

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND STANDARDS AND THE IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the importance of housing conditions and standards on the health and wellbeing of residents. The report also provides information on some of the work being undertaken in Sunderland to improve housing conditions.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Housing is becoming increasingly important to health in light of urban growth, ageing populations and climate change. The World Health Organisation notes that improved housing conditions can save lives, prevent disease, increase quality of life and reduce poverty.
- 2.2 The causal relationships between poor housing and health outcomes are widely accepted with evidence of negative health effects from within the home of damp and mould, cold indoor temperatures, and overcrowding. These effects can also impact on the mental health of residents through lack of personal space and poor living conditions.
- 2.3 The recent Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant enforced lockdowns and social distancing measures of the population have also played a part in highlighting the importance of good housing and decent living conditions.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 A presentation is attached at **appendix one** of this report and covers a number of topics including:
- English Housing Survey;
 - A Fairer Private Rented Sector – White Paper;
 - Sunderland Testbed;
 - Mould and Damp Homes – Sunderland Response; and
 - Wider Initiatives and Programmes in Sunderland.
- 3.2 The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities will be in attendance at the meeting to provide the update on performance and answer any questions that Members of the Committee may have.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment on the presentation.
-

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer
07554 414 878
nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk