

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

DELEGATED EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION REPORT

Report to: Executive Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods
Date: 11th July 2022
Report for: Decision
Report of: Corporate Director Place

Report Title

Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027 Consultation

Summary

Supported housing provides a vital service for vulnerable people and has a critical role in supporting people who are vulnerable and disadvantaged because of age, ill-health, disability, or their circumstances and cannot live independently. Appropriate housing is a crucial element of preventative services and is necessary to allow those who require support to receive it in a settled and secure environment.

Through extensive consultation, the Draft Supported Housing Strategy has gained an understanding of what is required to help individuals with support needs thrive and this has formed the basis of this Draft Strategy; the focus is on promoting independence and ensuring adequate support and housing is available to those who need it, when they need it.

The Draft Supported Housing Strategy's proposed recommendations are designed to respond to both the current and future needs of Trafford's residents with support needs. The recommendations have been identified in the context of the Council's Corporate Priorities, the Trafford Housing Strategy (2018-2023), GM Housing Strategy and discussions with key stakeholders. There is significant potential for partnership working with a range of public and voluntary agencies and private organisations to help in its delivery.

Recommendation(s)

That the Executive Member approves a six week public consultation of the draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027 in order to obtain views and opinions to shape the final version.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name/s: Laura Eaton (Housing Project Officer)
Caroline Siddall (Housing Strategy & Growth Manager)

Appendix One: Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027
Appendix Two: Draft Supported housing Strategy 2022-2027 Summary
Background Papers: None

Implications:

Relationship to Corporate Priorities	The priorities detailed within the Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027 meet the Council's Corporate Priorities of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing health inequalities • Supporting people out of poverty <p>In addition, the Draft is complimentary to, and will play a key part in, delivering elements of the Trafford Housing Strategy 2018-2023 and the Trafford Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024.</p>
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	The Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027 is aligned with the priorities contained within the GM Strategy and the GM Housing Strategy (2019-24).
Financial	The Draft Strategy identifies actions for the Housing Strategy & Growth Team/Adult Services to deliver within existing staff resources and budgets. It also identifies potential actions to be delivered in partnership with other key public, charitable and private stakeholders.
Legal Implications:	None as a result of this report
Equality/Diversity Implications	None as a consequence of this report.
Sustainability Implications	None as a consequence of this report.
Carbon Reduction	None as a consequence of this report.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	Existing staff resources will need to be identified to support the delivery of the Strategy. Information will be made available online and documents will be available to access through the Council's web pages.
Risk Management Implications	Risk to delivery of the recommendations detailed within the Draft Strategy will be monitored and updated as required.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	None as a consequence of this report.
Health and Safety Implications	None as a consequence of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Supported Housing Strategy covers the five years from 2022 to 2027. It forms part of a suite of specialist and supported housing strategies that sit under the main Housing Strategy 2019-2023 and is intended to support and complement other strategy documents such as Trafford Council Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 and Trafford Older People's Housing Strategy 2020-2025.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 The Draft Strategy identifies measures to deliver the Council's Corporate Priorities of "Reducing Health Inequalities" and "Supporting People Out of Poverty". It forms a key part in delivering Trafford's Housing Strategy and complements the priorities set in the GM Housing Strategy.
- 2.2 Initial consultation has allowed residents to have an input into this Draft Strategy, including the type of supported housing they would find attractive and where such properties would be best located within Trafford. Residents were asked a range of questions about their current home, how it meets their needs and what they want for the future, to get an understanding of what is important to people with support needs. Consultation with service providers and support organisations was also undertaken to help identify what is currently available and what can be done to meet the future housing needs of those with support needs in Trafford.

3.0 Supported Housing in Trafford

- 3.1 The Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027 discusses the supported housing need, current provision, and future provision required to meet the demands for several cohorts; those experiencing domestic abuse, ex-offenders, those with learning disabilities and Autism, those with physical and sensory disabilities, those who struggle with substance misuse, young people, and those with complex needs.
- 3.2 The consultation and research that shaped the Draft Supported Housing Strategy indicated that across all cohorts' individuals want to live as independently as possible. The current provision of supported accommodation and move-on accommodation in the borough is not sufficient to meet the demand and therefore limits the opportunity for individuals to achieve their ambition of independent living.
- 3.3 Residents and Stakeholders both noted a need for greater provision of move-on accommodation, particularly for ex-offenders and those with mental health needs. This gap in provision often leads to individuals remaining in supported accommodation for longer than necessary, which over time reduces their ability to live independently as they become reliant on support. In relation to ex-offenders, this can also result in re-offending.
- 3.4 A further challenge within Trafford is the lack of affordable and social rented accommodation. Private rents within Trafford are amongst the highest in Greater Manchester which often prices those with support needs, who are reliant on welfare benefits, out of the sector. Combined with the national shortage of social housing, individuals with support needs become reliant on supported accommodation as the most

affordable option, even in situations where they could live more independently in general needs housing with floating support.

- 3.5 Further to the above, individuals who reside in supported accommodation within Trafford are often prevented from working as the reduction in benefits when entering employment often renders the accommodation unaffordable. This again limits the ability for individuals with support needs to become independent and restricts them from contributing towards society.
- 3.6 Individuals with support needs in Trafford are often accommodated in supported accommodation as a crisis response. To overcome this challenge, greater forward planning is required to allow individuals to access supported accommodation when they want to, rather when they need to/are in crisis.
- 3.7 A large majority of Trafford residents with support needs currently live with parents/family members, but most would prefer to live independently. As parents/family members become unable to care for these individuals due to age/ill health, they are left in crisis with limited skills for independent living.
- 3.8 The most appropriate type of accommodation for those with support needs is 1-bedroom self-contained property. However, there is a shortage of this type of accommodation across the borough.
- 3.9 In 2021/22, Trafford's Tenancy Support team received 253 referrals, of which 224 were accepted. However, as demand for the service is great than its capacity, a waiting list is in place. The current average waiting time for support is 2 months. This gives an indication of the demand for floating support within the borough.
- 3.10 Tenancy Support prevented the homelessness of 88 households in 2021/22 which demonstrates what can be achieved if adequate support is in place for those that require it.
- 3.11 In 2021/22, 160 referrals were made into the commissioned homeless supported accommodation schemes. Of these, 44 were refused largely due to the individuals support needs being too high.
- 3.12 Trafford does not have any commissioned schemes for those with high-level or complex support needs. Individuals who are not accepted by the commissioned supported accommodation schemes due to their high-level needs are often placed in B&B style emergency accommodation where the limited support is often unsuccessful due to the nature of the accommodation.
- 3.13 Trafford's homeless commissioned supported housing schemes have a combined total of 60 bed spaces which, as demonstrated, is not sufficient to meet demand. As a result, the schemes have an average waiting list of 2.5 months.
- 3.14 In 2009, the Department of Community and Local Government (DCLG) commissioned Capgemini to research the cost and benefits of housing related support. Their findings demonstrate that every £1 spent nationally on housing related support saves the public

purse £1.79. These savings are split across health services, social care, and the criminal justice system.

4.0 Vision and Priorities

4.1 To meet the challenges identified above, a Vision has been developed along with five Strategic Priorities. The Vision and Priorities are as follows:

Vision:

'Work collaboratively to provide a range of quality supported housing, and housing related support, to enable those with support needs to live independently in Trafford'

Strategic Priorities:

1. Enable people with support needs to live as independently as possible within Trafford.
 2. Ensure an adequate supply of quality, accessible and affordable supported housing, and move on accommodation, is in place.
 3. Establish closer working relationships with external services, organisations, and charitable bodies to ensure appropriate support is available and easily accessible.
 4. Ensure housing advice is promoted and easily accessible to those with support needs in Trafford.
 5. Explore and review good practice in other Local Authority areas in relation to supported accommodation and support services and implement within Trafford where possible.
- 4.2 To achieve the priorities identified above, the Draft Strategy makes recommendations, which are set out in Appendix 2 (pages 8-15).

5.0 Wider Corporate Linkages

5.1 The recommendations detailed within the Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027 meet the Corporate Priorities of "Reducing Health Inequalities" and "Supporting People Out of Poverty". The Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027, coupled with the Trafford Housing Strategy 2018-23 and GM Housing Strategy 2019-2024, forms a comprehensive and fully joined up approach to supported housing within Trafford.

6.0 Other Options

6.1 An option is not to adopt the Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027. The absence of a Supported Housing Strategy across Trafford means the Council will not have a strategic mechanism to tackle supported housing in the borough.

7.0 Consultation

7.1 Initial consultation has already taken place and it is now prudent to consult wider on the Draft Supported Housing Strategy. It is proposed to commence an online consultation for a six-week period starting in August 2022. It will be posted on the Council's website and will be open to stakeholders and residents to submit their comments. Following the consultation, the Draft Strategy will be amended if necessary to take account of any valid

comments and an Action Plan will be developed. It is proposed that the Executive will then formally approve the Supported Housing Strategy and accompanying Action Plan.

8.0 Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 That the Executive Member approves a six week public consultation of the draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027 in order to obtain views and opinions to shape the final version.

Appendix 1- Trafford Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027



Trafford Supported
Housing Strategy 202

Appendix 2 – Draft Supported housing Strategy 2022-2027 Summary



Supported Housing
Strategy 2022-27 Sur

Key Decision: No

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? N/A

Finance Officer Clearance PC

Legal Officer Clearance TR

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Corporate Director has cleared the report prior to issuing to the Executive Member for decision.