

## Homeless Strategy – Public Consultation Dec 2016 – Feb 2017.

**Online Survey** – Featured on the Council Website, and Press Release Issued.

### **Public Events in the Locality**

- **Okehampton** – 74 members of the public, 68 flyers handed out
- **Tavistock** – 40 members of the public 32 flyers handed out (very positive response from those spoken to, some had already been online and completed) Main comments in Tavistock:
  - ‘there’s a ticking time bomb...about to explode due to all the cuts’
  - Worries re the closure of Harewood House and what that will mean for older people who can’t cope and don’t have family
  - Concerns re the effect of mental health issues and how these affect homelessness
  - Lack of affordable housing especially for younger people who want to stay in the Tavistock area
- **Kingsbridge** – 30 flyers handed out, 18 conversations
- **Lee Mill** (Tesco’s) 29 Flyers, 8 conversations.
- **Totnes** 17 flyers, 20 conversations Main comments in Totnes The people of Totnes were very passionate about this issue, A lot of interest in the poster generally.
  - Private Rent: Price and Standards (DCH Over-pricing & Corruption)
  - Lack of Social Housing and Cost: Private rent in Torbay cheaper than social housing in Totnes.
  - Affordable Housing in Totnes: Why don’t we use local builders, people commented this may make people less resentful.
  - Distrust towards SHDC Planners
  - Intimidation from homeless drinkers at certain bus stops in Totnes towards elderly.
  - Understanding from many that homelessness was a result of bad circumstances and relationship breakdowns i.e. Relationship breaks down man has to move out of social housing with nowhere to go.
  - DCC Social Service building at Bridgetown sat empty, could home numerous homeless people during winter.

- Lack of hospital beds for mental illness cases.

- **Dartmouth** 40 flyers, 10 conversations

Main comments in Dartmouth

- Affordable Housing
- Lack of social housing
- Distrust in new development companies.

### **Partner Engagement.**

All Town & Parish Councillors, Devon County Council, Devon & Cornwall Police, All Secondary Schools, Devon County Council, NHS, Devon Housing Options Managers, All Housing Providers, NHS England, Childrens Centres, Revival Life Ministries, Shekinah,

All Members were invited to respond through an article in the Members Bulletin

### **Vulnerable Groups**

#### **Focus Meeting with users of the Burke Road Drop in Centre.**

5 Rough Sleepers spoke individually with Officers. Positive about the strategy, however stressed the need for good communication. Asked when we spoke to young people to talk to them about respect (some incidents of anti-social behaviour) a need for more accommodation and support in making the transition from street life. Particularly in relation to being housed locally, in shared housing and the possibility of tiny houses.