

## **Housing First – breakout room notes**

### **Room 1**

Andrew Yuill – Flagship Homes  
Tracy Williams – NHS  
Caroline Purchase – West Norfolk DC  
Alice Vickers – NHS  
Catherine Little – BHA  
Anita Moll – BHA

#### **Q1 Opportunities:**

- Events that have happened due to Covid means that we can work in a different way. Everybody In shows that it can be done!
- Formation of the Strategic Housing Partnership
- We have a responsibility to seize this opportunity to do things differently – the question should be ‘why would we not do this?’
- Digital makes things much easier to get together
- Could the ‘by name’ casework approach help to end ‘revolving door’ homelessness?

#### **Q2 Barriers**

- There can be barriers within sectors (organisations not communicating / joint working) and between sectors
- We need to act as a county – the separate housing registers and nominations systems may be a barrier to a county wide approach
- Barriers with organisations not prepared to take responsibilities and share risk for the people who may benefit most from housing first.

#### **Q3 Who:**

- Strategic Housing Partnership – are the right organisations sitting on this? Do we have the right decision makers on the group? Members of the group need to bring their organisations / sectors with them on the journey. We really hope the Partnership are taking a housing led approach which includes housing first.
- Need to bring our communications teams with us so we get the narrative right and the support of general public to really understand what it is we are doing.
- Norfolk philanthropists and socially minded businesses

## Room 2

Lisa Grice – North Norfolk DC  
Jan Sheldon – St Martins Housing Trust  
Cllr Gail Harris – Norwich City Council  
Marie-Claire Delbrouque – Flagship Homes  
Kate Farrell – Crisis  
Tracey Williams - NHS  
Katie Docherty - BHA

### Q1 - Opportunities

- Housing first should be part of the strategic plan and that community/charity groups should be involved.
- Webinars like this give opportunity to develop a more strategic approach and good understanding of the principles.
- COVID has presented an opportunity.
- Opportunity to use good practice (Oxford similar in terms of geographic's) to look at a countywide approach
- using info we learned today to re-frame homelessness and educate others on why this should be done. This should be a repetitive message and not a one off campaign

### Q2 - Barriers

- COVID - hard to build rapport if not face to face
- Need flexibility from commissioning bodies i.e. for support to be shared from neighbouring borough
- Constant need to apply for grant funding to get these things moving
- Barriers with people in society
- Need funding and wrap around support to go where it is needed.
- Complexity of the way the county is set up
- Getting everyone on the same page
- Simplifying partnership work
- Landlords that are willing to take forward a housing first model
- Breaking register barriers
- MHCLG not taking a strategic approach
- lack of housing stock, appropriate stock, in the right area

### Q3 - Who needs to be involved

- Health and Social Care
- Mental Health
- Wrap around support from established agencies
- Social Services
- Norfolk and Waveney CCG
- Probation
- Philanthropists

Vicky Day had to send her apologies that she was unable to join the breakout sessions, however she did send through her comments to the questions

**Opportunities:**

- Formation of commissioning group
- Learn from best practice/evaluations
- Agreeing, developing and promoting local evidence base
- Build effective links with Government
- Forum to share knowledge and expertise
- Connect with other county boards and partners

**Barriers:**

- Funding
- Securing housing
- Working across Local Authority Areas
- Political commitment
- Public Attitudes

**Who needs to be involved:**

- Homelessness Services
- People with lived experience
- Drug and alcohol commissioners
- Mental Health commissioners
- NHS
- Criminal Justice Partners
- MHCLG
- District and County Council leaders