

Vulnerable People Housing Assessment

Offenders (including Ex-Offenders and People at risk of Offending)

(Full reference should also be made to Derbyshire Supporting People Strategy 2005/10– pages 54-59 and Appendix C – pages 44 - 46)

As a very high proportion of offenders are considered to have drug and/or alcohol problems, full reference should be also made to the Vulnerable People Housing Assessment of People with Drug/alcohol problems)

Summary

The number of Offenders in Erewash in need of housing and/or housing support each year is estimated to be at least 24, but there may be many more than this whose needs have not been identified. Many offenders, ex-offenders or people at risk of offending may have additional problems such as drug/alcohol problems, homelessness, mental health problems, learning difficulties or disabilities, and/or may be young people.

The Housing and Support needs Offenders vary from retaining accommodation whilst in prison, accessing accommodation when leaving prison, emergency and supported accommodation, to move-on accommodation and permanent tenancies.

Currently in Erewash, we have now started to provide services which meet many of these needs, including: - including 5 places of supported accommodation for those with drug/alcohol problems; 12 move-on accommodation for those aged 16 - 25; a floating support scheme; homelessness prevention officers; probation service support; prison resettlement services; move-on protocol to permanent tenancies.

However, as some of these services have only opened recently – we will be monitoring the impact of these carefully to assess what additional, extended or reconfigured housing and support services are needed for Offenders.

Housing and support services for Offenders are of strategic importance in Erewash, which is also demonstrated by the commitment to these services by EBC Members and staff.

The current priorities for future development are to:-

- ensure the continuation of the current services***
- to monitor the impact of the new services***
- to ensure access to high level needs/high risk services outside the borough, when required***

**Number of Offenders in Erewash
homeless, in housing need or requiring housing support**

<u>Information</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Breakdown</u>
Probation service approaches in finding accommodation in Erewash & Amber Valley (East division accommodation questionnaire 04/05)	43 from Amber Valley, 24 from Erewash. At least 29 (41%) of these were considered to have substance misuse problems	20 (29%) needed some form of housing-related support. 25 from Amber Valley, and 13 from Erewash were homeless.
Number of Prolific and other priority offenders in Erewash as at June 2005 (Prolific and other priority offenders – headline measures June 2005)	30	28 male, 2 female Age: 13 – 17 8 18 – 20 3 21 – 25 7 26 – 30 6 31 – 35 2 36 – 40 3 41 – 50 1
Prisoners taken into custody from Erewash 1.4.06 to 31.12.06 (Probation information)	13	1 from no fixed abode 0 from temporary accommodation

Housing and Support needs of Offenders, and how these are met in Erewash:

<u>Housing and support needs</u>	<u>How met in Erewash (see below for more detail)</u>
Advice, information, re keeping accommodation whilst in prison	Prison resettlement staff Homelessness prevention officer
Advice, information and support to access accommodation (including on leaving prison)	Prison resettlement staff, EBC Homeless and Housing support team, RSLs , NACRO
Emergency same night/same week accommodation with support until can move to suitable accommodation	P3 Single homeless hostel
Support Workers to help sort out practical issues, and to help access other services – in home, in temporary accommodation, or when moved to permanent accommodation	Single homeless hostel, supported accommodation & floating support
Supported accommodation	Supported accommodation

Move-on accommodation	Move-on protocol Housing Aid Smartshare
Permanent tenancy	Via Move-on protocol
Some Offenders may want to stay near familiar territories, relatives and support. However, some want to move away from areas or associates which are “bad influences”, or be prevented from returning to an area under bail or licence conditions	Supported accommodation in Ilkeston and Long Eaton. Also in Amber Valley Referrals made out of area when needed.
Accommodation for those with high level and intensive support needs/high risk offenders	None in Erewash. Referral to provision in Derby and Nottingham

Supported Accommodation and Other Services for People with drug/alcohol problems in Erewash

Amber Valley Housing/Action Housing	5 places – Supported Accommodation in shared houses in Long Eaton and Ilkeston For people with drug/alcohol problems who may also be offenders.	Advice and Information. Support workers. Supported accommodation.
Stonham Floating support scheme	5 places	Support Workers
Housing Aid Smartshare	5 places – shared house in Long Eaton. Aged 18+	Accommodation with some support. Advice and Information
P3 Single Homeless hostel	12 places – emergency/short-term supported accommodation – normally a few days/ up to 3 months	Support workers Supported temporary accommodation Advice, information and help to move to suitable supported or permanent accommodation
*P3 Move-on accommodation	12 places in Long Eaton. For ages 16 – 25. Accommodation	Move-on accommodation

	with minimal support. Move-on from supported accommodation projects	
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** Due to open by December 2007

Protocols/Forums etc

- Move-on Protocol
- Housing Protocol for Offenders entering/leaving prison. Between HM Prison Service, East Midlands and Derbyshire Local Authorities. 2006

Relevant Strategies

Erewash Fit for Purpose Housing Strategy 2005 – 2008:

At November 2005:-

Key issues for Erewash were:

- access to social housing is limited if you are an ex-offender,
- there is not enough supported accommodation in the Borough forex-offenders

From working with our partners in the Borough and in the County, we understand that there is a further need for supported accommodation for, in particular ex-offenders or those at risk of offending;

We consider that there is a need for floating support for all client groups, in particularex-offenders or those at risk of offending

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Action: Increase the provision of a wider range of temporary accommodation. Task - re-open homeless hostel for emergency/short-term for single homeless

Erewash Community Strategy 2006 – 2009:

Over the last three years communities have highlighted the following areas as requiring further action:

Burglaries (dwellings); Violent crime, particularly street assaults and domestic violence; Anti-social behaviour, including criminal damage and arson; Vehicle crime; Prolific and priority offenders; Drug and alcohol related crime and disorder; Young people as offenders and victims of crime; Burglaries (non-domestic); Other theft

In order to achieve our targets, we recognise the need to develop a strategic response to our four themes in all partnership activities:

- To identify and work with the most prolific and priority offenders within Erewash
- Work in partnership to prevent young people becoming involved in crime or being victims of crime
- Work in partnership to prevent the harm to the communities of Erewash from drug and alcohol- related anti-social and criminal behaviour
- Work in partnership to increase reporting and reduce repeat hate related incidents, including domestic abuse, racial and homophobic incidents

Community Safety Strategy 2005 – 2008:

Objectives:

- Work within the prolific and persistent offenders scheme to identify and directly work with offenders of domestic burglary and reduce the numbers who repeatedly offend through joint partnership working
- Work in partnership to identify and work with the most at risk young people, both as victims and perpetrators of violence
- Work in partnership to identify and directly work with the most persistent anti-social behaviour perpetrators

The Regional Housing Strategy 2004 – 2010

Regional Policy 9 – Tackling the causes of homelessness:

.Local housing authorities should work with DATs and Crime and Disorder

- Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) to identify the level of housing need and current service provision for current and recovering drug users and ex-offenders as part of the crime/drugs audit process.
- Local housing authorities should agree targets (with DATs, Supporting People partnerships and other partners) for needs-based provision for current and recovering drug users and ex-offenders as part of their housing strategies.

Commitment made by Members & staff:-

- Transfer of funding of £62,500 towards support staff at P3 single homeless hostel
- Staff and Member involvement in accessing and retaining Supporting People funding

Available Funding

- For support – Supporting People funding, Social Services funding
- Housing Benefit
- EBC Bed & Breakfast budget

Future Housing Needs and Housing-related support needs

A year ago – we had no specific services for Offenders in Erewash. Over the next 18 months - we want to assess the impact of the opening of the supported accommodation project for people with drug/alcohol problems, the P3 single homeless hostel, the floating support and move-on accommodation

before outlining the future further housing and support provision needed for Offenders in Erewash.

We know that we do not have provision for those with very high level support needs or high risk offenders – and will continue to work with our partners to ensure appropriate access to services in other areas when needed.

At the current time, we have a strong commitment to ensuring the continuation of the existing services for Offenders in Erewash.

<u>Provision needed</u>	<u>Funding Possibilities</u>	<u>Issues/Risks</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>Timetable</u>
Ongoing revenue funding for single homeless hostel	Supporting People; Housing Benefit; Erewash Bed and Breakfast budget	If reliant solely on HB funding – reduced staffing capacity, only accept very low level needs	Work with P3 to obtain ongoing funding. Bid to Supporting People. Support maximising Housing Benefit payments. Consider ongoing contribution from Council	Tessa Paul	Ongoing June 2007 April 2007 December 2007
Ongoing revenue funding for floating support scheme	Supporting People, probation	Suitable support not always available from other agencies such as probation/NACRO. Vital work of the floating support scheme helps prevent re-offending	Continue to press for ongoing funding from Supporting People	Tessa Paul	Ongoing