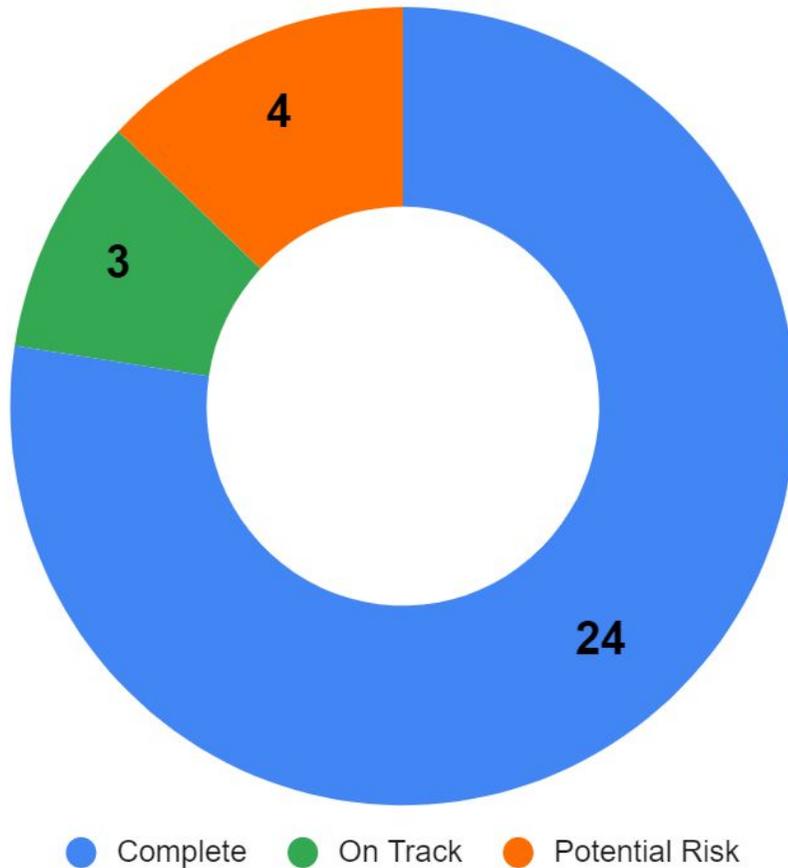


## Commitment Tracker



### Overview : last six months

Across all teams, there has been sustained high levels of activity to enable and support our communities to be healthy, well and build resilience, whilst providing a safety net for the most vulnerable.

Strategically we are using service design approaches to ensure that resources across Housing and Wellbeing, are aligned in ways that support prevention. Preventing homelessness, unemployment, ill health or debt and working in ways that build on strengths and enable our communities to build skills, health and their ability to thrive. Additionally, we recognise the need to continue to work systematically with our partners and leverage external resources and expertise into our communities to support this work. Hence our continued focus on partnership work to support some of our most vulnerable communities (such as those sleeping rough, where in partnership with others we have successfully been awarded £340,000), or for those wishing to extend their digital and employment skills, where we have secured an additional £95,000.

Operationally the scale and scope of delivery continues at pace in all areas; whether this be the expansion of the “Opening Doors” scheme, the demolition of Cecil Norris House to make way for 15 new homes, securing £95,000 for our OneStopJunctions, supporting digital and employment skills, Beat the Streets, (which galvanised 16,256 people into action across Adur and Worthing) or the public engagement at Brooklands Park this summer and autumn, the impact on our people and places is tangible.

## Platform Highlights : last six months

**Preventing Homelessness** - Our innovative social lettings agency “Opening Doors” now has more than 20 properties with more in the pipeline. All tenancies to date have been successful with no evictions or bad debts.

We continue to work across boundaries to maintain a systemic focus on preventing homelessness, and in six months we have prevented or relieved homelessness for 166 households.

**Rough Sleepers** - In November, the Rough Sleeper count across Adur and Worthing stood at seven, the lowest it has been for some years. The work we are leading with systems partners to support these vulnerable people is recognised nationally and team members have been invited to present their work to the next MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative partners meeting.

We have also been working with, WSCC, Turning Tides, Coastal CCG, and other partners we have secured more than £340,000 from Public Health England to support access to health services for those rough sleeping.

**Building New Homes** - Having appointed a senior development manager we are now taking forward our in-house capability to building new homes. 101 North Rd Lancing our first development has new tenants and Cecil Norris House is being demolished. The Downview in Worthing is being refurbished and planning permission has been secured for Downview Phase 2 and Rowlands Rd, to provide valuable additional temporary accommodation.

We are working with Boklok UK to agree a plan for approximately 150 units at Fulbeck Avenue Worthing and an overarching agreement to deliver 500 units in collaboration between the two organisations.

**Adur Homes** - The Adur Homes capital works programme is progressing well and work at Southwick Square is complete and we plan to commence works on four other blocks in the spring of 2020. Contracts have been awarded for fire safety works to sheltered schemes.

The number of residents using the online portal to report a repair is increasing month on month and the number of VOID properties across Adur Homes fell to its lowest level in recent months (17) as turnaround times have improved.

**Regulating private tenancies** - We responded to 174 enquiries about housing conditions, issued 31 enforcement notices including three Prohibition Orders and two Emergency Prohibition Orders, and issued four Civil Penalty Notices for a total of over £40,000

**Leading on healthier communities** - Adur & Worthing senior officers continue to co-chair the Local Community Networks in Adur and Worthing supporting these networks of Health and Community professionals to learn together and act together to improve outcomes for our communities, using the ‘Start Well, Live Well, Age Well’ framework to guide our activity.

Beat the Streets ran successfully for 6 weeks June-July 2019. 16,256 people played the game and collectively covered over 149,000 miles.

More than 400 people were supported by a Wellbeing Advisor in the period to November - higher in both areas than this time last year.

Going Local (Social Prescribing) has received 435 referrals received from 14 surgeries in this period (2,041 total).

**Supporting young people** - The *Find it Out Plus* project (which is a partnership between the CCG, WSCC and the YMCA - led and driven by Adur & Worthing officers, is aimed at supporting young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health, by providing one front door for them to access support), has recruited two new posts and began a public consultation with young people, to co-design the way in which the project will develop. We are also seeking to embed a university researcher into the team to support ongoing evaluation of the approach and outcomes.

**Skills and Employment** - Our Design Council Work and Skills programme has moved into the delivery phase and we will be sharing our learning at a national LGA event.

We secured £95,000 funding deliver journey to work and a Money Mentor programme as part of our OneStop Junction.

Our Peer Support Programme has 37 Digital Tutors who support 12 weekly sessions over the year (conducting £9,000 of free volunteer hours) working with 14 Digital network Partners. This year 11 of our Volunteers found employment and five gained new qualifications.

Our Employment Programme including the Rough Sleepers Initiative, has supported 104 unemployed clients offering 121 assessment appointments to

set up an individual action plan focusing on gaining new skills or placements including advocacy support.

**Connected communities** - The Thriving Connections Project around Loneliness and Social Isolation at all ages will be supporting a network event 'The Opposite of Lonely' in December 2019 to share ideas and build a movement.

A tender process for Eastbrook Manor was carried out and a new group has been selected to manage this centre Sussex Community Development Association, who we hope will start to occupy the centre from early 2020.

**Bereavement Services** - Our bereavement services team, for the first time held an Open Day at the Worthing Crematorium, welcoming more than 100 visitors, hosting talks and workshops on many aspects of end of life care and supporting the bereaved.

## Challenges

**Temporary accommodation demand continues to rise** - The number of households needing temporary accommodation, particularly in Worthing continues to rise. Whilst we have made good progress sourcing accommodation, attracting landlords to the Opening Doors scheme; securing move on accommodation for those in supported housing and in temporary accommodation continues to be a challenge across our districts. As we start to develop our new Housing Strategy for 2020 these will continue to be high on our agenda.

**New solutions for supported housing** - We have worked closely with partners across West Sussex to mitigate the worst risks of the cuts to supported housing funding, however there is still a significant reduction in the resource that is available and the full impact of this is yet to be experienced.

Ongoing funding to support rough sleepers - Funding from MHCLG Rough Sleeper Initiatives ends in March 2020, a new one year funding stream has been released to all Local Authorities (previously restricted to named authorities) indicating that securing the funds we need will be a challenge as demand on the fund will be high.

**Adur Homes tenants transitioning to Universal Credit** - As more tenants of Adur Homes transition to Universal Credit, rental income is likely to be impacted by increased rent arrears, however we will work with tenants to support their money management and agree direct payments arrangements where possible.

**Providing safer homes** - We continue to identify and carry out necessary fire safety improvement works to ensure all flats within Adur Homes stock are compliant with necessary legislation.

Adur and Worthing still has the highest number of high rise flats within West Sussex therefore we need to continue to carry out joint inspections with West Sussex County Council particularly in response to the Grenfell Fire report.

**Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour** - Our long standing programme of work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continues. However ASB issues in our town centre and surrounding parks and spaces have heightened over the

last few months. Work has been focused on developing our approach to dealing with these issues whilst balancing a good level of assertive support. This has been challenging due to the complexity of a few individuals and the length and duration of the legal work needed to address behaviour.

We have also been experiencing a number of small but significant issues around youth related crime and disorder, which has concerned organisations due to the age of some of the perpetrators. We are working with the Police, WSCC and other partners to understand and respond to these issues at an individual and systemic level.

## Future Focus

**A new housing strategy** - We are currently engaging with a range of stakeholders to support the development of the Councils' Housing Strategy 2020, very much building upon the work that has been achieved to date.

**New rough sleeper initiatives** - We are working closely with MHCLG to ensure our ongoing success in delivering good services for those who sleep on our streets and crucially support them into long term accommodation. In December this year we will mobilise the new project, funded by Public Health England.

**Delivering new homes** - The Housing development at Albion Street is on track for whole site development by Adur District Council in 2020 and the Hidden Homes design team procurement is underway. This team will start to look at options in more detail with a report coming to Joint Strategy Committee in early 2020.

Preparations are underway for a major refurbishment of buildings in Rock Close, Lock Court, Bushby Close and Beacroft Place. It is expected that work will begin in Spring 2020.

**Ensuring those in need are housed** - We will complete the review and launch the Allocations Policy to ensure those in most need have access to social housing. Commence consultation process for the implementation of a selective licensing scheme to improve housing standards in private rented accommodation.

**Bereavement Services** - Our Bereavement services team is developing a customer survey and use the feedback to further develop our services and offer. They are also planning a Christmas memorial service at the Crematorium.

**Developing our partnership with WSCC on Public Health** - Social prescribing is being enhanced through the additional money for Primary Care Networks and therefore focus will be on developing the team and the outcomes needed for this work in line with a West Sussex approach.

Our work on the Wellbeing Hubs programme will continue to develop and form the focus of a partnership approach with WSCC.

**Engaging Young people** - The focus we take around young people will form part of our review work to ensure that we work more effectively with our partners and communities.

**Safeguarding vulnerable residents** - We have more work to develop our approaches across the Councils to safeguarding and with WSCC especially

around the adults agenda where some of our referrals are not being accepted.

**Championing volunteering among the Councils' staff** - There will be a refresh and reboot of the Councils' volunteering policy and approach to support of charities at work, called Giving.