FAIRER, HEALTHIER LEEDS: HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of these recommendations is to fulfil Marmot Principle 5: Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities. There is a specific focus on housing as this was identified as a priority for Year 1 of our work in Leeds.

We adopt a broad understanding of both health and housing; therefore a wide range of partners are responsible for delivery of the recommendations: teams from Leeds City Council including housing, community hubs and libraries, financial inclusion, welfare and benefits, regeneration and inclusive growth, parks and green space and public health; the NHS; the Third Sector; businesses and developers and universities.

System/ strategic recommendations

1. Establish Leeds housing and health equity strategy and develop shared strategic and operational approaches.
2. Leeds health and housing citywide group to strengthen its role as a strategic partnership to reduce inequalities, e.g. widening membership, identifying, and working towards longer-term goals and joint commissioning.

Improving housing and neighbourhood quality

3. Act on the findings of the Selective Licensing evaluation.
4. Work with both residents and landlords (social housing, private rented sector and owned homes) to identify best methods to communicate risks of damp and mould and manage internal air quality.
5. Work with Refugee/Asylum Seeker and Gypsy/Traveller communities to identify health and housing related needs and short-and long-term approaches to meet needs.
6. Working in partnership with businesses, Third Sector, residents and landlords - Leeds City Council (Teams from: Housing, Environment, Asset Based Community Development, Child Friendly Leeds) to focus, as a priority, on improving quality and accessibility of green space in IMD 1 and IMD 2 neighbourhoods in Leeds.

Improving affordability

7. Leeds City Council annually define 'affordable housing', make function of local incomes rather than national averages of house values and rents.
8. Partners consistently provide advice and services to Leeds City Council tenants and those living in IMD 1 and IMD 2 neighbourhoods or facing financial hardship related to:
   - **a.** preventing and reducing evictions
   - **b.** debt and financial advice

Improving housing security

9. Expand multi-disciplinary team approaches to addressing homelessness, e.g. Out of Hospital
   - **a.** Explore how Leeds Teaching Hospital Trusts projects can be replicated in mental health trusts.
10. Build on the prevention and person-centred approach in temporary housing and support people experiencing homelessness at the earliest opportunity.
11. Develop stronger partnership approaches between housing, mental health and wellbeing,, public health and Third Sector to improve tenancy sustainment.
12. Leeds City Council work with residents and future residents to better manage expectations and communicate waiting times for council homes.

Research

13 Universities in Leeds to develop housing research areas to understand:

- **a** Trends in council housing tenancy sustainment, identifying factors affecting sustainment success or failure.
- **b** The changing nature of the private rented sector in Leeds and impact on affordability.
- **c** The experiences, health and wellbeing of people living in the private rented sector.

14 Universities in Leeds to help Leeds City Council to develop evaluations to better understand the impact of community approaches

Planning for equitable future for housing in Leeds

In light of current funding pressures, the following recommendations focus on the future.

15. Make equity a central focus of future regeneration and economic development plans and strategies in Leeds.

- **a.** Link inclusive growth and workforce strategies with plans to build new homes and retrofit existing homes.
- **b.** Public health included as partners in regeneration strategy development and delivery.
- **c.** Include local communities when reviving local high streets.
- **d.** Leeds City Council to identify minimum proportion (e.g. 30%) of new housing development either affordable or in the social housing sector, e.g. South Bank development.

16. Insulate all low-income homes to EPC C level as fast as possible and ensure reductions in carbon emissions from homes are sufficient to meet the international and domestic 2030 carbon reduction goals.

- **a.** Prepare funding applications to improve quality of rented and owner-occupied homes.
- **b.** Prepare funding improvements for non-decent owner-occupied housing, targeting homes in IMD 1 and IMD 2 neighbourhoods.

17. Create equity focussed retrofit plans ready for when funding becomes available.

- **a.** Universities in Leeds work with housing, regeneration, public health, landlords and residents to create plans to improve single brick homes and high rise in Leeds.