

Report to Cabinet
13 November 2019
Report of Head of neighbourhood housing services
Subject Temporary accommodation policy

Item

7

Purpose

To consider the temporary accommodation policy

Recommendation

To adopt the temporary accommodation policy, as detailed in appendix A

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority People living well

Financial implications

None

Ward/s: All Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Harris - Deputy leader and social housing

Contact officers

Chris Haystead, Housing Options manager

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Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. Homeless applicants who are accommodated under the council's interim duty to accommodate may be placed in short-term self-contained accommodation such as annexes, managed cluster units or hotel rooms while enquires are carried out.
2. A recent Supreme Court ruling advised that local authorities adopt a policy for allocating this temporary accommodation, which would be used to explain the individual factors that have been taken into account when offering such accommodation to homeless households.
3. The council seeks to accommodate homeless households within Norwich as far as reasonably practicable and considers the suitability of any temporary accommodation offered. However, due to limited availability of temporary accommodation, it is sometimes necessary to place people outside of Norwich.

Policy main points

4. Where the availability of temporary accommodation in Norwich is limited, the policy sets out the criteria used to prioritise which households are placed in temporary accommodation within Norwich. These include clients receiving specialist care or treatment in Norwich and families with high needs.
5. Applicants at risk of domestic abuse or violence will be accommodated in a refuge or, if this is not practicable, other safe accommodation outside of Norwich if the risk is within Norwich. They will be accommodated in an area where the risk is not present, with consideration given to all other aspects of policy.
6. Health and mobility issues will be taken into consideration when they will have an impact on the suitability of a temporary accommodation placement.
7. Wherever possible, the council will avoid placing families with dependent children in bed and breakfast accommodation. Where no other suitable accommodation exists and such placements are necessary, the council will move these households to self-contained accommodation as soon as possible and always within six weeks.
8. For safeguarding purposes, the council will divulge any potential risk or safeguarding issues to the provider prior to placement. The provider is at liberty to refuse any placement. In such instances the council will continue to try to find suitable accommodation in accordance with its legal obligations.
9. The council will do all that is reasonably possible to provide temporary accommodation. Where a referral to a provider is refused by the provider, the council will try other providers and contact other local authorities in the county. There may be occasions when the risk presented by the client means that no providers will accept a referral.

Summary

10. The adoption of a new temporary accommodation policy will set out clearly the obligations of both client and the council in regard the provision of temporary accommodation to homeless households and show clearly how such accommodation is allocated.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

The IIA should assess **the impact of the recommendation** being made by the report

Detailed guidance to help with the completion of the assessment can be found [here](#). Delete this row after completion

Report author to complete

Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	13 November 2019
Director / Head of service	Head of neighbourhood housing
Report subject:	Temporary accommodation policy
Date assessed:	31 October 2019.

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Formalises the council's responsibilities toward homeless families
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Issues