

<b>ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
<b>11 SEPTEMBER 2018</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Sarah Ferguson, Assistant Director for Housing, Communities & Youth	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
Contact Officer(s):	Sean Evans, Head of Housing Needs	Tel. 01733 864083

**SAFER OFF THE STREETS**

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b> Assistant Director for Housing, Communities & Youth.	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>n/a</i>
It is recommended that Adults & Communities Scrutiny Committee review and comment on the proposals and ambitions of the Safer off the Streets partnership.	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted at the request of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with details of the Safer off the Streets partnership work, which has come about following the recommendations of the cross party Task and Finish Group's work reviewing the management of rough sleepers in early 2017.

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.2.1, Functions determined by Council,

3. Housing need (including homelessness, housing options and selective licensing).

2.3 This report links to the following corporate priorities:

- Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	n/a
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**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 Rough sleeping is a key aspect of homelessness which the council continues to be proactive in addressing, and forms an important part of the overarching Homelessness Reduction Strategy,

building on work which has been underway for two years. At its meeting on 20 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.

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

4.3 At the meeting on 20th March 2017 Cabinet considered the report and recommendations of the Task and Finish group and agreed a number of recommendations, which we have updated the Committee on a number of occasions over the last year. The main recommendation was 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.

4.4 This group has met on a number of occasions over the last 18 months and had monitored the progress against all of the recommendations. Many of which, have now been achieved.

4.5 Looking forward, the group recognises that we are very fortunate in Peterborough in that there is a lot of good will in the City and a number of individuals and organisations who support the homeless as part of their day to day work, but there is an apparent lack of coordination or an agreed aim around reducing or even ending rough sleeping.

4.6 With this in mind the group are about to launch a campaign called "Safer off the Streets" Peterborough. This will include a programme of activities to raise awareness of the good work that is being undertaken in support of rough sleeping and brings all of the organisations together with one agreed aim and under one identity.

4.7 Further details will be presented to the Committee at its meeting, and the attached presentation provides further information.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 The programme has been developed with the support of colleagues across the organisation, and with members of the strategic group.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The views of Scrutiny Committee members will help the strategic group in its delivery of services under Safer off the Streets.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Greater coordination of support and prevention activity for rough sleepers has been identified as an important need for the city, and this campaign will help achieve that. The campaign also seeks to provide more effective information to the public about the impact of rough sleeping and different ways they can help.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 It is not expected that there will be any additional financial implications beyond those already accounted and budgeted for.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 N/A

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 N/A

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 10.1 'Management of Rough Sleepers', report of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee, March 2017

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - Safer Off the Streets, Peterborough - Presentation

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