Appendix 5

Welsh Government Feedback

Overall the Strategy has a clear structure and layout.

- **Section 1- Introduction**

  – 1.2.5: The Strategy should set out the priorities for the Housing Support Programme which covers both the HSG and statutory homelessness functions funded through the revenue settlement. You therefore need to update this sentence to reflect that.
  – 1.4.13: the heading doesn't seem to correspond with the narrative which appears underneath in 1.4.14 and 1.4.15.
  – The information that has been included in the Introduction (1.1) section and the Purpose of the Strategy (1.2) is very detailed and there is some duplication of information. You may wish to consider combining these two to create an '*Introduction and Purpose*' section.
  – 1.5 It is not clear if the vision included is the overarching vision for the Council or a specific vision for housing support/homelessness services? Can you confirm? It also currently reads as a list of aims rather than an overall vision.
  – 1.6: Whilst it's good to see the key achievements and what is currently being delivered, it is not particularly relevant as the Strategy should focus on the priorities for future delivery of services. Would suggest you could incorporate some of it in an Annex or relevant detail included in your needs assessment document.

- **Section 2: Needs assessment**

  – 2.1 - It would useful if this section also listed the data sources (as set out in the HSP Template) used to inform your needs assessment as well the process/method.
  – The key findings section is very detailed. There could be an opportunity to better draw out the key themes by perhaps using thematic sub-headings.
  – You will need to include a conclusion paragraph to highlight the key needs, gaps in provision and issues that need to be addressed as a result of the findings from the needs assessment.

- **Section 3: Strategic Priorities**

We welcome that you have provided the context for each strategic priority setting out the how and why, although some of 'reasons why' listed don't always appear be relevant to the priority. We have made the following suggestions for how the strategic priorities could be strengthened:

- P1 – you may want to make it clearer exactly what you're prioritising and the specific gap that is being addressed. Is this about strengthening targeted prevention i.e. pathways for certain cohorts, or general early intervention and prevention services, or both? The priority combines a number of cohorts/needs

i.e. young people, mental health, substance misuse and would therefore benefit from being more focused/specific. Suggest rephrasing to '*strengthen early intervention and prevention services..*', and then draw out the key cohorts/groups in the detail underneath.

– P2 – this priority slightly overlaps with P1 and reads as a business as usual activity rather than a priority. Would suggest making it clearer and more action focused around what is the specific gap being addressed i.e. is this priority around strengthening support services or increasing supply of suitable accommodation? The priority also combines a number of cohorts/needs i.e. young people, mental health, substance misuse and would benefit from being more focused. Therefore, you may wish to consider rephrasing and splitting into 2 priorities as follows: One to '*Increase or strengthen support provision for people with complex needs*' focusing on mental health and substance misuse provision (linking in a multi-agency approach, including health, to support those with complex need), and the other priority around strengthening housing support provision for younger people.

P3 – this priority could be clearer about what you are prioritising i.e. is it about increasing allocations for people already in temporary accommodation or building more temporary accommodation? What type of accommodation (single person accommodation etc.)? You could therefore explicitly draw out in the narrative what you are going to do, what are the gaps and the cohorts that you are trying to address. Would also suggest changing 'Welsh Government 'Annex D' accommodation standards' to 'Welsh Government relevant standards'.

– We note that there is no priority around workforce development although you mention that staffing is an issue in the stakeholder engagement section (4.2.6).
– You will also need to include a priority around your approach to targeted prevention as set out in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, that perhaps is not covered sufficiently in P1.
– The Strategic regional priorities of the Gwent RHSCG could be referred to her instead of in 1.4.16 (local policy section), under a 'Regional priorities' sub heading and drawing out any specific actions for Monmouthshire.

- **Section 5: Impact assessment and Action Plan**
– As you have noted, this section will need to be completed. We note that some information in the Action Plan is missing. You will need to complete these before the Strategy is published.

- **Section 6: Implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Strategy**
– You may wish to consider listing some of the key partners integral to delivering the strategy.