

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy and Performance Board  
**DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Scrutiny Review of Homelessness Services  
**Ward(s)** Borough Wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek support to carry out a scrutiny review of Homelessness Services as outlined in the attached topic brief. (Appendix 1)

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

**It is recommended that Members of the Board:**

- i) **Accept the proposal to carry out a scrutiny review of Homelessness Services.**
- ii) **Seeks nominees to join the working party**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Councils have a range of duties to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in 28 days, at the very least they are obliged to provide advice and assistance on housing options and some households are owed the main homelessness duty, which is the provision of settled accommodation. Local authorities are also expected to implement services to prevent homelessness.

3.2 To respond to the housing needs of those who are homeless, it is necessary to provide a range of preventative support services; and in addition to provide temporary accommodation that can be accessed in emergencies until settled accommodation can be found.

3.3 It is good practice to periodically assess the effectiveness of services provided and this report seeks approval to carry out a scrutiny review of the Councils duty in respect to homelessness and the services we provide in response to that duty.

3.2 Subject to agreement by Board to accept the topic; this report seeks nominations from members of the Board to form a member led scrutiny working group.

4.0 **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

5.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

A breakdown in relationship between parents and children can result in young people experiencing homelessness. This review will consider the extent to which this impacts on homelessness in Halton and will review the services supporting young people.

5.2 **Employment Learning and Skills**

None identified

5.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Experiencing homelessness is recognised as having an adverse affect on people's health. Improvements in peoples experience of and journey through services in Halton will minimise the negative impact on their health.

5.4 **A Safer Halton**

One of the key determinants of Homelessness in Halton is Domestic violence. The review will consider the extent to which domestic violence results in homelessness and will review the effectiveness of services for people at risk of homelessness through domestic violence.

5.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Our vision in Halton is to provide sustainable, good quality, affordable and adaptable residential accommodation to meet the needs of all sections of society. This review will consider the volume and range of temporary accommodation in Halton.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 None identified.

6.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

6.1 None identified.

7.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the Meaning of the Act