

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 10 September 2021

Subject: Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy

Report of: Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Leader for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, and GM Mayor Andy Burnham

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

A commitment to a Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy ('the Strategy') was made in 2017 by the incumbent Mayor of Greater Manchester. Its development was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the commitment was re-made in the 2021 Greater Manchester Mayoral election.

The Strategy has now been through extensive co-production and public consultation and is being brought for approval to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Recognise and approve the missions that the strategy sets for homelessness prevention in Greater Manchester.
2. Recognise and approve the principles that are set to guide homelessness prevention activity in Greater Manchester.
3. Recognise and approve the commitment to the development of an accompanying Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Action Plan by October 2021 that sets out regional commitments, deliverables and indicators.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Jane Forrest, Director of Public Service Reform, Greater Manchester Combined Authority

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion	G	<p>The Strategy will support the prevention of homelessness, which impacts disproportionately on those with protect characteristics</p> <p>The Strategy will support the prevention of homelessness, which impacts disproportionately on those who are socially or economically disadvantaged.</p> <p>The Strategy links to the GM Model for Integrated Public Services to improve accessibility and efficacy of public services</p> <p>The Strategy links to the GM Model for Integrated Public Services to improve accessibility and efficacy of public services</p>	
Health	G	<p>The Strategy will support the prevention of homelessness, with consideration for improving mental health and wellbeing</p> <p>The Strategy will support the prevention of homelessness, with consideration for reducing social isolation</p>	
Resilience and Adaptation			
Housing	G	<p>The Strategy will support the prevention of homelessness, including rough sleeping.</p> <p>The Strategy will support the prevention of homelessness, with consideration of housing accessibility and affordability.</p>	
Economy			
Mobility and Connectivity			
Carbon, Nature and Environment			
Consumption and Production			
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target			
Further Assessment(s):	Equalities Impact Assessment		
 Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	 Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	 Negative impacts overall.

Risk Management:

Legal Considerations:

The Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention strategy makes no legal commitments. It recognises the statutory decision making of Local Authorities within the Homelessness Reduction Act and other legal frameworks.

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

The Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention strategy makes no financial commitments.

Financial Consequences – Capital:

The Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention strategy makes no financial commitments.

Number of attachments to the report: 1

Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee – N/A

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		N/A
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A	N/A	

1.0 STRATEGY OVERVIEW

- 1.1. The Strategy provides a regional framework for the development of activity to prevent homelessness in Greater Manchester over the next five years.
- 1.2. The ambition to prevent homelessness for good is newly framed across five missions:
 - Mission 1: Everyone can access and sustain a home that is safe, decent, accessible and affordable.
 - Mission 2: Everyone leaves our places of care with a safe place to go.
 - Mission 3: Everyone can access quality advice, advocacy and support to prevent homelessness.

- Mission 4: People experiencing homelessness have respite, recovery and re-connection support.
 - Mission 5: Homelessness is never an entrenched or repeat experience.
- 1.3. The ways in which all stakeholders must work together to achieve this are framed as principles:
- Principle 1: Working with People; being truly person-centred, reducing and responding to inequalities and trauma.
 - Principle 2: Building Participation; building inclusive participation so that people can participate in decisions that affect their lives and where lived experience is highly valued.
 - Principle 3: Embedding Prevention; reforming public services to deliver genuinely preventative and person-centred support.
- 1.4. The Strategy details further these working principles, drawing attention to critical factors that will enable effective prevention such as trauma informed support and inclusive participation.
- 1.5. All together, these three elements make up the Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Mission Plan.
- 1.6. The Strategy captures key priorities for working with national government that will enable homelessness prevention.
- 1.7. An Action Plan will be developed to capture activity and identify key commitments and deliverables from regional stakeholders. This is being progressed through a Task and Finish Group and is on track to be drafted for October 2021.
- 1.8. As far as possible, we will work within our existing resources to deliver the ambition set out in the Strategy, taking opportunities to optimise grant funding, align transformation funding and pool resources using the principles of that have been set out in our model of Unified Public Services.
- 1.9. We recognise that the workforce in GM is our single biggest asset and we will develop an approach to workforce development, building on the ambition to be a Trauma Responsive city-region, as part our action plan that will enable and support frontline staff to embed the ways of working described in the Strategy.

2.0 CO-PRODUCTION AND CONSULTATION

- 2.1. Extensive consultation has been carried out to develop this Strategy. This took the form of a formal online public consultation and a range of engagement and co-production activities.
- 2.2. There was a commitment to co-produce the Strategy with people who have lived experience and/or professional experience of homelessness, and people that represent communities that experience homelessness disproportionately.
- 2.3. This has been enabled through the following key activities:
- Legislative Theatre programme; the GM Homelessness Action Network undertook a Legislative Theatre process, in which multiple performances creatively explored people's experiences of homelessness, housing and related services. Each performance was followed

by a discussion with commissioners and service professionals to break down the challenges presented and identify opportunities for policy change towards preventing homelessness.

- AVA and Agenda Commission: this explored multiple disadvantage through a gendered lens in Greater Manchester, including local evidence-gathering, co-production and three partnership events involving 150+ participants, 'spotlighting' key areas including domestic abuse, sex work and homelessness.
- Engagement sessions run by the Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network; thematic engagement sessions, involving over 200 people.
- Locality partnership discussions; cross-sector partnerships in each borough engaged with the draft strategy in the early and mid-stages of its development.

2.4. The online public consultation saw extensive reach which saw nearly 3,000 page views of the GM Homelessness Prevention Strategy consultation and sub-pages. This equates to 1,778 unique views on the GM Consult digital platform, of which 26% of responses were made by young people between 18-24 years old.

2.5. There has been ongoing development with Local Authority officers and engagement with Portfolio Lead Members.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The GMCA is requested to:

1. Recognise and approve the missions that the strategy sets for homelessness prevention in Greater Manchester.
2. Recognise and approve the principles that are set to guide homelessness prevention activity in Greater Manchester.
3. Recognise and approve the commitment to the development of an accompanying Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Action Plan by October 2021 that sets out regional commitments, deliverables and indicators.