

Homeless Strategy Annual Review 2016/17

Member Statement

The ongoing commitment and role of Carlisle's Homelessness Strategy Interagency group in delivering, monitoring and developing the action plan to get results is what has made this first year a great success despite significant additional challenges as a result of Storm Desmond in December 2015. The group has continued to meet quarterly in order to keep things on track, make the most of local opportunities, be responsive to emerging needs and address local challenges collaboratively.

It is essential that we continue to build on the successes to date; with a clear focus on homeless prevention and early intervention in order to support the most vulnerable and those at risk. Carlisle City Council continues to prioritise this approach by ensuring that the full Preventing Homelessness grant is used solely for this purpose.

Key Achievements in Year One include:

- Local Strategic Interagency Commitment implemented
- Interagency Homelessness Strategy for Carlisle linked to local partners delivery plans
- No 16-17 year olds placed in Bed and breakfast
- No Families placed in Bed and Breakfast
- Copy of written housing / homelessness advice given to all clients
- One nightstop volunteer host in place with Carlisle district
- Pre action protocol in place to focus on preventing mortgage repossessions
- A multi-agency approach implemented to identify, report and refer rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness
- Effective reconnection policy in place, which has successfully assisted 29 people
- Embedded and promoted No Second Night Out (NSNO); and supported 42 people directly as a result
- Supported 23 people under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol
- Supported 8 people as a direct result of Streetlink reporting
- 10 home visits, and 9 cases where mediation has prevented homelessness
- 65 county wide Early Help Assessments opened on 16-17 year olds
- 16 people (aged 16-17 year olds) successfully assisted and homelessness prevented
- 208 households assisted as a result of being homeless through flooding
- Homeless Prevention promoted through the development of four partnership projects undertaken with local primary schools and Carlisle College
- Local Commitment developed and implemented for 16-17 year olds and 16-21 year olds
- Carlisle Protocol Implementation Group (16-17 year olds) established to prevent youth homelessness and discuss those at risk
- Local Welfare Reform Commitment for Carlisle implemented
- £1.3 million benefit gains through assistance from Carlisle City Councils Welfare Advice Service
- 431 awards in Carlisle utilising 95% of Discretionary Housing Payment allocation for 2015/16



Carlisle City Cllr Heather Bradley, Portfolio holder for Economy, Enterprise and Housing