

# Our Housing First Approach

DCN Conference 2021

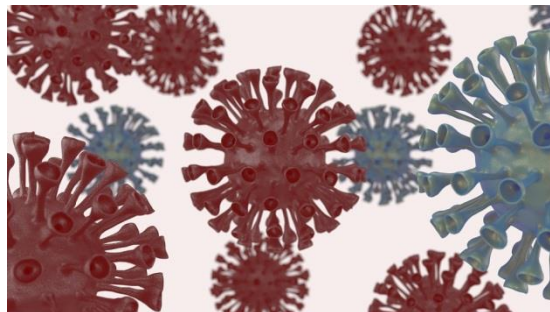
Cllr Sharon Taylor

Leader of Stevenage Council



# The Pandemic

- COVID-19 restrictions March-July 2020: committed to rehouse those placed in directive
- £333k obtained through the 'Next Steps Accommodation Plan' - NSAP - short term
- £1,038,910 NSAP funding - long term
- Funding obtained for 23 additional units
- Mass pressure on temporary accommodation



# Housing First Project

- Identified in our 'Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024' - 3 support and risk levels;
  - Low - private rented sector pathway
  - Medium and High - supported placements within houses in multiple occupancy and self-contained units



# Housing First Provision

- 32 units over 5 sites in occupation – concierge provided in 2 sites and patrols at the other 3
- 9 self contained units
- 11 modular units to be delivered and managed by local homeless charity - Haven First



HAVEN FIRST

- 10 properties to be leased through our Wholly Owned company
- Accommodation, support, CCTV and security/concierge

# Housing First Accommodation



Outdoor space



Private fridge and limited cooking

# Housing First Accommodation



En-suite facilities



Self contained units

# New Accommodation Needed

- Managed and supported spaces where people can live independently - but with supervision
- Over time the idea is to disperse these across the town in a fair, equitable and functional way



# Success Story

- An applicant was placed into a house in multiple occupation after immediate risk of rough sleeping. They were supported by our Rough Sleeper Co-Ordinators and the applicant worked in the local vaccination centre and is working with the Housing Supply team to move on into Private Rented Sector accommodation.





# Challenges

- Fixed term funding from Central Government for revenue support
- No assistance through grants for security and or concierge support
- Without security/concierge, high support need sites can not be provided due to issues with crime and anti-social behaviour



# Next steps

- Tenant training program
- Increase moves to the private rent sector
- Accommodation sites mobilised and referral pathways underway
- Reduction in rough sleeping and additional single homelessness provision
- Working with partners on future schemes and funding opportunities
- Focus on housing benefit claims