**Cabinet response to recommendations of the Housing Panel made on 07/11/2019 concerning the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2018 – 21 mid-point update**

**Provided by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Leisure, Councillor Linda Smith**

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| ***Recommendation*** | ***Agree?*** | ***Comment*** |
| 1. **That the Council will develop an informed qualitative understanding of the support provided by supported housing providers commissioned by OCC, particularly through additional consultation with recent and current service users.** | Agree | The Lived Experience Advisory Forum, established through the Oxford Homeless Movement, has been established partly for this purpose.  The Council would very much like to engage with LEAF to better understand the client experience of our commissioned services. |
| 1. **That the Council will discuss with the Lived Experience Advisory Forum to agree the most appropriate means of ensuring those with lived experience of homelessness are involved in the transformation programme of homelessness services at strategic and service design levels, as well as the development the new Housing and Homelessness Strategy.** | Agree | We intend and have already started to work closely with the Lived Experience Advisory Forum to help inform the design and implementation of our homelessness services in this crucial period of transformation. The voice of those with lived experience is a key element of Crisis’s workplan during the feasibility/needs assessment phase of the transformation programme. We also fully intend to involve the forum to help us shape the new Housing and Homelessness Strategy. |
| 1. **That the Council makes further progress on embedding homelessness prevention within all the services it delivers. This work to include**  * **Continuing and reinvigorating the work of the cross council Homelessness Reduction Act Project Group/Homelessness Prevention Officer Group, and ensuring this group continues to identify and deliver actions to embed prevention work across the authority.** * **The continuation of “Tenants at Risk meetings to continue to ensure officers from teams across the authority work together on cases to prevent homelessness.** * **Enablement of the Council’s key partner organisations in homelessness prevention through continued support of the Oxfordshire Homelessness Prevention Champions Network to build understanding and relationships with staff from a range of organisations in order to prevent homelessness** | Agree | i)      This is already in train and the Council-wide Homelessness Prevention Officer Group, with a new scope agreed for their work, has its first meeting scheduled in January.  ii)     We are fully committed to continuing the Tenants at Risk meetings.  These are chaired by a senior officer, reviewed on a regular basis and is a critical tool in the prevention of homelessness.  iii)            As a legacy of Trailblazer, Oxford City continues to support the Champions Network with officer support confirmed. |