

## **Chairs' announcement**

### **Homelessness Prevention Strategy**

Three months of formal consultation on Wiltshire Council's homelessness prevention strategy will commence shortly.

The strategy has been informed by the homeless data review 2018 as well as the homeless health needs assessment.

The aim of the strategy is to work with those who are threatened with homelessness or who are homeless to help them secure and keep a home. This will require creativity, a wide range of services and effective, strong partnership working, particularly in ensuring the council is notified at an early stage that a customer may be homeless or threatened with homelessness.

From October last year, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 introduced a new legal duty on specified public services to refer customers who may be homeless or threatened with homelessness to a local housing authority. For [health services](#) the impact of this change should be realised in NHS trusts and foundation trusts in the provision of accident and emergency services in a hospital, urgent treatment centres and any in-patient treatment. The referral process for Wiltshire Council is on an e-form the link is

<https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/HousingOptionsEform/Main/ReferralForm>

The consultation seeks your views on five suggested priorities for the strategy, which are:

- To reduce rough sleeping
- To identify and prevent homelessness at the earliest possible stage
- To ensure services are designed to prevent homelessness and support those who are homeless.
- To ensure those who are threatened with homelessness or who are homeless can secure and keep a suitable home.
- To maintain effective strategic direction and partnership working

Each priority is supported by actions to enable the priorities to be achieved

For further information on the homeless strategy please contact Nicole Smith, Head of Operational Housing [Nicole.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Nicole.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk)