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| ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM No. 7 |
| 1 JULY 2019 | PUBLIC REPORT |

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|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Report of: | Adrian Chapman, Service Director for Communities and Safety | |
| Cabinet Member(s) responsible: | Councillor Steve Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture & Recreation | |
| Contact Officer(s): | Sarah Ferguson, Assistant Director, Housing, Communities and Youth Sean Evans, Head of Housing Needs | Tel. 01733 864083 |

REVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION STRATEGY 2018 - 2020 AND SAFER OFF THE STREETS

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| R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S | |
| FROM: Head of Housing Needs | Deadline date: <i>n/a</i> |
| <p>It is recommended that Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the progress of Peterborough City Council and partners in the delivery of the Homelessness Reduction Strategy 2018 - 2020 2. Note the progress made in tackling rough sleeping in the City since the last update of Safer Off the Streets 3. Consider, comment on and agree to the details of the process and timescales for reviewing the new Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2020 - 2025 | |

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the committee with an update of progress in delivering the City Council's Homelessness Reduction Strategy 2018 - 2020 and to seek member comment and agreement on the proposed process for reviewing the strategy and developing a new strategy for 2020 - 2025.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 Homelessness remains a serious issue in Peterborough. Full Council agreed the two year Homelessness Reduction Strategy in June 2018; this is due to be renewed by March 2020. Since the introduction of the strategy the Homelessness Reduction Act of April 2018 has come into effect. This has placed new burdens on the local authority. The Council has also introduced the *Safer Off the Streets* Partnership. The report reviews the progress it has made since its launch in October 2018.

Progress on the homelessness reduction strategy was last reviewed by Members of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee in January 2019. At that meeting Members agreed to the introduction of a revised action plan from March 2019.

Members also agreed to a process for reviewing and developing the 2020 - 2025 Homelessness

Reduction and Rough Sleepers Strategy. Initial work on this has been developed for consideration by Members in this report.

2.2 This report is for the Adults 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:

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? | NO | If yes, date for Cabinet meeting | n/a |
|---|-----------|----------------------------------|-----|

4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The City Council is required under the Homelessness Act 2002 to conduct a review of homelessness in its area and produce a Homelessness Reduction Strategy every five years which:

- Addresses the causes of homelessness in the Council's area;
- Introduces initiatives to prevent homelessness wherever possible;
- Ensures measures are in place to secure sufficient temporary accommodation for those households that are or may become homeless; and,
- Ensures that appropriate support is available for people who have previously experienced homelessness in order to prevent it happening again.

These legislative requirements were refined in the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) of April 2018 which increased the duty on Local Authorities to support households at an earlier stage in order to prevent homelessness.

4.2 The period covered by the current strategy has seen the greatest change in homelessness legislation for a generation, combined with a rapid increase in the number of people becoming homeless. The strategy was purposefully designed to cover a shorter time period to allow the Council to understand the impact of the new obligations set by the HRA. This report sets out the challenges that the Council has experienced in response to the new legislation and also how these have been addressed.

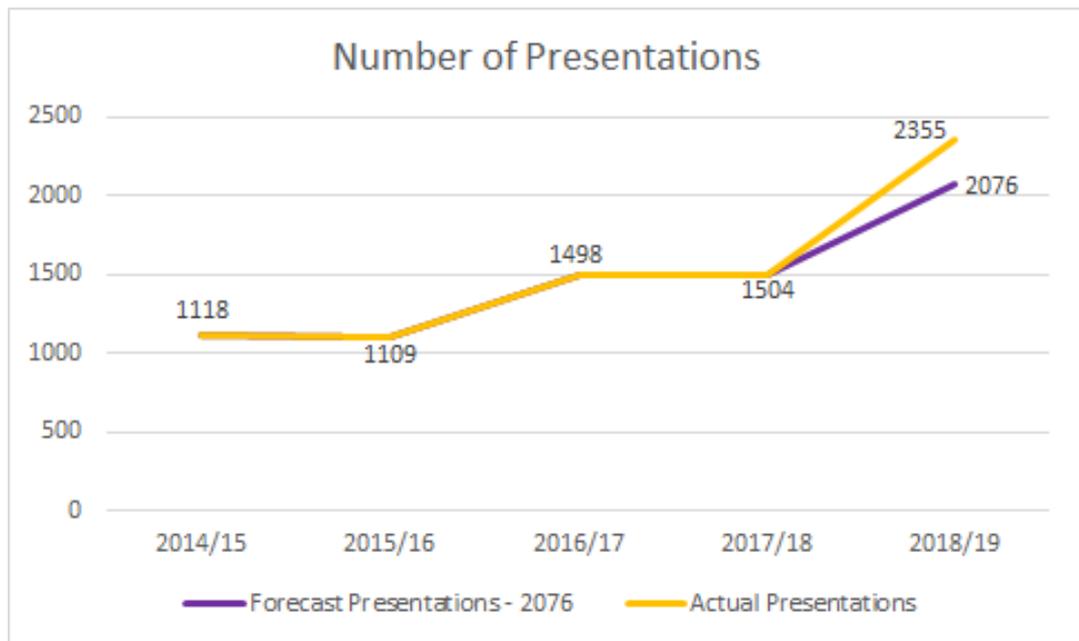
5. **DEMAND**

5.1 ***Rising Numbers of people becoming homeless***

From April 2016 - March 2017, Peterborough saw a 35% increase in the number of Homelessness presentations to the City Council when compared to 2015/16. There were 1498 presentations of homelessness or being threatened with homelessness. This level of demand has remained consistently over the period from April 2017 - March 2018, with 1504 households presenting as homeless.

Southwark was a Pathfinder Authority for the Homelessness Reduction Act and saw an increase of 38% in homeless presentations during its Pathfinder year. However, during 2018/19 Peterborough had 2355 presentations - a 56% increase on the previous year. This represents an adverse gap of 18% between the expected demand (from the Pathfinder results) and the actual demand.

5.2 The graph below shows the number of presentations over the last 5 years:



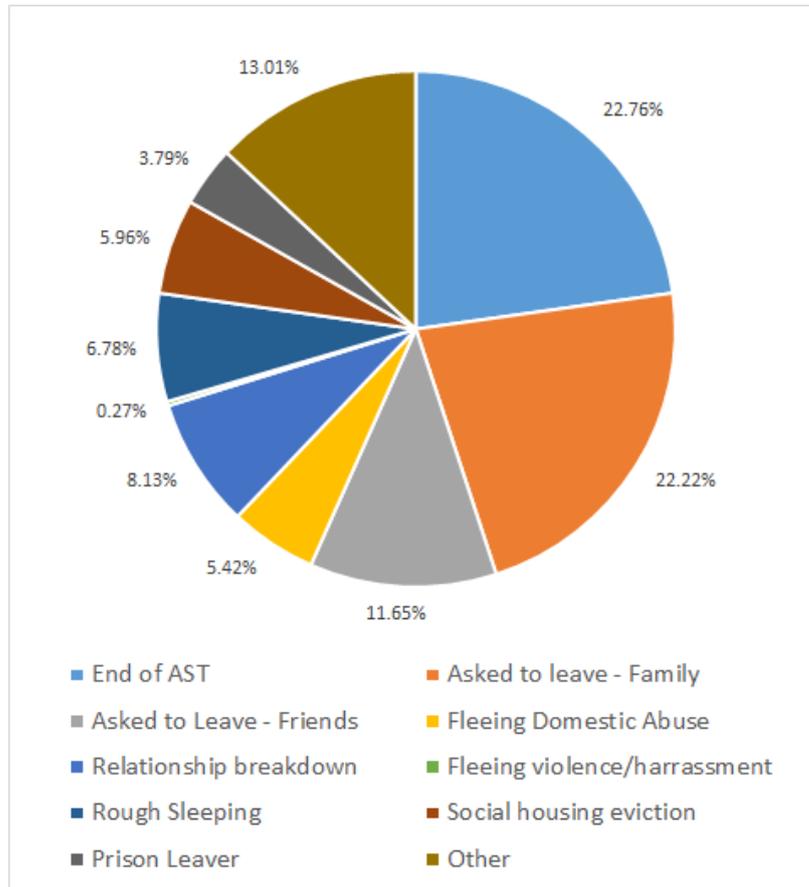
6. REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

6.1 In the past year the biggest increase in reasons for households presenting to Peterborough City Council as homeless is the issuing of Section 21 notices by private landlords. Section 21 notices are most commonly used by landlords to repossess their properties. They do not have state to the court their reasons for doing this. Assuming the notice served is valid, the court must award a possession order.

There is also a high number of households being made homeless as a result of being asked to leave accommodation by their family or friends. Often the households who have been made homeless are families which have formed and grown, but are unable to access housing through other routes, such as private sector accommodation or home purchase.

The HRA of April 2018 placed a duty upon a number of statutory agencies to refer cases into the Council's Housing Needs team whenever a risk of homelessness has been identified. This referral arrangement was implemented in October 2018. Following several months of agencies getting used to the new requirements the Council has seen an increase in referrals from organisations such as the DWP, prison and probation services. With these referrals has come a heightened sense of expectation. This has placed extra demands on the team. Clients who may well have not approached the Council previously and found accommodation without our assistance are now being referred to the Council.

6.2 The chart below shows a breakdown of the main reasons households are approaching us for assistance:



| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| End of AST | 22.76% | Asked to leave - Family | 22.22% |
| Asked to Leave - Friends | 11.65% | Fleeing Domestic Abuse | 5.42% |
| Relationship Breakdown | 8.13% | Fleeing Violence/Harassment | 0.27% |
| Rough Sleeping | 6.78% | Social Housing Eviction | 5.96% |
| Prison Leaver | 3.79% | Other | 13.01% |

6.3

Case Study 1 below offers an example of how one man became homeless and the response the council made.

Case Study 1

Mr X was a worker and residing in settled rented accommodation. Unfortunately he was laid off by his employer and could not afford the rent so ended up losing his property. Mr X had nowhere else to stay and started to sleep rough. Having no accommodation he was also unable to have his children stay over.

Mr X presented to us for help and was referred to the Rough Sleeper Outreach Team. The team were able to provide emergency accommodation in the crash beds we have available funded through the Rough Sleeper Initiative. Mr X was understandably suffering with extremely low mood and was often tearful when engaging with Council officers.

After a good night's sleep the team engaged with him the following day at the Garden House. Initially he was reluctant to discuss his situation in any detail because it had caused him so much stress and

anxiety. After speaking with him we decided that he would be more suitable to access the winter night shelter run by the Light Project Peterborough. As well having a warm place to sleep he was also able to get support from the volunteers based there.

As part of the ongoing work with Mr X, we set tasks for him to complete to keep him focused and moving forward and also ensured that his medical needs were met through a referral to the GP based out of the Garden House. Mr X was supported to make contact with the New Haven every day to secure a room at the earliest opportunity.

We supported Mr X over 6 weeks whilst staying in the Winter Night Shelter. We have supported him to seek employment with an agency and referred him to CAB to provide debt advice and assist with his rent arrears and support him with a Universal Credit Claim.

Mr X was accepted at the New Haven hostel where he stayed here for approximately 10 weeks.

While at the New Haven Mr X was then encouraged and supported into applying for a job at a local company and he was successful. We supported him in his application to join the housing register and he has since been offered a social housing tenancy. He was supported in his move into settled accommodation and with the assistance of Carezone and the foodbank made sure he had furniture and basics to move into his accommodation with.

7. MEETING THE CHALLENGE

7.1 Peterborough's Homelessness Reduction Strategy 2018 - 2020 makes clear our intentions as a City to meet the requirements of the 2018 Act, and also our response rising levels of demand from homeless people. Since 2018, the City Council has committed significant levels of investment to address the issues highlighted above and deliver on the strategy - both in increasing the operational capacity needed, and making capital investment to create new temporary and permanent homes for people who need them. In addition, our well established working relationship with Cross Keys Homes to tackle homelessness has been key to our initial success. The following paragraphs summarise the main achievements that have been made over the last 16 months against our primary objectives. Appendix One provides further details.

7.2 **Objective 1: Eliminating the use of Travelodge type accommodation and reducing / eliminating the use of B&B type accommodation for temporary accommodation**

Following a high of 63 households placed, out of area, in Travel Lodge accommodation in June 2018, this reduced to zero by December 2018. It has stayed that way with one brief exception in June 2019 which was quickly resolved.

Between April 2018 - March 2019 the number of people housed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation has fallen from 136 to 102. There has been a small further reduction since then. June 2019 figures show 98 households in B&B and there has been a fall to 41 households for those who have been in B&B for more than 6 weeks. This is down from a peak of 146 in June 2018. A key priority for the coming year is the elimination of the use of B&B as a temporary accommodation solution.

It is also worth noting that whilst an increase in demand of 56% has been experienced over the year, at March 2019 the number of households accommodated in temporary accommodation remained at a broadly similar level to the start of the year. This has been achieved by a combination of increased prevention activity, supporting households to remain in their homes, and finding alternative accommodation including homes purchased by or leased to the Council.

7.3 **Objective 2: Increase the supply of self-contained temporary accommodation options in order to**

support the reduction of B&B use

The Council has purchased 51 properties as part of a £10m Invest to Save measure to provide temporary accommodation for households at risk of homelessness: completion is expected on further 8 properties shortly. 9 properties on Cromwell Road that were acquired for the purpose of North Westgate regeneration are being used during the interim period as temporary accommodation.

The Council has also entered into a 3 year lease arrangement with Cross Keys Homes on 18 flats at Tyesdale as temporary accommodation units. A further 41 properties have been leased from private landlords and additional properties are being progressed through the necessary landlord and building checks.

Whilst work has continued at pace to secure an appropriate level of temporary accommodation to meet increasing demand it remains important to secure the development of new permanent homes with a suitable mix of tenure. The total stock of general needs housing managed by Registered Providers in Peterborough is 17,222. It is expected that there will be 251 new affordable housing completions in 2019/20 comprising 151 rented tenure and 100 affordable home ownership tenure. Last year there were 1043 new private housing completions in Peterborough of which 150 were affordable housing units (14%). The rate of completion of affordable housing delivered through S106 agreements remains challenging as a result of development viability.

7.4 **Objective 3:** *Ensuring the effective implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act and embracing the culture change this will bring*

The 2017 Act has brought about a significant change in the way that the housing needs team, and partner services and organisations, handle cases where households present to the Council with a housing need as homeless or threatened with homelessness. Following the new investment and restructure of the team during 2018, a lot of work has been done to redesign processes and pathways for clients needing to access the Council's services so that the Council is more responsive and can deliver at pace. This work can be built upon now that the housing needs team has moved to the Town Hall and the new customer service centre has opened on Bridge Street.

7.5 **Objective 4:** *Creating a suite of prevention tools which will give the Housing Needs team improved chances of success*

From April 2018 to March 2019, despite demand pressures on the service 333 households have been supported to prevent them from becoming homeless. Due to the changes in legislation, the way in which prevention cases are being accounted for has changed. As a result it is not possible to make direct comparisons with previous years. The Housing needs team has introduced a number of new tools and approaches which enable staff and partners to get upstream of issues which may lead to homelessness. As the new approaches are gradually embedded, comparisons on progress in our success in preventing homelessness will become possible.

7.6 Case Study 2 shows an example of the kind of preventative work the Housing Needs Team are engaged in.

Case Study 2

Mrs S presented for assistance as she had been served with a section 21 notice from her private landlord. Colleagues at CAB had been working with the household and confirm that the notice was valid.

The rent for the property was £695. Mrs S moved in 3 years ago with her children - she was working and the property was affordable. When Mrs S was on a reduced income while on

maternity leave she struggled to pay her rent on time.

The Housing Solutions Officer made contact with the letting agent to find out why they were seeking possession of the property. The letting agent advised that Mrs S was generally good with paying her rent and they had no issues with the way they looked after the house, but the rent had not always been paid on time and she had accrued some arrears.

After some negotiation with the letting agents they agreed that they would withdraw the notice and Mrs S could remain as the tenant if the rent arrears were cleared as Mrs S was able to get back in advance with the rent as per her tenancy agreement.

The Housing Solutions Officer confirmed the property continued to be affordable by completing an income and expenditure assessment and submitted an application for a Discretionary Housing Payment from Housing Benefit.

This payment was agreed and awarded meaning the arrears were cleared and rent was put in advance. As agreed the landlord withdrew the notice and the client was no longer at risk of homelessness. The Housing Solutions Officer supported Mrs S in completing her Universal Credit claim so her income was topped up to help her with the rent payments and the rent element was paid direct to her landlord.

Many households have been able to stay in their current homes following intervention by Council staff or supported with a move to suitable alternative accommodation without the need for temporary accommodation or a full housing duty being accepted. The Council has also created a new Visiting Officer role which allows to visit families in their homes at the first sign of difficulty. Visiting officers will meet with families and households to identify ways to resolve difficulties which could otherwise lead to homelessness. Working with young people to mediate within families when there is a risk of family breakdown has become a key part of our prevention work. The establishment of the Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS) has increased our focus on this issue, and involves collaboration between the TYSS, Children's Services and Housing Needs team to help reduce the incidence of young people becoming homeless.

7.7 Objective 5: *Support landlords and tenants to support them to overcome landlord/tenant issues which may lead to eviction actioned chances of success in preventing homelessness*

The Housing Needs team continues to work with private sector landlords to support them to deal with landlord tenant disputes. However, despite our efforts Landlords serving section 21 notices in order to obtain possession of their properties remains one of the main reasons for households approaching us as for homelessness assistance.

We have recently made a successful bid to the MHCLG for funding to expand this area of the service and we are in the process of recruiting to 3 additional staff to the team. This includes 1 team leader, whose responsibility it will be to strengthen relationships with private sector landlords, formulate an incentive package for them to work more closely with us and set up regular landlord forums. The team leader will also coordinate the work of 2 housing solutions officers who will focus on households at risk of homelessness in the case of private sector tenancies.

Officers will also work to secure additional accommodation from the private sector that can then be utilised by the team to rehome clients and will offer ongoing support to landlords and tenants to ensure the success of the tenancy. We hope to have all people in post by the end of July 2019

7.8 Objective 6: *Bringing together services to work holistically in ensuring financial inclusion, income maximisation and debt advice are accessible and prioritised in order to support preventative work*

Continued work with Cross Keys Homes has been crucial to tackling homelessness prevention. This has included an innovative scheme to incentivise tenants who are under occupying their homes to downsize. This has encouraged 4 households to move to more suitable accommodation and freed up homes to meet the needs of families who are in temporary accommodation. We shall continue to pursue similar opportunities.

The Peterborough Homelessness Forum was established in October 2018. This brings together partners from across the public, voluntary, community and faith sectors to consider how we tackle homelessness as a City. This is a valuable forum for involving our partners discussing the key issues and agreeing joint action, and shared priorities. The forum is taking action in areas of common concern such as domestic abuse, vulnerable children and young people, substance misuse and mental health. The forum will hold its fourth meeting on the 4th July, and will be heavily involved in shaping and developing priorities for the 2020 - 2025 Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleepers Strategy.

Recent collaboration with CAB has also improved the capacity across the partnership to triage people attending the Housing Needs service, and identify early opportunities to support people who may be at risk of becoming homeless. This has included the co-location of CAB staff and volunteers at Bridge Street. The use of Discretionary Housing Payment to help clients who may be struggling with debt or arrears is also under continual review between the City Council and Serco to ensure that the funds are directed towards those most in need, and where there is an opportunity to prevent homelessness.

7.9 **Objective 7:** *Explore the potential of a Social Lettings Agency/Guaranteed Rent Scheme for private landlords*

The resources recently secured from MHCLG to develop work with the private rented sector will accelerate our work in this area over the coming 12 months. A new team is currently being recruited for this purpose.

7.10 **Objective 8:** *Ensure that information and advice on housing and homelessness prevention is widely available and that our customers are seen at the earliest possible opportunity*

From October 2018, a new 'Duty To Refer' came into effect as a result of the HRA. This makes it incumbent on services and organisations who may identify a potential risk of a family or individual becoming homeless, to make an early referral to the City Council Housing Needs team. A new mailbox was established to facilitate this, and in part accounts for the increase in demand set out above. A review of online presence and advice has been undertaken and will be a priority for development over the second year of the strategy.

7.11 **Objective 9:** *Maintain services and create an effective supported accommodation pathway for single homeless and rough sleepers*

Since the January 2019 report to the Scrutiny Committee, 45 rough sleepers have been supported to leave the streets into settled accommodation.

The Council has also secured funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to sustain the work on Rough Sleeping during 2019 - 2020. This has enabled us to continue to maintain the team of 5 officers supporting rough sleepers and to fund the following initiatives:

- All year round emergency crash bed facility to accommodate up to 10 rough sleepers.
- Extending of the current winter night shelter provision offered by the Light Project Peterborough from the current 13 weeks up to 20 weeks.
- Increase in specialist outreach to support those with drug and alcohol misuse issues.
- Funding of specialist GP support services for rough sleepers.

- Funding of a landlord incentive scheme to increase access to single person accommodation in the private sector.
- Funding of 2 specialist workers to support single people to maintain their accommodation once housed.
- And funding of a co-ordinator role who will lead on the delivery of the above initiatives.

More detail on the work of the Safer Off the Streets partnership is included in section 5.

7.12 **Objective 10:** *Increase the focus on performance supported by clearer data*

During the year, a new system - Jigsaw - was implemented to ensure that accurate data on caseloads and performance of the team can be used as a management tool. This is now being embedded and used more routinely by the team. Dashboard reports are being made to the Housing Programme Board on a monthly basis. We are also making good progress on a service improvement plan which was created following a visit by the MHCLG Homelessness Advice and Support Team in 2018.

8. **ONGOING CHALLENGES**

Despite the considerable progress that has been made in tackling homelessness in Peterborough the challenges facing the City are unprecedented in recent experience. The objectives set by Members in the current strategy have provided a clear direction of travel, which is delivering positive outcomes. However, there is more to be done over the coming year:

- Retaining a clear focus on reducing the numbers of households placed into B and B to zero, and reducing our reliance on temporary accommodation
- Ensuring that the interventions with those at risk of becoming homeless or who are homeless, are effective and targeted in the right way to reduce the numbers of people presenting to the Council as homeless or in need of temporary accommodation
- Increasing the supply of permanent affordable rented accommodation across the City

Key steps that will be taken to tackle these issues will include:

- Maximising opportunities across our key partnerships to prevent homelessness occurring in the first place
- Continuing to procure the right mix of temporary accommodation to meet anticipated demand, provide cost effective solutions for the Council, and eliminate the need for B and B;
- Undertaking a forensic review of the 'end to end' process across the whole housing and homelessness system to identify where things are working well, where things need to be improved - and implementing any necessary changes swiftly;
- Working with developers, private and registered social landlords and other partners to increase the provision of affordable rented homes in the City; and
- Having purchased homes from the private market, council officers are currently reviewing the case for reintroducing a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the potential financial advantages this may bring as a mechanism for acquiring properties in the future.

9 **SAFER OFF THE STREETS**

9.1 In January 2019, we provided an update to the Committee about the formation of the *Safer off the Streets* initiative.

The Garden House continues to provide a neutral welcoming environment for rough sleepers to access:

- the Council's rough sleeper outreach services

- Primary Health Care, through GP provision
- drug and alcohol outreach
- assistance with claiming and maintaining benefits
- volunteering opportunities
- and much more

- 9.2 Axiom Housing Association continue to provide emergency access beds that the outreach team can refer rough sleepers into to provide them with warmth and shelter at any time throughout the year. The crash beds are providing the perfect launch pad for clients to engage with outreach support services in order to make that next move into some form of more stable accommodation provision. Once accommodation provision is sourced we now have floating support workers working as part of the rough sleeping initiative funding who maintain contact with clients and support them in the early stages of them managing their new accommodation to ensure that they are able to maintain the accommodation and break the cycle of homelessness and rough sleeping that can affect so many.
- 9.3 Between the months of November 2018 and March 2019, the Light Project Peterborough opened the winter night shelter, offering room for 8 rough sleepers at any one time. The Council and partners supports the move on of clients from the Winter Night Shelter into supported accommodation settings ensuring that no one who's eligible for assistance leaves the night shelter and returns to the streets. Over the winter months the Council opened up its Severe Weather Emergency Provision, which increased the capacity even further and meant that there are 18 beds available for rough sleepers at Fairview Court and additional capacity in reserve if required to ensure that no one had to sleep rough over the winter period.
- 9.4 The Safer off the Streets website (www.saferoffthestreets.co.uk) has launched and continues to be updated regularly to include what help and support is available in the city and when it can be accessed. Case studies are regularly added to give updates on the progress being made by the partnership. The initiative also provides members of the public with an alternative to giving money to people on the streets. The contactless donation point in St Peters Arcade and through the website allows the public to donate directly to the services who will support those individuals to make the change required to leave the streets. The Safer Off The Streets management board have agreed that all donations received will go directly towards the day to day operating costs of the Garden House.
- 9.5 The annual rough sleeper count took place late in November 2018 and our estimate based on the physical count and other intelligence gathered was that 28 rough sleepers were sleeping out on the night of the snapshot. This was down marginally from 31 in the previous year.
- 9.6 There is still much work to be done we have increased the size of the outreach team focussing on rough sleeping. The outreach team is now 4 outreach officers and a team leader. The accommodation provision we currently have will be maintained to ensure that we have an offer for all rough sleepers to leave the streets. The Safer Off The Streets partnership continues to grow and working together collaboratively and will ensure that areas of duplication are minimised while harnessing the high levels of good will we have in the city.
- 9.7 Since the Garden House open in October 2018 the team have had successes in the following areas:
- 257 individual single homeless people have engaged through the garden house.
 - 35 new rough sleepers have been supported to leave the streets before becoming entrenched.
 - 10 entrenched rough sleepers have left the streets.
 - 47 individual rough sleepers have used the crash beds.
 - 55 individual rough sleepers used the winter night shelter, 29 of which went on to some form of permanent accommodation.

10. IN SUMMARY

A considerable amount has been achieved since the current Homelessness Reduction Strategy was launched in Spring 2018. There has been good progress in our partnership work, and significant investment from the City Council to respond to increased demand, and mitigate the impact of homelessness on the City's residents. This is showing clear dividends. There remains more to be done, and in the next year continuing to increase our preventative activity, whilst ensuring that the supply of the right type of accommodation is available, will be a clear priority.

The Council and our partners will build on the work and understanding we have gained since the introduction of the 2018 HRA to shape and develop our priorities for the next five years through the new Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleepers Strategy. Section 6 outlines detail of how we propose to achieve that.

11. **PROCESS AND TIMESCALES FOR STRATEGY REVIEW 2020 - 2025**

The strategy and action plan is due to be reviewed and republished by July 2020. This will also provide the opportunity to reflect new national guidance which indicates that Homelessness Reduction Strategies need more visibly to include the needs of rough sleepers. Based on the outline review process presented to Members in January, further detail on the timeline and process is outlined below for Members consideration:

| Action | Timescale |
|---|------------------|
| Review of current Action plan - areas of significant demand and need highlighted | July - Sept 2019 |
| Partnership Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client engagement • 1 or 2 workshops - build common understanding of need and develop objectives and priorities | Sept - Nov 2019 |
| City Council review (Members/ officers) - <i>Gather internal data/ drivers/ interviews with key officers/ Members</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Member workshop (Gain input about local priorities and feedback proposed priorities from partnership review/ shape and develop priorities further) | Sept - Nov 2019 |
| Compilation of emerging priorities and recommendations from Clients, Partnership and Council Review | Nov - Dec 2019 |
| Adult and Communities Scrutiny Committee - Final Draft Strategy for approval | 7th January |
| Cabinet | 3rd February |
| Full Council | TBC |

Members are invited to consider, comment and agree on the proposed process.

12. **CONSULTATION**

- 12.1 We are continuing to engage and consult with our partners across the housing, voluntary and faith sectors to ensure our actions address the issue of homelessness and rough sleeping. These consultative mechanisms are now fully embedded and will continue to be strengthened, including during the development phases of the new strategy.

13. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 13.1 The scrutiny applied by the Committee will help to ensure we continue to prevent and deal effectively with homelessness and rough sleeping and reduce the number of people affected by these issues.

14. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 14.1 The recommendations contained within this report will ensure that we have an agreed process in place to consult upon, design and deliver the new 5 year strategy, as well as to continue to deliver the current strategy.

15. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 15.1 N/A

16. IMPLICATIONS

16.1 Financial Implications

It is not expected that there will be any additional financial implications beyond those already accounted and budgeted for in the MTFS. The successful delivery of the strategy will ensure that the pressures created by the increased use of temporary accommodation will be effectively managed and reduce the financial risk to the City Council.

16.2 Legal Implications

N/A

16.3 Equalities Implications

N/A

16.4 Rural Implications

N/A

17. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 17.1 Peterborough's Homelessness Reduction Strategy 2018 - 2020

18. APPENDICES

- 18.1 Appendix 1 - Homelessness Strategy Action Plan Update - June 2019