

16 August 2018

Memorandum

To:	Auckland City Centre Advisory Board
Subject:	Update on progress with <i>Kia Whai Whare Tātou Katoa</i> : Regional, cross-sectoral homelessness plan for Auckland
From:	Debbie Edwards, Senior Policy Manager – Social Policy and Bylaws, Community and Social Policy

Purpose

1. This memo provides an update on progress with development of a regional, cross-sectoral homelessness plan.

Key Messages

- *The council is leading and coordinating the development of a regional, cross sectoral plan to address homelessness in Tāmaki Makaurau with government and non-government partners, using a collective impact approach.*
- *Auckland Council has built strong relationships with these partners, with broad consensus and commitment. There is consistent support for council's role as the "backbone" organisation for the regional, cross-sectoral approach.*
- *Engagement and analysis work has highlighted that a significant amount of work is underway within this very complex sector. There are consistent views that the impact will be greater with a more coordinated and strategic approach, and with greater focus on prevention.*
- *Depending on the progress of each partner agency, the plan will be presented for sign-off to partner agency governance (including the Environment and Community Committee) in late 2018.*
- *Three stakeholder workshops are planned for August – September 2018. These workshops will focus on building consensus around the plan, and developing the action plan for 2019. There is an opportunity for a representative from the Auckland City Centre Advisory Board to participate in the workshop on 3 September 2018.*

Background

2. The 2013 census counted 20,296¹ homeless people² in Auckland - an increase of 26 percent since 2006. Conservative projections estimate current homelessness at about 24,000, reaching 26,522 by 2021. It is an Auckland-wide issue, and is affecting working households. Nationally, 52 percent of homeless adults nationally were working, studying or both.
3. Homelessness is broader than rough sleeping. The Statistics New Zealand definition (adopted by Auckland Council) includes people living without shelter (e.g. rough sleeping and in vehicles), in temporary accommodation (e.g. emergency accommodation, shelters, and motels), sharing temporarily and living in uninhabitable dwellings (e.g. garages and sheds).
4. In 2017 Auckland Council sought advice on its position and role in relation to homelessness. It was resolved that homelessness in Auckland should be "rare, brief and non-recurring" and that the council should strengthen the established levers available to "improve, end and prevent homelessness" (ENV/2017/118). The decision included a mandate to provide strategic leadership and inter-sectoral coordination to develop a regional, cross-sectoral homelessness plan (the plan).

¹ Analysis conducted by the University of Otago

² University of Otago uses the term severe housing deprivation to define homelessness and aligns with the Statistics New Zealand definition

5. The committee report and accompanying research paper can be accessed at:
http://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Open/2017/08/ENV_20170808_AGN_6831_AT.PDF

Developing a regional, cross-sectoral homelessness plan

6. Auckland Council is working with key government agencies³, NGOs⁴ and other stakeholders⁵ to develop the plan. It is envisaged that the plan will be collectively owned, developed, and implemented by these partners.
7. The focus has been on developing strong relationships with these agencies, building consensus and commitment to the plan. There is consistent support for council playing a 'backbone' agency role in a cross-agency, collective impact approach.
8. Engagement with the private sector has been limited. The ACCAB may be able to suggest where there might be opportunities for central city businesses and the private sector to be involved.
9. Sector leaders participated in a workshop on 31 May 2018 to develop the key components of the high level plan. The plan will include:
- A shared vision, objectives, priorities and principles for collaboration over the medium-long term
 - An annual road map (action plan) – this will identify collaborative, regional actions that aim to prevent, end and reduce the harm from homelessness
 - A monitoring and reporting framework – this will provide a framework for tracking progress against outcomes and implementation of the action plan.
10. Engagement and analysis undertaken to inform the development of the plan includes:
- **Research with people at risk and with lived experience of homelessness, and frontline service providers:** mapping pathways into and out of homelessness for a key at risk group, single parents with dependent children.
 - **System mapping:** working with partners and other stakeholders to increase understanding of the current response, strengths and gaps
 - **Establishing a cross-sectoral leadership group:** this group will include representatives of central government and non-government agencies, Māori (mana whenua and mataawaka), and other leaders in the sector. This group will be key partners in the development and implementation of the plan.
 - **Engagement events with stakeholders:** three workshops with a broader group of stakeholders are planned for August/September 2018. These workshops will focus on building consensus around the plan and developing the road map for 2019.
 - **Authorisation and implementation:** it is envisaged that partners will seek approval through their respective channels. For Auckland Council, this will require reporting back to the Environment and Community Committee later this year.
 - **Identification of opportunities for seed projects:** during the development of the plan, Auckland Council will work with partners to identify immediate opportunities to progress initiatives.
 - **Engagement with local boards and advisory panels** has been completed.
11. The work to date has highlighted the complexity of the issue and the sector:
- There is evidence of homelessness getting worse across the region, with growing concern about the more hidden forms of homelessness, such as over-crowding and uninhabitable housing.

³ Including Ministry of Social Development, Housing New Zealand, Department of Corrections, Police, DHBs and Ministry of Health, Te puni Kokiri and the Ministry for Pacific People

⁴ Including Auckland City Mission, Salvation Army, Lifewise, Vision West, Community Housing Aotearoa

⁵ Including Tamaki Regeneration Company, Te Matapihi, Waipareira Trust, Te Puea Marae, Foundation North

- There is a great deal of work taking place but the system is centred on crisis management. There is a strong desire to strengthen prevention and early intervention to stem the flow of people becoming homeless.
- Government and non-government agencies recognise that this complex problem can only be solved through collaboration, coordination and strategic alignment of the multiple agencies involved.

Alignment with key initiatives

12. The plan will need to align with key initiatives which the council is either funding, supporting through technical assistance or playing a governance role including:
- **Housing First Auckland:** The council contributed \$1 million towards the collective of five organisations working across Auckland
 - **Regional homelessness count:** Funding has been provided by the council to contribute towards a regional count of those without shelter scheduled for 17th September 2018.
 - **Central city housing collective:** a coordinated, cross-agency approach to the redevelopment of two key central city facilities: Housing New Zealand's Upper Grey's Avenue property (which will include supported social housing and housing for high needs clients) and Auckland City Mission's Home Ground, which will provide emergency housing and expanded services
 - **Renovation of James Liston Hostel** located in Freeman's Bay.

Next steps

13. The aim is to present the plan concurrently to participating agencies' governance bodies (including the Environment and Community Committee) in late 2018 for sign-off. Achieving this timeframe will depend on the ability of government agencies to confirm support for the plan. Staff are working closely with central government officials to minimise this risk.
14. The key steps and indicative timeframe are summarised below:

Indicative timeframe	Action
May – June 2018	Research with people at risk and with lived experience
	System mapping with key stakeholders
	Workshops with local boards
31 May 2018	Sector leaders' workshop to develop plan (first draft)
July 2018	Engagement with council advisory panels
August - September 2018	Stakeholder workshops
November 2018	Plan and road map presented to the Environment and Community Committee (and partner governance) for approval
March - April 2019	Auckland Council implementation plan presented (1) to local boards with actions and then (2) to the Environment and Community Committee

Engagement with the Auckland City Centre Advisory Board

15. Meeting with council advisory panels is a key part of the process for developing the regional, cross-sectoral plan. In addition, there will be an opportunity for a representative of the ACCAB to participate in the central city workshop from 9.00am to 12.30pm on 3 September 2018.
16. The 22 August 2018 ACCAB meeting provides an opportunity for the board to:
- provide feedback on the development of the regional, cross sectoral homeless plan
 - highlight opportunities to involve the central city businesses (and the private sector more generally) in development of the plan
 - nominate a representative to attend the September 2018 central city workshop.