

Priority 4

Improving Health through Housing

4.3 Helping People with Mental Health Issues

The Leeds Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-2015) includes a priority to improve people's mental health and wellbeing. Much of this work will be developed in the new Leeds Mental Health Framework, which aims to improve support for people with mental health issues. This will include access to suitable and sustainable housing, and will contribute to preventing mental ill health and help promote recovery.

Public Health commissions a range of housing related support services to help avert crisis, and to prepare for and promote independent living options. Health and social care partners commission services that deliver preventative interventions for counselling and support, suicide prevention, access to talking therapies and raising awareness of mental health needs.

Targets

- More people with mental health problems will recover
- More people with mental health problems will have access to supported housing
- More homeless people with mental health problems have access to supported housing

Actions

- 1 Review and increase mental health support options for people with complex needs, including entrenched rough sleepers
- 2 Review housing pathways and support for people who want to move from specialist supported accommodation to independent living
- 3 Offer a timely and tailored housing needs assessment service to people in specialist supported accommodation to ensure that their home is appropriate for their needs
- 4 Ensure a person's mental health needs are considered as part of the tenancy letting decision and tenancy sustainability options
- 5 Build on the Mental Health Hospital Discharge Protocol by identifying key housing and health named officers to share information and be responsible for specific case delivery

Positive Pathways —

Community Links

A referral was made to Community Links for an individual with complex support needs around housing. These included issues around health and wellbeing, such as substance and alcohol issues, isolation, poor diet, and mental health, in addition to tenancy issues such as budgeting and managing bills. There was also anti social behaviour, violence and aggression towards others, historic sexual abuse, offending & street working. There was no previous history of mental health services being involved. The support worker was able to build up a trusting and positive therapeutic working relationship to address the above issues within a support plan. This included looking at re-housing and the support worker liaising with housing workers to develop more positive relationships between the client and housing office. The client was re-housed in February 2012, has settled in well and there have not been any issues with the new tenancy.

