

Eden District Council – Homelessness Champion

Appointed by and accountable to the Full Council

Role, purpose and activities: To

1. Chair relevant Forums as agreed with the Housing and Health Portfolio Holder;
2. act as a strong strategic leader on homelessness and raising and promoting homelessness issues;
3. gain an understanding of homelessness, its' causes and the Council's statutory obligations and where required to explain the duties;
4. advocate the importance of prevention and responding proactively to homelessness; including advocating realistic funding regimes to provide efficient and effective services for vulnerable families and individuals at risk of homelessness;
5. gain an understanding of the work of the teams in Housing services including the Housing Options team, promoting these internally and externally. To reflect back to the teams, via appropriate channels, how the service is perceived in the community;
6. consider and highlight the role of public, private and third sectors in bringing forward solutions;
7. attend training and regular briefings from the Homelessness team;
8. visit projects run by the voluntary sector;
9. keep abreast of the evolving impact of national and legislative changes;
10. act as a spokesperson to keep issues at the forefront of debate; raising awareness amongst fellow elected members of homelessness issues and the implications of these for the Council; and
11. where required, in conjunction with the Housing and Health Portfolio Holder and the Councils' Communications team, to engage with the media.

Skills required:

Within the Council

Understanding of the area of interest being championed in terms of council strategies and policy, good practice, improvement and national agendas and the needs of the client group. Ability to engage with a range of members and officers around the area of interest and listening to requirements. Ability to advocate on behalf of the area of interest within the council

In the Community

Understanding of the needs of the community in relation to the interest. Ability to engage with citizens and community groups in matters related to the interest. Ability to lead and support local initiatives related to the interest. Ability to represent the position of the council to the community in relation to the interest.