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12 August 2011

Please ask for:
Corinne Waterfield
Arun Housing Services

Your Ref:

Our Ref: HCG/sjz

Dear Partner

REVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS 2011

Following Arun's recent decision to undertake a second review of homelessness in the district (the first was carried out in 2008), we are writing to all statutory and voluntary sector partners for help. The review will provide the foundation of knowledge to underpin a new 5 year Homelessness Strategy 2011 -2016. The review is being overseen by a working group appointed by the Arun Homelessness Forum.

The key drivers for the review and the need to adopt a new strategy, significantly in advance of the expiry of the existing strategy in 2013, are as follows ;-

- (i) The Council continues to rely on Bed and Breakfast accommodation as emergency temporary accommodation
- (ii) The numbers of rough sleepers in the district, particularly in Bognor Regis, have been growing – the number of rough sleepers is believed to be the fourth highest in the country
- (iii) Changes in Government housing and associated policies following the election of the coalition government in May 2010
- (iv) Review of the Council's Housing Allocations Scheme in 2011
- (v) The need to develop further the Council's approach to preventing homelessness
- (vi) The need to develop further the Council's approach to tackling youth homelessness in partnership with social services
- (vii) The Audit Commission inspection (as part of the inspection of the Council's Housing Strategic role in 2009) revealed that the Homelessness Strategy had weaknesses

Central to the review will be information provided by stakeholders including service users and partner agencies. Enclosed with this letter are two questionnaires, one is a questionnaire which we would like all our partners to complete, primarily to provide us with the following information which will be summarised in Section 10 of the report:-

- Your opinions about the draft Homelessness Review, currently available on Arun's website www.arun.gov.uk/homelessconsultation

Ian Sumnall Chief Executive, Strategy and Environmental Services Director
Nigel Croad Corporate Resources Director

www.arun.gov.uk



- Environmental Health

- Littlehampton and Bognor Regis
Customer Services Help Points

The Government Standard

- An overview of the complementary services that you provide
- Any relevant statistical and performance data

The second is for partners to complete with their clients who have been or who are currently facing homelessness.

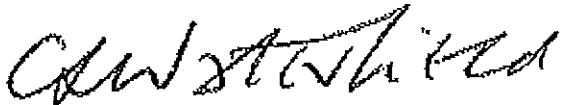
The development of a robust Homelessness Strategy with an accompanying action plan is a priority for Arun and we would like the input of as many of our partner agencies and service users as possible. The consultation period for partners and their service users will end on 16th September 2011.

Following the completion of the review, a new draft Homelessness Strategy will be developed. There will be opportunity for partners to comment and also participate in a forum principally to review the action plan. We anticipate that the new strategy will be presented to members for approval before the end of the year.

Should you have any immediate queries please contact Shirley Zeman shirley.zeman@arun.gov.uk or telephone 01903 737587.

Many thanks, in advance, for your help and support with the review.

Yours faithfully



Corinne Waterfield
Housing Services Manager