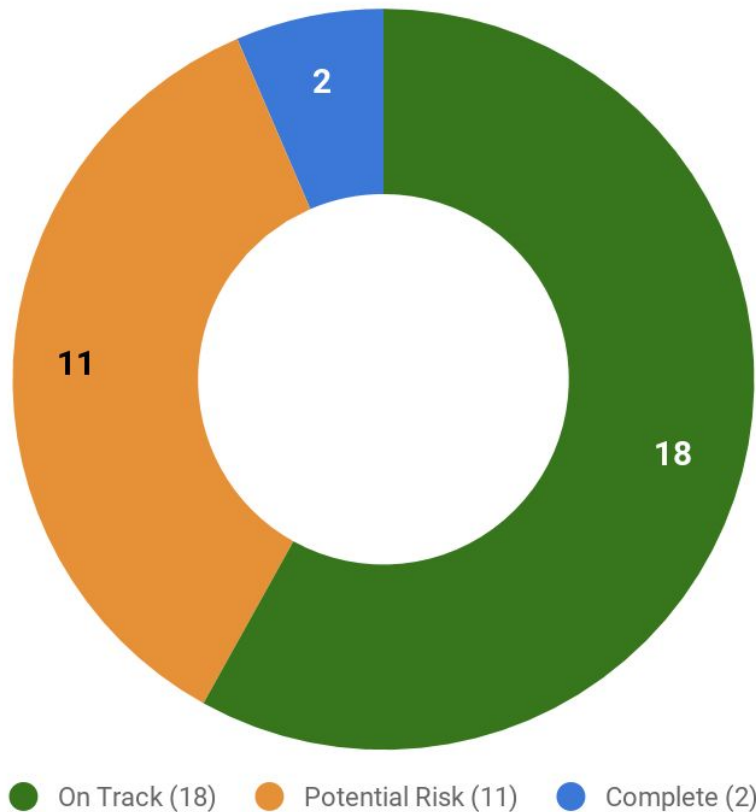


## Commitment Tracker



### Overview : last six months

The Councils continue to take steps to support our communities when they are most vulnerable, and finding innovative approaches to reduce risk of poor health and housing outcomes.

We have received national recognition for our social prescribing programme - 'Going Local'. We are also expecting another milestone being reached on the development of the Worthing Health Hub (another example of the Councils' working in collaboration with health partners).

We have also seen significant progress being made in our efforts to provide housing and supporting those who are experiencing homelessness. We are seeing real results from our proactive approach to support those Rough Sleeping. The Councils are overseeing 11 housing development projects, in particular Albion Street, Cecil Norris House and Fulbeck Avenue developments are designed to provide new social and affordable housing solutions to our communities. Worthing Borough Council's formative partnership with BokLok to deliver a model for new homes at Fulbeck has attracted significant national and international attention and work will now begin on designing this important new scheme.

## Platform Highlights : last six months

- 1. 'Going Local', goes national:** 'Going Local', the Councils Social prescribing programme has been shortlisted in the Public Health Category of the MJ Local Government Awards. Between November 2018 and February 2019 the programme has undertaken 1,277 referrals, averaging 47 per month. The Councils have reinvested in the housing support worker for "Going Local" for a second year.
- 2. Thrive and loneliness:** As part of our Health and Wellbeing agenda, we have been convening work focusing on some important agendas for our communities, including the way in which we think about and tackle loneliness. We have been convening a number of service design sessions with partners - including our Director for Public Health- over the last nine months around a Thrive agenda, to designing new and more creative ways in which communities can be better connected in places and through intergenerational approaches. The next steps are now taking shape to turn this work into actionable priorities
- 3. Our communities remember:** Following a number of years working with the families Adur District Council unveiled the Shoreham Memorial on the banks of the Adur River. The memorial honours the 11 men who lost their lives at the Shoreham Airport tragedy. News of this touching memorial was shared by national, regional and local news outlets.
- 4. Investing in our Bereavement Services:** Worthing Borough Council work commenced on the £750,000 investment into the extension of Durrington Cemetery. This will ensure that Durrington Cemetery will continue to provide burial options to our community for the next 30-35 years by providing 2,000 burial spaces and 1,200 ash plots. This work compliments the refurbishment of facilities at Worthing Crematorium.
- 5. Action on rough sleeping:** The Councils' efforts to support those rough sleeping was recently boosted by Government funding. 27 rough sleepers were assisted, with only one person returning to rough sleeping (the others were reconnected to family, employment and private sector accommodation or provided short-term accommodation to give stability and access to longer term accommodation). Further Government funding is supporting work with partners across West Sussex to support rough sleepers into accommodation, including trialing a 'Housing First' model with Worthing Homes and Turning Tides. The important work of our teams and partners were also shared through a rough sleeping action week which reach 38,000 people across the Councils' social media platforms.

- 6. Building Homes:** The Councils are also overseeing 11 housing development sites and received planning permission for 50 units at Albion Street and 17 units at Cecil Norris House (Adur), and submitted an application for 15 units at Rowlands Road (Worthing). A total of 150 units is currently in our project pipeline. The first phase of Albion Street is about to go out to competitive tender will involve the delivery of 44 units of affordable social housing. A further two units of accommodation have been completed at North Lancing Road, and will be available to let as social rented accommodation. Worthing Borough Council has worked with Boklok UK to agree a plan for approximately 150 units at Fulbeck Avenue, and an overarching agreement to collaborate on delivering a further potential 500 homes.
- 7. Hidden Home:** Possible infill sites have been identified within Adur Homes which could be used for housing development. Plans for the first phase, which involves four sites is being drawn up.
- 8. “Opening Doors”:** The Councils are developing strategies to provide stable housing to those experiencing homelessness. “Opening Doors” is a scheme that offers a de-risking package to private landlords to let properties to people who are in temporary accommodation. The scheme offers a free service to landlords that includes tenancy sign-up, guaranteed rent and assistance to evict if the tenancy fails. The Opening Doors pilot has seen 14

properties/landlords successfully trialed, with no bad debts accrued to date. It has also reduced the Councils’ temporary accommodation costs by around £141,000. Our housing teams are now preparing for a full launch of the service.

## Challenges

- 1. Addressing anti-social behaviour** - The Councils long standing programme of work with partners continues. However Anti-Social Behaviours issues in our town centre and surrounding parks and spaces have become more apparent over the early summer months. Work has been focused on developing our approach to dealing appropriately with these issues whilst continuing a good level of assertive outreach support. This has been challenging due to the complex needs of some individuals and the length and duration of the legal work needed to address behaviours. We have retained a strong focus on support needs alongside this.

## Future Focus

- 1. Working on homelessness prevention:** A Temporary and Emergency Accommodation Strategy Working Group has been set up to develop formal strategy building upon the prevention work already started. This prevention work is focusing on bringing down the numbers requiring this support, reducing average nightly cost, continuing to monitor and increase the supply of affordable

accommodation, and supporting moves on into permanent accommodation.

- 2. Reviewing our strategic approach to housing:** Given the emerging challenges and changing landscape around Housing the Councils will be reviewing a range of current housing policies, including our overarching housing strategy and housing allocation policy.
- 3. Building continues:** Significant milestones should be achieved on Worthing Health Hub development along with Albion Street and Cecil Norris House contracts which should be proceeding well over the next six months.
- 4. Working better together:** The Councils' Wellbeing and Housing team are undertaking design work to further our approach to address the underlying and interrelated preventative issues that contribute to poor health outcomes and people being at risk of homelessness.