

For publication

North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020 – 2021

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 17th March 2020

Cabinet portfolio: Housing

Report by: Liz Cook – Assistant Director for Housing

For publication

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To advise Members of the production of a new draft North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020 – 2021.

1.2 To seek adoption of the Council's North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020 – 2021.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020 – 2021 Rough Sleeper Strategy is adopted.

2.2 That Cabinet agree the priority actions for Chesterfield set out in paragraph 3.13.

3.0 Report details

3.1 Statutory Homelessness is defined under Section 175 of the 1996 Housing Act (as amended by the 2017 Homelessness Reduction Act).

In 2018 the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 was introduced, which represents the most fundamental change in homeless law since 1977.

3.2 The Homelessness Reduction Act is framed around the principles of early intervention, prevention with the authority and the applicant having a joint responsibility to prevent or relieve homelessness. The new duties precede the long-standing duty to secure suitable temporary accommodation, pending longer-term accommodation, if a person is eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

3.3 The definition of homelessness is distinct and wider than being roofless. Around 99% of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness do not sleep rough. The government defines a person as sleeping rough if they are found to be 'bedded down' or 'about to be bedded down' in the open air (streets/doorways/parks) or in places not designed for human habitation such as bus shelters, cars, car parks, sheds or derelict buildings. The definition covers what a person is doing at that point in time. It is not relevant what accommodation a person might have that is available and reasonable to occupy/legal interest in/can secure entry to.

3.4 Rough sleeping is the most visible and acute form of homelessness. Rough sleeping numbers have risen significantly since 2010. The figure recorded by year in the table below is the number of rough sleepers found on one night in November of each year in Chesterfield.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
6	4	3	9	8	0	10	12	18	13

- 3.5 In 2002 each housing authority was given a legal duty to develop a homelessness strategy.
- 3.6 The Government published its national Rough Sleeping Strategy in August 2018 which obliges authorities to have a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy making explicit provision for tackling rough sleeping.
- 3.7 Chesterfield Borough Council developed and adopted the existing North Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy in 2016. The current North Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy ends in 2021. The strategy needs updating to reflect and respond to the 2017 Homelessness Reduction Act.
- 3.8 As the current North Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy is due to be reviewed and updated within financial year 2020/2021, the proposal is to produce a strategy that covers both homelessness and rough sleeping.
- 3.9 Therefore, a short-term strategy focussing specifically on Rough Sleepers has been developed to ensure the Council complies with Government requirements.
- 3.10 The proposed Strategy is rooted in a partnership approach between the Council, other statutory services, the third sector and homeless people. The strategy has been approved by the multi-agency North Derbyshire Homelessness Forum on 23rd January 2020.
- 3.11 The Strategy is based on the three 'pillars' of prevention, intervention and recovery that are identified in the National Rough Sleeper Strategy. These are:
- **Prevention** - To prevent new people from starting to sleep rough.

- **Intervention** - To intervene rapidly when people start to sleep rough to help them off the street.
- **Recovery** - To promote a person's recovery once they are off the street to build positive lives and not to return to rough sleeping.

3.12 A range of commitments have been identified within the strategy. This is attached at **Appendix A**.

3.13 Chesterfield Borough Council have identified set of priority actions from the long list of commitments set out in the Strategy. These are:

Chesterfield Borough Council Priorities:	
8.	Strategic co-ordination and increase in provision of appropriate supported accommodation options
9.	Develop provision of 24/7 supported accommodation.
16.	Increase and expand the provision of local outreach work to include quick intervention to prevent people from becoming entrenched
23.	Explore provision of specialist mental health support from within housing options services.
25.	Implement a panel cross sector panel of experts for individuals with high level and multiple needs.

3.14 Identification of local priorities will provide focus and ensure implementation of the Strategy meets Chesterfield locally identified needs.

3.15 The strategy has adopted the targets that are identified within the National Rough Sleeper Strategy. These are to:

1. Halve the number of people sleeping rough in the area by 2022.
2. To have no people sleeping rough by 2027.

3.16 The starting benchmark is the 2018 count. Therefore, Chesterfield's target is to reduce the numbers people sleeping rough from 18 in 2018 to 9 by 2022, which is a stretch target.

3.17 The proposed Strategy is attached at **Appendix B**

4.0 **Human resources/people management implications**

4.1 Staff have been engaged in the development of the strategy and targets. Training has been provided where necessary with a key role being the partnership role of the delivery of commitments.

5.0 **Financial implications**

5.1 The action plan will be delivered within existing resources including the Homelessness Prevention grants that the council receive from Government.

6.0 **Legal and data protection implications**

6.1 The Council has a statutory duty to prevent and tackle homelessness including rough sleeping.

7.0 **Consultation**

7.1 Consultation has been undertaken through the North Derbyshire Homelessness Forum which consists of over 60 different agencies including statutory, third sector and faith and voluntary groups.

8.0 **Risk management**

8.1 Development of an effective strategy provides effective risk management and delivery of statutory and good practice performance requirements.

9.0 **Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

9.1 The Equality Impact Assessment is attached at **Appendix C**.

10.0 **Recommendations**

10.1 That the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020 – 2021 Rough Sleeper Strategy is approved and adopted.

10.2 That Cabinet agree the priority actions for Chesterfield set out in paragraph 3.13.

11.0 **Reasons for recommendations**

11.1 The Strategy provides a framework and direction for the Council, with partners and stakeholders to ensure that it meets its statutory duties in relation to homelessness people and people sleeping rough, and that appropriate support and accommodation services are delivered in Chesterfield.

Decision information

Key decision number	943
Wards affected	All
Links to Council Plan priorities	To improve the quality of life for local people.

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
Carl Griffiths	5117
Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	Table of Commitments
Appendix B	Draft North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-2021
Appendix C	Equality Impact Assessment for the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-2021