

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
12 SEPTEMBER 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Service Director Communities & Safety	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
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UPDATE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF ROUGH SLEEPERS: MONITORING OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee:

1. Consider and comment on the updates provided on the recommendations agreed by Cabinet on 20th March 2017.

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Adult and Communities Scrutiny Committee following recommendations agreed by Cabinet on 20th March 2017.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with an update of progress on the recommendations of the Task & Finish group, which were agreed by Cabinet on the 20th March 2017.

- 2.2 This report is for the Adult and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council : 4. Neighbourhood and Community Support.

- 2.3 This report links to the following corporate priorities:
 - Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy
 - Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

- 2.4 How does this report link to the Children in Care Pledge?

N/A

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 At its meeting on 20th July 2016 the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee (now the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee) recommended that a cross-party Task and Finish group be established to review the work being undertaken in Peterborough to support the apparent rise in Rough Sleeping in the City.

The Committee received a report of the group's findings and recommendations at its meeting on 7th March 2017 which was then submitted to Cabinet on 20th March 2017.

At the meeting on 20th March 2017 Cabinet considered the report and recommendations of the Task and Finish group and agreed and amended the recommendations as follows:

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.

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.

Recommendation 3

That the staff resource dedicated to supporting rough sleepers is increased beyond the current single officer to provide greater resilience and capacity, including provision for weekend outreach work in addition to the existing Monday to Friday service, subject to the availability of funding.

Recommendation 4

With a growing rough sleeping population, it is important for the availability of suitable all year round night shelter accommodation to be maintained, or perhaps increased, to ensure that those most vulnerable are able to get some shelter especially during severe weather conditions.

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, subject to the availability of funding.

Additionally, work with organisations in the voluntary sector to develop pet-sitting or other similar projects to enable a rough sleeper with a dog to access services.

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, with the caveat that this is not a daytime shelter.

Recommendation 7

That consideration be given to a flexible approach to activating severe weather emergency provision (SWEP), 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.

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, following a recent announcement from Government about potential support to roll out the Housing First model, further work is carried out to understand the detail behind this announcement with a view to extending local provision by at least two further beds.

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, subject to the availability of funding.

Recommendation 13

That the relationship between affordable housing and rough sleeping be further explored. If it is found that there is a direct correlation between volumes of rough sleeping and availability of affordable housing, that a full report is prepared for Cabinet that explains this connection to enable Cabinet to consider the consequences in the Local Plan.

Appendix 1 attached to the report is a copy of the updated Rough Sleeping Deliver Plan detailing current progress against the agreed recommendations.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 It is hoped that funding will be secured through the bid to DCLG under the controlling Migration Fund. This will provide the required resource to progress many of the recommendations, which have a resource requirement..

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To enable the committee to consider progress made on the recommendations approved by Cabinet relating to the management of Rough Sleepers.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 *N/A*

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 Any recommendations, which will require additional resources are dependant on securing external funding.

Legal Implications

9.2 *.N/A*

Equalities Implications

9.3 *N/A*

Rural Implications

9.4 *N/A*

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 Cabinet Paper - Management of Rough Sleepers review.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 1. Rough Sleeping Delivery Plan August 2017