

## **Responses to Speaker for HRS Paper Adults Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 & CYP Committee 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

**Service: Homelessness services generally**

**Speaker: Chris Jenkin (Trustee Cambridge Churches Homeless Project & one of the leads for the 'It Takes A City' project/campaign)**

**Question / issue being raised:**

### **Council's Response**

We are happy to work with It Takes a City to inform our HRS review, but it must be noted that the HRS Review relates to the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, whereas 'It Takes a City' is focussed solely on Cambridge. The HRS Review work also has a timeframe attached to it as its aim is to bring about a change in service delivery but also to deliver savings.

We have engaged with the 'It Takes a City' working groups where wherever possible. The Commissioner for HRS was a member of the 'Support Connects' group whilst it was running and is also due to attend the next meeting of the 'Youth Connects' group on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. Members of the Youth Connects group are also part of the HRS Young Person's Redesign Group, so there are clear links between both groups. If there are other groups that are felt to be particularly relevant to the HRS Review then we will do our best to ensure we have a representative at these as well.

The HRS Review has identified some areas where substantial changes would be beneficial, but we are aware that time is needed to make those changes, hence Committees are being asked to approve the extension of a number of key contracts relating to both Adults and Young Person's homelessness services.

The HRS Review clearly identified the issues around people being able to access suitable move-on accommodation and the need for service provision that was able to support those with the most complex needs. The development of Housing First is intended to help address the latter issue, and we are intending to do more work to look at current pathways to better understand how changes could be made to aid move-on, however we realise that the housing market for Cambridge presents a large challenge in this area, and any positive impact in this area will require engagement with a wider range of partners in the voluntary and private sector.