group and Delivery Group
 - Homelessness Prevention Strategic Board
 - Upcoming forums to develop delivery plans related to the Housing Strategy and the Older Peoples Independent Living strategy
- Provide challenge and guidance to make sure that the right work is happening at the right geographical level.
- Send a collective request to partners to consider the original recommendations from the July 2022 summit where these have not been communicated or acted on.
- Establish a clear link between the Housing, Health and Care Executive Group and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Agree to receive further updates on this topic as needed.

Background Papers:

[July 2022 Housing and Health Summit summary](#)

Appendix 1 – Housing Strategy

Which of the Building Blocks in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy does this help to deliver?

Ensure a healthy standard of living for all - If we are to build a fairer and healthier Sheffield we must make sure everyone has access to a decent and affordable home.

Which of the Radical Shifts in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy does this help to deliver?

Partnerships and collaboration – Promoting collaborative work across organisations and sectors and with people and communities to achieve our big goals, because we believe we can go further together than we can go on our own.

Monitoring and accountability – Ensuring that we check how we're doing regularly to keep track of our commitments and follow through on what we have promised to do, that we make sure our commitments are spread throughout our organisations and sectors, we take shared responsibility for our commitments, support each other to achieve them, and challenge where we think they aren't being met, and that we are open and honest about our progress and where the challenges are.

Who has contributed to this paper?

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Homes, Health and Wellbeing

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents a summary of why homes matter for health and wellbeing, key work since the Board last collectively reviewed this issue, and how the Board can support progress to ensure that everyone in Sheffield has a decent affordable home.

2.0 HOW DOES THIS SUPPORT DELIVERY OF THE FAIR AND HEALTHY SHEFFIELD PLAN?

2.1 The recommendations within this paper identify the actions the Board can take to support progress to ensure that everyone in Sheffield has a decent affordable home. This is one of the priorities within the Building Block titled 'Ensure a Healthy Standard of Living for All' in the Fair and Healthy Sheffield Plan. Board Members have identified that this is an area where they want to have impact and add value over this municipal year.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Why homes matter for health and wellbeing

3.1 Good homes are fundamental for good health and wellbeing. A good home provides a safe, secure, and stable environment, and is free from hazards. It is adequately ventilated and insulated and heated to maintain a comfortable temperature and is designed to meet the needs of its occupants, including accessibility features for those with mobility challenges, ensuring that everyone can navigate and use their living space with ease.

3.2 A good home provides adequate space, and a sense of security. It is affordable, allowing residents to comfortably manage housing costs alongside other essentials like food and social activities. A good home ensures access to natural light, safe outdoor spaces, proximity to essential services, and supports strong social connections by enabling individuals and families to build relationships within their communities.

3.3 Poor homes harm health and shorten lives. Cold, damp homes lead to respiratory issues, cardiovascular problems, and other chronic illnesses, particularly in vulnerable populations like children and the elderly. Overcrowding exacerbates the spread of infectious diseases, and poor safety standards such as faulty electrical installations and other hazards increase the risk of accidents.

3.4 Living with financial strain from high housing costs or fear of eviction causes chronic stress, anxiety, and depression. These mental health challenges are further amplified by conditions such as overcrowding, which reduces privacy and increases tension within households. For those facing homelessness, the absence of stable housing

leads to social isolation and severe psychological distress, perpetuating cycles of poverty and ill-health.

- 3.5 People who are sleeping rough, face the most extreme health impacts, with exposure to harsh conditions, poor nutrition, and lack of access to healthcare significantly reducing life expectancies compared to the general population. In England, the average age of death for individuals who are homeless is 44 years for men and 42 years for women.
- 3.6 Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of poor homes and homelessness. In addition to physical health problems including respiratory issues, allergies, chronic illnesses and injuries, growing up in poor or overcrowded housing conditions and experiencing homelessness affects a child's cognitive, emotional and social development, disrupting their education and relationships, and increasing the risk of offending behaviour. This can have consequences for the rest of their lives, leading to long-term physical and mental health problems and limiting opportunities for future employment and financial stability.
- 3.7 There are deep inequalities in access to a good home. People on low incomes, single parent families, disabled people and those with long term health conditions, minoritised populations, care leavers, and LGBTQ+ people are disproportionately more likely to live in poor-quality homes, particularly in the private sector but also within social housing. They also often have fewer options and face a range of barriers to accessing healthier alternative accommodation and are more likely to experience homelessness. The intersection of poverty, social exclusion, and limited access to resources creates a cycle of disadvantage, making it harder for these groups to escape poor living conditions.

Homes in Sheffield

- 3.8 Sheffield has 249,624 homes, with 58% estimated to be owner-occupied, 19% private rented, and 23% social rented. The city faces significant housing challenges that impact on the health and well-being of residents. High demand for social housing has left 12,122 people actively applying for properties, while 4,009 individuals presented as homeless in 2023/24. As of September 2024, 774 households were living in some form of temporary accommodation. The number of people sleeping rough in Sheffield has increased significantly; in August 2024, the Framework Street Outreach Team in Sheffield counted 71 people sleeping rough in the city centre, which was a 78% increase from the same day in 2023.
- 3.9 The quality and affordability of housing are pressing concerns in Sheffield. Within the private sector, 16% of homes have serious hazards, requiring an estimated £87 million to address. Fuel poverty affects 17% of households, exacerbating health inequalities and making homes harder to heat during colder months. Overcrowding affects 6.2% of households, adding further strain to living conditions. Additionally, housing contributes 34% of Sheffield's carbon emissions, with decarbonisation efforts projected to cost

between £2 and £5 billion. These challenges highlight the critical need for interventions to improve housing affordability, security, quality, and sustainability in the City.

HWBB Housing and Health Summit July 2022

- 3.10 The link between housing and health was a fundamental component of the first two Sheffield Health and Wellbeing Strategies (2013-2018 and 2019-2024). In 2022, the Health and Wellbeing Board identified that although there had been a number of conversations on the interaction between housing and health over recent years, this had not done more than scratch the surface. In response, the Board convened a Housing and Health Summit in July 2022. The aim of the summit was to share understanding and experience of housing and health related issues, to set out a shared agenda across the NHS, social care and housing, and to capitalise on opportunities for better partnerships and joint delivery.
- 3.11 Discussions focused on:
- Health Improvement and access for families and people experiencing homelessness
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing
 - Living Well, Ageing Well
 - Housing and Primary Care Networks
 - Impact through Anchor Networks (a group of large organisations that are rooted in a place, that come together to work collectively for the benefit of a shared geography)
 - Housing and health and community investment
- 3.12 It was noted that other important themes such as fall hazards in homes, cold homes and fuel poverty, and decarbonisation were not discussed. A series of recommendations developed from the summit were presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2022. These recommendations included:
- Building housing into the Sheffield Health and Care Partnership (SHCP)
 - Integrating health and housing within the City Council
 - Working together on the Cost-of-Living Crisis
 - Working with local housing associations
 - Reinvigorating Sheffield Anchor mission and network
 - Learning from others and transferring the best opportunities to Sheffield
 - Creating space for creative conversations and partnership development
- 3.13 The Board recommended that a time-limited task and finish group was established to identify appropriate resource to drive progress in this area and to bring back to the Board a report setting out a programme of work. Although a group was established, this did not develop as initially anticipated and became more South Yorkshire-focussed. There has been no review of the recommendations from the summit by the Board to date.

4.0 KEY WORK SINCE THE JULY 2022 SUMMIT

- 4.1 Although action in relation to the recommendations from the summit were not taken forward as anticipated by a task and finish group, there has been a huge amount of energy and activity across the Sheffield system in relation to homes, health and wellbeing since that time.
- 4.2 Detailed below are examples which align with recommendations from the summit. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but to give a sense of the good work we can continue to build on and to identify key opportunities for the Health and Wellbeing to have impact and add value.

Sheffield Housing Strategy

- 4.3 Sheffield's new 10-year Housing Strategy was approved by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on 16th October 2024. It focuses on addressing key, city-wide housing challenges and opportunities across all tenures, and sets out a clear statement of the city's housing need and ambitions, to steer the Council and partners in high-level decision making on housing over the next decade. The Strategy is included in Appendix 1.
- 4.4 The Strategy is for everybody who lives in Sheffield, from the youngest to the oldest, and for those who want to make Sheffield their home in the future. It has been developed with partners and in consultation with residents and has received strong public support
- 4.5 The Strategy has a clear focus on improving health outcomes and reducing inequality, and sets out the explicit link between homes and health and wellbeing:
- 'Everyone should have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home. Good quality homes are fundamental for enabling people to live happy, healthy lives.'*
- 4.6 This focus is also clearly stated in the Strategy's overarching vision:
- 'Everyone in Sheffield has a home that supports good health and is suitable for their needs and aspirations. We want people to have more housing choice and better access to a home which is safe, affordable, and ready for a changing climate.'*
- 4.7 The vision is supported by the following five ambitions:
1. More homes and housing choice
 2. Housing carbon emissions will have been reduced to net zero by 2030
 3. Safe, good quality and comfortable homes
 4. Great, safe neighbourhoods that people are happy to call home
 5. Homes and housing services that end homelessness and support healthy, independent lives
- 4.8 Delivery of the Strategy's vision and ambitions will depend on collaboration between the Council, Partners, people and communities, making the most of the city's resources, skills

and expertise and aligning with interdependent strategies and plans to maximise joint outcomes wherever possible. Many of the programmes and projects needed to deliver the Housing Strategy will be identified and managed by partner organisations. Where the Council is best placed to lead on delivering the housing priorities, it will do this through existing and new junior strategies, delivery plans and key policies, such as the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Older Persons Independent Living Strategy. It is also recognised that a large element of the Strategy will be delivered through the commitment and action of individual homeowners and private landlords, and support and guidance must be provided to enable this.

4.9 SCC Strategy and Resources Policy Committee has oversight of the Housing Strategy's progress, and SCC Housing Policy Committee is responsible for overseeing delivery, and guiding and approving the junior strategies, plans and policies needed to deliver the vision and ambitions.

4.10 Strategic Partnerships such as the Sheffield Together Partnership (SCC, Homes England, South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority, Sheffield Property Association South Yorkshire Housing Partnership) will have a role in facilitating and monitoring progress against relevant key aspects of the Strategy. Forums such as the Strategic Housing Forum (SCC and Registered Providers) will also provide opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources to deliver joint housing outcomes.

4.11 Work is currently underway to further develop the framework and forums needed to facilitate the delivery of this cross-cutting Strategy, identifying and utilising current Boards and groups where they exist. Key to this will be establishing the partnership space best placed to help deliver on joint housing and health and wellbeing outcomes. Work is already underway to refocus the remit of the Housing, Health and Care Reference Group on delivering the priorities of the Housing Strategy where joint health and housing outcomes are identifiable.

4.12 The Health and Wellbeing Board can play a key role in supporting and driving forward the Housing Strategy, this includes collectively endorsing the Strategy, calling partners across the City together to collaborate on the ambitions, ensuring participation of the organisations and sectors that HWBB members represent in the delivery of the work, and using their influence as a collective to unblock the way forward when needed.

Older People's Independent Living Strategy

4.13 The Older Persons Independent Living (OPIL) Strategy 2025-30 will be a 5-year plan focused on housing and housing-related support that facilitates independent living for older people. It covers all tenures and areas of the city and will support Sheffield's commitment to being an age-friendly city and the delivery of the Housing Strategy's ambitions and priorities for Sheffield's older residents. To ensure alignment, both strategies will use the same five broad ambitions.

4.14 The OPIL Strategy will help to tackle the city's large shortage of age-friendly mainstream and specialist housing. These housing types help to reduce demand on health and care services and can delay or remove the need to move into a care home. By providing downsizing / rightsizing opportunities for older residents, they benefit people of all ages by increasing opportunities for first-time buyers and younger families to take their next housing move. The Strategy will also aim to improve access to housing support, especially for groups and communities who often experience health inequalities.

4.15 It will be important for the Strategy to be aligned with other strategies and programmes across the housing, NHS, social care and Voluntary Community Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sectors, that are supporting independent living and delivering better health outcomes for older people.

4.16 Consultation on the draft Strategy is expected to begin early in 2025 with final approval being sought from the SCC Housing Policy Committee in Summer 2025. Further participation by a wide range of partners and the public in the development of the Strategy will be key. Once the Strategy has been approved, it will be possible to clarify the further ask of the Health and Wellbeing Board for support, but there several areas where close working is likely to be required, including working together to:

- Increase funding streams and site opportunities for specialist housing, including for extra care-type accommodation.
- Support the market to deliver different and more innovative models of housing support and housing with care, including for older people living dementia, learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues.
- Identify and support vulnerable and isolated elders to ensure they receive the housing support and guidance they need.
- Develop smoother and more joined-up pathways that make it easier to receive housing-related support, such as for equipment and adaptations.
- Embed housing support and guidance in health improvement programmes and integrated neighbourhood working teams.
- Explore and deliver opportunities to improve the safety and warmth of homes such as through a Good Homes Hub and Warm Homes Sheffield.

Housing, Health & Care Reference Group

4.17 The Housing, Health and Care Reference Group began in 2021, with membership from the Council (Housing, Adult Social Care, and Public Health), Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT), Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust (SHSC), Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STH) and Sheffield Integrated Care Board (ICB). The group has been meeting two-monthly and provides a forum for developing joint-working and information sharing between Housing, Adult Social Care and NHS organisations in Sheffield, including the development of policies, strategies and new initiatives.

4.18 Although this forum has been appreciated by colleagues for information sharing and exploring joint-working, there has been limited progress on taking work forward together within task and finish groups due to irregular attendance of some members and lack of dedicated resources. It has been identified that the group would also benefit from widening its membership to include VCFSE sector representation and aligning the work programme more strategically with delivery of shared ambitions within the new Housing Strategy and other City-wide strategies including the Fair and Healthy Sheffield Plan.

4.19 A revised governance structure is being proposed with the single Reference Group developing into an Executive Group with extended Senior Leadership membership, including from VCFSE sector, who meet 6-monthly set and resource a strategic workplan, and a Delivery Group with extended membership including the VCSE Sector who will meet every two-months to provide support in the progression of joint task-and-finish groups formed outside of these meetings.

4.20 There would be significant benefit in establishing a clear link to the Health and Wellbeing Board, to raise the profile of the partnership space for developing joint-working related to housing, health and wellbeing in the City, and as progress of the work of these groups will depend on commitment from Senior Leaders in Partner organisations to prioritise attendance and participation from appropriate staff within their teams.

Homelessness prevention

4.21 [The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan 2023 – 2028](#) has two overarching themes: tackle inequalities, and support people through the cost-of-living crisis, and five priorities: proactively preventing homelessness, improving services to support vulnerable groups, tackling rough sleeping, improving housing options and support, and strengthening partnerships and improving systems. An action plan supporting the delivery of the strategy is regularly reviewed by SCC Housing Policy Committee.

4.22 Strong collaboration between partners across the city is critical to deliver the ambitions of the Strategy and commitments in the Action Plan, and there are several partnership groups that support this. Delivery is currently overseen by partners on the Homelessness Prevention Strategic Board and supported by partners in the Homelessness Prevention Forum and Working Groups. The Homelessness Prevention Strategic Board has evolved from what was previously the Steering Group. This has enabled a more diverse partner membership, including people with lived experience, Homewards, additional colleagues from Children's and Young Peoples Services and the VCFSE sector to govern the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan.

4.23 In addition to the Strategic Board, the Homeless Prevention Forum enables a diverse and broad range of providers and partners to share practice, information and development in relation to preventing homelessness. The Forum is an interactive networking event held every quarter, with between 60 and 80 people attending, and regularly receives positive feedback from attendees.

4.24 Good progress is being made on delivery of the Action Plan. Year 2 (2024-2025) delivery priorities were confirmed at [SCC Housing Policy Committee in September](#). Areas where the Health and Wellbeing Board member support and involvement will be critical include:

- Developing and implementing a revised action plan for rough sleeping.
- Improving the Duty to Refer Pathway for identified Public Services to refer services users they identify who may be at risk or experiencing homelessness.
- Improving the 16–17-year-old joint care leavers protocol.
- Ensuring early help for refugees and asylum seekers, providing housing options and advice.
- Improving data sharing and governance across Partner organisations
- Ensuring active and regular participation by key partners in the ongoing work

4.25 In addition to ongoing work aligned to the Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleepers Strategy and Action Plan, Sheffield is one of six flagship areas working with The Royal Foundation to deliver the Homewards Programme. Homewards is a transformative five-year, locally led programme that aims to demonstrate that together it is possible to end homelessness, making it rare, brief, and unrepeated. Homewards provides the opportunity to accelerate improving the prevention outcomes for people in Sheffield and making transformative change to systems and services, and the opportunity to work with individuals at an earlier point where there is a greater chance to identify the underlying causes, tackle hidden homelessness and manage the risk of housing insecurity.

4.26 Homewards have committed to providing a package of support by providing additional capacity, seed funding, evaluation and learning. They have also pledged to deliver an Innovative Housing Project (IHP), which will focus on young people and families and have launched the Homewards fund with a value of £500,000 over a 5-year period to provide seed funding for projects. The Homewards Sheffield coalition includes SCC, healthcare providers, mental health services, experts by experience, as well as the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, many local business and dynamic community organisations and people with lived experience.

Housing and Children and Young People’s Health Workshop November 2023

4.27 This event was convened by Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) as part of their work to address inequalities, with attendees from a range of SCFT teams and wider partners representing SCC Public Health, SCC Housing, VCSE organisations, and Sheffield Primary Care. The workshop aimed to create a space to discuss challenges related to housing and to explore how partners could better connect and work together to support families to have homes that enable good health.

4.28 Issues highlighted within the conversations included the health impact of poor housing leading to poor health and the need for healthcare, re-housing causing trauma and disrupting schooling, and the lack of awareness among NHS colleagues of how to support people with poor housing. Attendees identified a range of priorities including greater collaborative working across NHS and social care providers and SCC housing services, the need for simple referral pathways with a clear point of access for support and embedded feedback processes, and ensuring all professionals involved with a child or family understand how to minimise risks in the home, how to request support and what support is available which could be supported with a directory of resources and set of consistent messages about what to do when faced with housing issues or concerns.

4.29 A specific outcome of the workshop was a commitment by SCFT to be involved in the Housing, Health and Care Reference Group. Alongside this, SCFT have subsequently participated in the South Yorkshire Housing Partnership (SYHP) Housing and Health Workstream, have Citizens Advice working with some teams and are about to begin the Together Link Workers projects which offers support to families with addressing housing issues among others. SCFT has a long-term objective to embed housing expertise with wrap-around support for families. A strategic decision was made by SCFT to wait for the outcomes of the regional SYHP work, before developing further work on improving pathways and communication.

South Yorkshire Housing Partnership (SYHP) Housing and Health Workstream

4.30 South Yorkshire Housing Partnership is made up of 11 housing associations across South Yorkshire, the four Local Authorities and South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYMCA). The partnership has five shared priorities and a workstream to support action around each: affordable homes, roadmap to net zero carbon, housing and health, economic growth and employment, and preventing homelessness.

4.31 The SYHP Housing and Health workstream is currently chaired by Greg Fell and includes colleagues from SYHP and NHS commissioning and provider organisations.. This group leads the work of the Partnership to consider health issues and their relationship to housing. To support the development of a clear way forward for this workstream, the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYMCA) commissioned HACT (a social housing sector charity), on behalf of SYHP, to facilitate a Housing and Health Summit in September 2024 which brought together senior stakeholders to explore the key actions and recommendations needed for achieving greater collaboration and integration between NHS organisations and housing services and providers. A broad view of housing was taken, to include rented housing in the social and private sectors, owner-occupied housing, across both general needs and supported housing.

4.32 The summit was informed by a series of events that took place over the preceding months, including five virtual roundtables with a range of stakeholders on key issues that enable and prevent integration and improve outcomes, and engagement with people with lived and professional experiences, from housing providers, clinicians, social care and

public health professionals, commissioners, policy makers, and representative bodies. The roundtables which fed into the Summit explored five key themes:

- Specialist Supported Housing and Homelessness Prevention
- Trips and Falls
- Damp and Mould
- Preventing hospital admissions and ensuring suitable accommodation on discharge
- Social prescribing

4.33 The need for a more ambitious, longer-term and integrated vision between health and housing was emphasised throughout the summit discussions. This was linked to a call for a prevention-first model of early intervention, combined with a longer-term vision to reduce both the demand for services and the costs associated with them. Another theme was a streamlining of pathways for care and housing-based responses across all local authorities. Creating an environment for information sharing and awareness between services and stakeholders was also highlighted, as well as bringing lived experience more centrally into the design and delivery of services. This underpinned a central recommendation, echoed loudly and consistently throughout the discussions, that partners across South Yorkshire should focus immediately on exploring how to maximise the impact of current resources, which were often felt to be poorly understood or acted upon.

4.34 The summit demonstrated strong leadership and enthusiasm across sectors for this agenda to be achieved, underpinned by a shared ambition for more integration, collaboration and co-production. The recommendations from the summit were shared with South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership (SYICP) on 28th November, with three key high-level priorities:

1. Through co-production and partnership working, develop a South Yorkshire Housing and Health Strategic Plan with clear links to homelessness.
2. Agree key governance arrangement to oversee and steer the delivery of a joint Housing and Health Strategy for South Yorkshire.
3. SYMCA, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership (SY ICP) and SYHP to identify dedicated resources to develop the strategy and plan, co-ordinate the partnership, and ensure that good practice is shared across South Yorkshire.

4.35 The SYHP Housing and Health workstream will develop a Delivery Plan to capture the recommendations for focussed housing and health integration at a South Yorkshire level. Further resource to develop and coordinate this work has not yet been identified.

People with poor mental health

4.36 Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust has partnership arrangements with South Yorkshire Housing Association that have made a significant impact on stability and long-term outcomes for some people who access mental health services by working alongside the Community Enhancing Recovery Team (CERT).

Healthy Homes Pilot

4.37 SCC Private Housing Standards team were awarded funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to deliver the Healthy Homes project. This project has the overall aim of supporting damp and mould enforcement. PHS are focussing on three areas of the City, and are seeking to work with partners to build a greater awareness around the impact that damp and mould has people's health by providing help and advice for both Landlords and Private Tenants in Sheffield This project is funded for 1 year (2024/25) and in the pilot areas PHS are engaging with the following partners to raise awareness of the issue of damp and mould and ensure that they are equipped to signpost residents to guidance, advice and support:

- Local Councillors and Local Area Committees
- GP and Healthcare providers
- Local Community Groups/Faith Sector
- Shelter
- Landlords/Managing Agent
- In House Care Providers

Cost-of-living crisis work

4.38 The Cost-of-Living crisis response was established in early 2022 to support people and communities of Sheffield and help mitigate the significant challenges they face, with a particular focus on those who are struggling the most. This work comprised a Cost-of-Living Strategy Group, chaired by Leader of Sheffield City Council, with cross-party elected members, and representatives from across public, private and voluntary sector. Tactical-level groups worked in partnership to respond to the crisis, and a dedicated Cost of Living Hub was established within Sheffield City Council.

4.39 The work has included extensive communications, administration of the Household Support Fund to help people with essentials, income maximisation support, and home energy efficiency advice to reduce energy use and stay warm and well. Support specifically for SCC tenants has included access to hardship funds when falling into rent arrears and support around budgeting and signposting to additional services. This work is now moving

towards focussing on a longer-term, anti-poverty approach for the city, with a report due at SCC Strategy and Resources Committee in December 2024.

5.0 MOVING FORWARD AND MAKING MORE PROGRESS

5.1 The newly published Fair and Healthy Sheffield Plan reiterates the importance of everyone having a decent, affordable home if we want to achieve our city-wide ambition of closing unfair gaps in length and quality of life. It is now crucial that that we consider how we can build on pockets of good work and turn the energy and enthusiasm for this topic and the wealth of insight about the issues and priorities from collective conversations since July 2022 into tangible actions with real impact.

5.2 To do this we need to ensure that we have a clear, shared narrative in Sheffield about why homes matter for health and wellbeing, shared commitment to prioritising and resourcing the work with each partner doing their part and working together, shared responsibility for following through on what we've promised, being open and honest about our progress and where the challenges are, and supporting each other where needed.

5.3 We also need to make the most of the enthusiasm and energy for this issue among regional partners including South Yorkshire ICS, SYMCA and SYHP. This means ensuring that we are adequately engaged with and influencing existing and emerging regional housing and health workstreams, and that we ensure that effort is spent on work at the right geographical level where most value can be added, and duplication and delay, due to confusion over responsibility, are avoided.

5.4 To have impact on this priority area over the current municipal year, Health and Wellbeing Board members should:

- Champion and embed a clear narrative about why homes matter for health and wellbeing within the individual organisations and sectors they represent
- Ensure that the organisation or sector they represent are clear on their role and what they are willing to take responsibility for in relation to homes, health and wellbeing,
- Commit to focussing together on the priorities that have already been identified since July 2022 and endorse the Housing Strategy.
- Ensure that the sector or organisation they represent fully participates in partnership spaces in the city to work on these priorities together.
- Commit to resourcing the work, including ensuring that there is a named person within each organisation or sector they represent to lead on the work and liaise with regarding homes, health and wellbeing.
- Provide challenge and guidance to make sure that the right work is happening at the right geographical level.

- Ask partners to consider the original recommendations from the July 2022 summit where these have not been communicated or acted on, including:
 - Building housing into the work of Sheffield Health and Care Partnership and Sheffield Integrated Care Board.
 - Developing greater collaboration between NHS providers and SCC and other social housing providers to ensure home environments are suitable on discharge and in the development and implementation of Virtual Wards.
 - NHS estates planning across Sheffield engaging with housing associations to explore possible capital-based opportunities
 - Reinvigorating the Sheffield Anchor mission and network, including the Universities, NHS organisations, Sheffield City Council, and Housing Associations.
 - Adult Social Care integrating housing-based expertise at the neighbourhood level into their workforce and support model.

6.0 QUESTIONS FOR THE BOARD

What else do you think the Board and its members can do to support progress in this area?
How would the Board like to ensure accountability for agreed actions today?

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Board members are asked to:

- Note that there is a range of good work across the City to ensure that people have homes that support good health and wellbeing, but that there is an opportunity for greater, coordinated partnership working that moves from talk to action.
- Champion and embed a clear narrative about why homes matter for health and wellbeing within the individual organisations and sectors they represent.
- Ensure that the organisation or sector they represent are clear on their role and what they want to take responsibility for in relation to homes, health and wellbeing.
- Commit to resourcing the work, including ensuring that there is a named person within the organisation or sector they represent, to lead on the work and liaise with regarding homes, health and wellbeing.
- Commit to focussing together on the priorities that have already been identified since July 2022 and collectively endorse the new Housing Strategy for the City.
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- Provide challenge and guidance to make sure that the right work is happening at the right geographical level.
- Send a collective request to partners to consider the original recommendations from the July 2022 summit where these have not been communicated or acted on.
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