OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 MAY 2018
HOMELESSNESS
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

1.1 To receive information on the changes required by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which came into force on 3 April 2018 and the implications this has for the city.

2 Action required

2.1 To consider the information provided and use it to inform questioning at the May and June meetings.

3 Background information

3.1 The Homelessness Reduction Act places new duties upon councils across England from 3 April 2018 that will result in homelessness system changes in Nottingham.

3.2 The Act places new duties upon councils to help them to prevent homelessness before it happens wherever possible, and relieve it when it isn't. The Act will bring in a raft of changes including:

- doubling the period councils can support those threatened with homelessness from 28 days to 56 days (before the person is expected to become homeless);
- the introduction of assessment and personalised action plans for all service users outlining reasonable steps the service user and the council must take to address and mitigate the risk of homelessness;
- wider responsibilities for early intervention to ensure other statutory bodies can easily refer into councils' housing options services if they think a service user is homeless or at risk of homelessness.

3.3 Gary Harvey, Head of Housing Solutions will be in attendance at the meeting to provide the Committee with details of the changes required by the Act, and partners will attend the June meeting to talk about the work being done to respond to the changes required by the Act.

4 List of attached information

4.1 Briefing note by Homeless Link.

4.2 Briefing note by Gary Harvey, Housing Solutions – to follow.

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

7 Wards affected

7.1 All.

8 Contact information

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