**West Sussex Health and Care in Housing**

**Memorandum of Understanding**

**Working Draft for Engagement Purposes**

**DRAFT V0.10**

**Executive Summary**

This is a working draft of a proposed Health in Housing Memorandum of understanding (MOU) for organisations in West Sussex to co-develop and make a collective commitment towards the use of housing to improve the long-term health and wellbeing of our communities. This is an engagement document, so at this stage all content is a proposal in draft and is intended as a basis on which partners can collaborate to develop a final version on which a partnership commitment can be made.

The overarching goal of this MOU is for the county to become an exemplar of good practice in joint working between Health, Housing and Social Care to deliver the best outcomes possible for the vulnerable households reliant on these services in West Sussex.

In developing this MOU the ambition is to build on the previous engagement with partners that followed the design led project in 2019 that sought to understand the needs of people across West Sussex who access services and was published in the final Snook Report and that those principles are incorporated in the workstreams that will flow from this partnership, namely:

* **Build on Strengths**
* **Whole systems approach**
* **Design, develop and deliver together**
* **Focused, efficient and valued**
* **Outcome based**

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduced a number of provisions intended to improve the quality of care received by patients and patient outcomes, efficiency, and to reduce inequalities of access and outcomes. The act gave Local Government responsibility for improving public health and public health teams were transferred from the NHS to upper tier councils to support this work.

In this context, the development of this MOU follows a number of reset opportunities within West Sussex which build on the partnership working that has been developed around the ongoing joint response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A key opportunity has arisen to also bring a much greater involvement from local health partners in future housing planning, in particular in the role that housing plays in long-term population health and wellbeing.

This opportunity has been born from the recent formation of the West Sussex Health and Care Partnership Executive, which represents senior leaders from health and care working together to deliver change and develop partnership arrangements. The West Sussex Health and Care Partnership has given its unanimous support to the proposal that local NHS partners work together with all the West Sussex Local Authorities, as well as a wider stakeholder group, to develop a health in housing memorandum of understanding;

*“As a member the West Sussex Health and Care Partnership Executive, West Sussex CCG is responsible for ensuring health care resources are best allocated to meet the population health needs of West Sussex, in an equitable way, that includes patient and public involvement. The CCG recognises the important role of housing in long term health outcomes and as a preventative factor in avoiding or delaying deterioration of health and escalation of care. The CCG will work with local health and care partners to provide place-based leadership, expertise and system coordination in the delivery of health services across communities, including how support is provided to people in their homes”*

It is also an opportunity to build on and expand the existing close working relationship between the county Council and the district & borough housing authorities in tackling the increasing levels of homelessness in West Sussex.

This MOU follows the formula set out in the national housing memorandum of understanding ‘*Improving Health and Care Through the Home: A National Memorandum of Understanding’.*

It is the firm intention that this MOU will be used to turn strategy into real action and noticeable change to the health and wellbeing of our local populations.

The MOU will also generate the opportunity for partners to co-produce and co-commission services to provide better value for money within existing budgets and reduce demand on existing service provision.

This MOU aims to build from recent strategic work already undertaken in this area that has identified the whole system impacts resulting from a lack of joint housing, health and social care planning. For instance, The Sussex Health and Care Partnership has agreed a Mental Health & Housing strategic plan to integrate housing and mental health across Sussex identifying shared housing & health objectives from the premise that good quality housing and positive mental health are inextricably linked, with safe, secure and affordable housing being critical in enabling people to live well, work and take part in community life.

Similarly, we will draw from a recent collaboration between WSCC and the District & Borough Councils to understand how as a place we can support the wellbeing and prevention of negative consequences for people in West Sussex by developing the types of housing services & approaches we need to meet these needs.

The MOU is not intended to be a standalone document but to complement, support and work alongside existing strategies.

This MOU provides a significant opportunity for partner organisations across West Sussex to work collaboratively to deliver real change and a positive impact on the lives of many people, and the long term health of our communities.

To support the ambition and delivery of the outcomes contained within this MOU the County Council will;

* Undertake a needs based commissioning review of housing support services, Social Care and Extra Care required within the county and develop a model of demand in conjunction with population and place.
* Review and seek to utilise capital and land opportunities to deliver achievable outcomes in a timely manner.
* Review and gain an understanding of how planning and development currently inform place shaping and how this needs to evolve to deliver the outcomes contained within this document.
* Commit programme delivery resources to facilitate the work streams of this document in the form of a dedicated housing commissioning team.

**This Memorandum of Understanding sets out:**

* Our shared commitment to joint action across local government, health, social care and housing sectors in West Sussex;
* Principles for joint-working to deliver better health and wellbeing outcomes, more effective healthcare and social care and to reduce health inequalities;
* Addressing the adverse impact of homelessness, poor quality and insecure housing on all client groups and thereby reducing pressures on front line services in Housing, Health and Social Care.
* The context and framework for cross-sector partnerships, nationally and locally, to design and deliver healthy homes, communities and neighbourhoods, integrated and effective services that meet the needs of individuals, their carer’s/carers and their families and shared success criteria to deliver and measure impact.
* To incorporate population health data to inform planning and development within each District & Borough area as well as shape local plans. Working closely with local Planners will be key to the delivery of the ambitions of this MOU.

**Evidence Base**

Poor housing, unsuitable housing and precarious housing circumstances affect our physical and mental health. It is accepted that the health of older people, children, disabled people and people with long-term illnesses is at greater risk from poor housing conditions.

The home is a driver of health inequalities, and those living in poverty are more likely to live in poorer housing, precarious housing circumstances or lack accommodation altogether.

1. In West Sussex, evidence shows a gap in extra care and supported housing capacity to support older people, people living with long-term mental illness and people living with a physical or learning disability. This can result in unnecessary admission to institutional health and care facilities for excessive periods of time, loss of independency, poorer long-term health outcomes and poorer quality of life.
2. Children living in unsuitable housing have:

A 25% higher risk of severe ill health.

On average there is a 27% lower educational attainment gap between them and children living in suitable accommodation and are 66% more likely to be absent from school which in turn impacts through to adulthood when adults with lower educational achievement are 5 times likely to be unemployed or in low paid, insecure jobs.

Are 10% more likely to contract meningitis.

A greater chance of developing behavioural and mental health problems.

46% of male remand prisoners have experienced homelessness.

1. The average age of a rough sleeper who dies on the streets is 45 for men and 43 for women compared to 76 and 81 respectively within the wider population.
2. Finally, in the contextual landscape of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, there is emerging evidence that the virus has had a disproportionately negative impact within disadvantaged communities. This means that people who live in poorer-quality housing, are also more likely to be living with low income, more likely to be living with a long term physical or mental illness, and more likely to identify with a protected characteristic, such as having a Black, Asian or minority ethnicity.

**Scope of this Memorandum**

The national model of a Housing MOU allows for a broad range of themes and needs to be covered within a local agreement. The aim within this agreement is to have a clear and shared understanding of a set of key commitments for West Sussex, to avoid scope creep or ambiguity, which may lead to a failure to deliver changes. As part of the engagement process to co-develop the agreement, a long-list of scope options is being developed, from which a refined final scope can be proposed for agreement. The list below is a starting list in this context.

This MOU has a focus on **Health and Care in the Home**, addressing the greatest needs across the population of West Sussex:

* An ageing population
* Increases in occurrences of long-term mental illness
* Health outcomes for people living with a physical or learning disability.
* Rising levels of homelessness within the county

Additionally, there is the opportunity to work with health partners to grow the work in housing to support children and families, and rough sleepers.

**Working long list:**

**Key Areas:**

* **Extra Care Housing:** The number of people who are over 65 in West Sussex will rise by 100,000 over the next 20 years and within this group a third will be 85 and above.

A comprehensive needs based analysis will be carried out to understand what this will mean for the additional demand for Extra Care Housing.

On the back of this data it is proposed to set an ambitious target to meet this need. This requires a focus to develop sufficient housing stock, with supportive health and care services, to provide long term housing solutions for individuals of all ages living with lifelong support needs to minimise the number of people with these conditions living in institutional care, and to improve independence and whole-life outlook, and to minimise delays to discharging people from institutional care.

It will be imperative to develop a more formalised strategic relationship with Registered Providers to deliver these outcomes.

* **Supported Accommodation:** Supported accommodation needs to provide housing options for all age groups and needs. Work needs to be undertaken to gain a thorough understanding of the needs and demands of all the client bases that require supported accommodation, as set out in the recently published “Supported housing: national statement of expectations”.

This guidance will inform and be incorporated in all services commissioned going forward.

Sufficient housing stock or residential (non-care home) solutions for all client groups and ages, both with physical and non-physical support needs. Provision to be with associated health and care services, to provide safe, affordable long term solutions for an ageing population and people with lifelong support needs, thus reducing the dependency on residential care.

To support the Mental Health & Housing Strategy, develop short term supported and transitional accommodation provision for people, particularly with mental health issues, requiring high support levels for a limited intervention period to prevent them from needing to enter long term supported or residential accommodation.

* **Enabling people to remain in their own homes longer:** Review and evaluate the West Sussex countywide disabled facilities grant project which is due to come to an end in March 2021.

Establish what appetite there is for continuing this project with key strategic partners and if appropriate the mechanism for taking this forward.

**Additional linked Areas:**

* **SHCP Strategic Objectives:** It is not intended that this MOU is a standalone document and looks to support the strategic objectives contained in the SCHP Mental Health & Housing Strategy;

1: Create Mental Health and Housing Strategic Plans for each place in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

2: Ensure housing expertise is embedded within the new model for community mental health services being developed across the SHCP.

3: Pilot, evaluate and extend the Discharge to Assess models.

4: Deliver the ambition to create new integrated models of supported housing for people with multiple and complex needs thereby reducing the need for inappropriate out of area hospital placements and residential care.

5: Drive forward the integration of housing, social care and mental health clinical services.

* **Housing First:** with an aim to hold sufficient housing stock capacity to build on the progress made during the Covid-19 pandemic to find permanent housing solutions for rough sleepers and individuals with high or fluctuating support needs.
* Temporary accommodation for families: The effects of prolonged stays in unsuitable temporary accommodation, particularly on children is well documented and adversely impacts on their health, education and life opportunities. This requires a focus to Develop sufficient suitable temporary accommodation portfolios to meet demand and aim to eradicate the need for the use of B & B establishments and out of area placements.

Many of the households who spend lengthy periods of time in temporary accommodation have multiple challenges to address to be able to maintain stable housing and support needs to be provided to:

1. Deliver money management training and debt advice assistance
2. Link in with medical services where appropriate
3. Engagement with health and wellbeing services

**Measures and Outcome Goals**

These are only intended to be a start point and have been drawn from the strategies, polices and pressures identified by the contributing partners to this document and represent the headlines rather than specific targets and outcomes.

The measures and outcomes will be refined and quantified in the work streams that flow out of this MOU.

* Care housing development quotas by district, based upon needs assessment and linking to the agreed scope
* Capacity workforce planning for health and care services that will need to support care housing
* Links to agreed housing targets and strategic health and social care outcome measures linking with the developing prevention strategy. Targets will be included in existing strategies, but further measures to demonstrate long-term outcomes for communities may also be developed.
* A reduction in rough sleeping levels in West Sussex
* A reduction in adult mental health residential placements through increased provision of mental health supported accommodation.

**Partners and Governance (proposed)**

The proposed governance to oversee and delivery the objectives of this MOU builds on the well-developed health and care partnership relationships at the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board. Linking to the HWB, the governance relationship will link to two key groups that meet to represent the system: The West Sussex Health and Care Partnership and the West Sussex Strategic Housing Group.

As a partnership, the governance should be designed to enable good joint working and mutual accountability, whilst preserving the sovereign accountabilities and statutory responsibilities of each partner organisation. Authority for key decision-making will be by membership designated by each organisation, with decisions being taken back to boards & democratic process where necessary.



Membership at groups and meetings should not be the limiting factor for the stakeholder group that should be involved in the development and delivery of this MOU. Partners should make use of networks and local collaborative working, to include a wider group of stakeholder such as the community voluntary sector, housing developers and service user groups.

**Conclusion**

This MOU should be viewed as an evolutionary document that is a statement of ambition and intent for future working and collaboration between Health, Housing and Social Care.

Partners should take it through whatever level of local governance that they think fit.

It will be revisited and refined as work progresses and to reflect changing circumstances or demanding within services and across the county.