

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
20 MARCH 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environmental Capital	
Contact Officer(s):	Adrian Chapman – Service Director, Adult Services and Communities	Tel. 863887

MANAGEMENT OF ROUGH SLEEPERS REVIEW

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Adult and Communities Scrutiny Committee	Deadline date : N/A
<p>That Cabinet considers the recommendations from the cross party task and finish group formed to review the management of rough sleepers, namely:</p> <p>Recommendation 1 That a strategic group be set up which meets regularly in order to identify duplication and gaps in current provision for rough sleepers and which includes representation from partner agencies including from the faith and voluntary sector. This group will develop a Rough Sleeper Strategy to be developed and approved by Council to support the work of officers and the wider partnership arrangements, and will monitor and respond to fluctuations in the delivery of the council's homelessness policy.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 The creation of a multi-agency task and targeting group to work on a long-term plan to ensure that individual rough sleepers are supported to move away from a street-based lifestyle.</p> <p>Recommendation 3 That the staff resource dedicated to supporting rough sleepers is increased beyond the current single officer by one full time additional officer to provide greater resilience and capacity, including provision for weekend outreach work in addition to the existing Monday to Friday service.</p> <p>Recommendation 4 That, with a growing rough sleeping population, the availability of suitable all year round night shelter accommodation is maintained, or increased if demand increases, to ensure that those most vulnerable are able to get some shelter especially during severe weather conditions.</p> <p>Recommendation 5 That night shelter accommodation is identified for rough sleepers with dogs where the rough sleeper would not be willing to allow the council to place the dog into kennels as is current practice.</p> <p>Recommendation 6 That consideration be given to establishing formal daytime drop-in advice and advocacy services for rough sleepers, in partnership with the voluntary and faith sectors, focussed on offering advice and guidance as well as case management for service users.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>continued overleaf</i></p>	

Recommendation 7

That consideration be given to a flexible approach to activating severe weather emergency provision (SWEPE), taking into account the good practice guidelines provided by Homeless Link.

Recommendation 8

That an urgent solution is found to the deficit of on-street drugs and alcohol support, either through renegotiating the existing contract the council holds with the provider or by increasing the value of the contract.

Recommendation 9

That a focussed and ongoing communications campaign is undertaken to encourage the public to report rough sleeping to the council so that the most appropriate support can be provided.

Recommendation 10

To design and print business card sized information cards for rough sleepers with contact details for rough sleeper touch points and durable conveniently sized hand-outs, which can be personalised with key advice and action plans for rough sleepers to support them to leave the streets.

Recommendation 11

That the existing provision of one Housing First bed for a rough sleeper with complex needs that cannot be accommodated in regular hostels be extended by two further beds, along with the associated wraparound support services.

Recommendation 12

That the current Chronically Excluded Adults (CEA) project which provides personalised support to rough sleepers and others with the most complex needs be mainstreamed into normal council business from 1 August 2017, the point at which existing grant funding ceases.

Recommendation 13

That the relationship between affordable housing and rough sleeping be further explored. If it is proven that there is a direct correlation between volumes of rough sleeping and availability of affordable housing, that the target for affordable homes to be built in Peterborough that are identified in the emerging Local Plan be increased from 30% to 35%, and that of the 35% at least 70% are affordable rented.

Recommendation 14

That, following the conclusion of the task and finish group, the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee continue to provide oversight of the recommendations and support to officers by way of a report to the committee in September 2017.

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet by the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee which met on 7 March 2017.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 For Cabinet to consider the recommendations approved by the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee from a cross party review of the management of rough sleepers.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.4: *To promote the Council's corporate and key strategies and Peterborough's Community Strategy and approve strategies and cross-cutting programmes not included within the Council's major policy and budget framework.*

3. **TIMESCALE**

3.1	Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 At its meeting on 11 January 2017 the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a cross party task and finish group to review the council's approach to the management of rough sleepers.

4.2 The task and finish group have undertaken their review and their findings, which are contained in the report at Appendix A, were presented to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2017.

4.3 The scrutiny committee debated the report and its recommendations, and approved them for submission to Cabinet.

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 The task and finish group spoke with key witnesses and received information from other local authorities, as described in the report at Appendix A.

5.2 The Adults and Community Scrutiny Committee debated the report at its meeting on 7 March 2017.

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

6.1 Whilst the task and finish group has acknowledged the good work already undertaken by the council and its partners to support and manage rough sleepers, the recommendations in this report, if approved, will ensure a full package of interventions and the appropriate level of capacity is in place to support rough sleepers.

7. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The recommendations contained in this report are as a result of a cross party task and finish group.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 A wide range of options were considered as part of the work the task and finish group undertook, and the final recommendations represent the most appropriate for Peterborough.

9. **IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Many of the recommendations set out in the task and finish group's report have no financial implications. However, some do and these costs are identified within the report. However, the task and finish group reviewed evidence from other council areas nationally that demonstrated the financial savings that can be achieved through effective preventative work and targeted engagement with rough sleepers, which would deliver a significant return on investment.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1
 - **At What Cost? An Estimation of the Financial Costs of Single Homelessness in the UK, Crisis/Centre for Housing Policy, University of York, July 2015**
 - **Evidence Review of the Costs of Homelessness, Department for Communities and Local Government, August 2012**
 - **Cross Party Rough Sleeping Task and Finish Group – Briefing Pack**

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A - Task and Finish Group Report