

## **Prevention of Homelessness in Northamptonshire**

Strategic and Support Services Scrutiny Committee (NCC) in partnership with  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NBC)

### **Purpose of review**

To review homelessness in Northamptonshire as a whole system, including the interactions between and the pressures on both councils to improve the quality of life and advice for people vulnerable to becoming homeless and to reduce the overall level of homelessness.

### **Potential Outcomes of the Review**

- Reduce homelessness in Northampton
- Improve the cost effectiveness of the homelessness service
- Influence housing policy in the Borough and beyond
- Improve quality of life of homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless by means of effective advice and support
- Helping the multi agency approach in relation to vulnerable groups for example the transition for young people emerging from care (post 16) and families.

### **Baseline information needed**

Concentrate on specific areas of the Key Lines of Enquiry Document for Homelessness and use the CPA report as baseline information.

Director of Homelessness, ODPM's offer of assistance to be taken up – (meeting 4)

Information of the 'whole system costs'

- Direct costs to support homeless, including officer time, accommodation costs etc
- Indirect costs, including travel, social worker costs, cost of caring for looked after children as a result of homelessness,
- Opportunity cost of providing support to homeless people, especially (but not only) their children
- Details of funding bodies, such as ODPM, Ethnic Minorities Funding Board.
- Available accommodation.

Numeric data about numbers of homeless, children affected, range of costs in relation to temporary accommodation, reasons for homelessness.

Case studies to explore critical paths and potential solutions that could have been applied at each stage.

## **Method**

2 County Council scrutiny members requested to join Task and Finish Panel of Northampton's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (consisting of 4 Borough Councillors, including one joint Borough/County member)

Aim for approximately 6 meetings (potential programme as set out below)

Meeting 1 (December 9)	Receive baseline data and understanding the problem
Meeting 2 (January 6)	Receive and review external evidence to put baseline in context
Meeting 3(January 27)	Identify blockages and problems in the systems through use of case studies and critical path analysis etc
Meeting 4 (TBA)	Discuss potential system solutions
Meeting 5 (TBA)	Review financial implications of the potential solutions
Meeting 6 (TBA)	Finalise report

Data and research to be provided by Housing (NBC), Children and Young People (NCC) and Scrutiny Support (NCC)

## **Timescale**

March 2006 Final Report

Review impact of Report September 2006

## **Potential Witnesses/Evidence**

Similar or local housing authorities (other similar sized housing authorities Corby, Wellingborough)

Similar County Councils with similar a large non-unitary housing authority in their county.

Shelter, Centrepont, Touch, Voluntary Sector, etc

Thematic Case Studies (approximately 6)(meeting 2)

MPs for Northampton

Director of Homelessness, ODPM.(to attend meeting 4)