

## For publication

### North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021-23

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	15 June 2021
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Housing
<b>Directorate:</b>	Housing
<b>For publication</b>	

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To update members on the delivery of the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020 – 2021.
- 1.2 To advise Members of the production of a revised draft North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021 – 2023.
- 1.3 To seek adoption of the Council's North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021 – 2023.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021 – 2023.

#### **3.0 Reason for recommendations**

- 3.1 Approval of the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021 will ensure that the Council continues to deliver prevention, intervention, and recovery to ensure people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping can access effective services and support.
- 3.2 It is a legal requirement to have an agreed and published Rough Sleeper Strategy.

#### 4.0 Report details

- 4.1 On the 17th March 2020 a report was presented to Cabinet seeking the approval of the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-21.
- 4.2 Cabinet approved the strategy and the commitments for the financial year 2020/21.
- 4.3 Shortly after the approval of the strategy the national Covid-19 Pandemic took effect having a considerable impact on the activity around homelessness and rough sleepers.
- 4.4 Alongside the national lockdown, MHCLG launched the “Everyone In” initiative requiring local authorities to accommodate all rough sleepers. This recognised that rough sleepers were considerably high risk of contracting and spreading the virus should they remain sleeping rough.
- 4.5 This accelerated partnership working across the County to enable the delivery of a multitude of services to protect rough sleepers from harm; and enabled the delivery of many of the commitments and outcomes contained in the Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-21.
- 4.6 Key services include:
- **Commissioning of largescale emergency accommodation** – to enable instant access to accommodation.
  - **Derbyshire Outreach Team (DOT)** – street outreach team to make initial contact with rough sleepers.
  - **Supported Lettings Workers** – Support Officers to assist rough sleepers into accommodation.
  - **Keeping Everyone In Service (KEIS)** – Link workers to support to maintain accommodation and engage with wider support services.
  - **Probation Link Worker** – based within Probation to link Offender Management and Housing services together
  - **Housing First** – 14 Units of specialist accommodation for people with high level and multiple complex needs.
- 4.7 The table below shows the specific commitments/outcomes and demonstrates how each have been delivered:

1.	<b>Improve data intelligence base/profile of people sleeping rough in North Derbyshire.</b> Through the various support services, a range of individual and thematic data has been gathered to enable the development and direction of future
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	<p>services. Ethnographic Research is underway in partnership with Derbyshire County Council's Thriving Families Team which will provide extensive data by gathering life experiences from rough sleepers.</p>
4.	<p><b>Request that the Clinical Commissioning Group and Health &amp; Wellbeing Boards make the health needs of rough sleepers a strategic priority.</b></p> <p>Homelessness and rough sleeping has been identified as a key priority theme by Derbyshire Health and Housing Systems Group which includes CCG's, Public Health Commissioners and Place Alliance Group members. Local Resilience Forum Vulnerable People group formed as a response to the pandemic had specific focus on rough sleepers. Links to Derbyshire Place Board have been made ensuring that homelessness and rough sleeping remains a focus.</p>
5.	<p><b>Strategic co-ordination of funding applications to include Rough Sleeper Initiative, Cold Weather Fund and other available funding under national Rough Sleeper Strategy</b></p> <p>The Council has led, or been involved, on successful funding applications to MHCLG of @ £0.5M over the past 12 months and has a further bid in progress for £2M (outcome expected 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021)</p> <p>This will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension and expansion of outreach services</li> <li>• Continuation of Supported Lettings workers</li> <li>• 2 x Rough Sleeper Co-ordinators</li> <li>• 3 x Rough Sleeper Navigators</li> <li>• Prisoner Resettlement worker</li> <li>• 12 Units of supported accommodation across North Derbyshire (6 in Chesterfield)</li> <li>• Housing First</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Better understanding of how to help people with no recourse to public funds coming out of hospital/prisons.</b></p> <p>The Probation Link worker has enabled a planned approach to prisoners being released resulting in a reduction of release to N.F.A (No fixed abode) and without appropriate benefits being in place.</p>
7.	<p><b>Develop a range of Move on options including PRS accommodation.</b></p> <p>Options for Move On accommodation have been accessed and developed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 Units at Newbold Court</li> <li>• 14 Units of Housing First</li> <li>• 14 Units of supported accommodation for low level needs</li> <li>• 15 Units of Temporary Accommodation</li> <li>• Private Rented Access – funding available for removal of barriers to enable access to private rented accommodation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 units proposed and in development for medium to high level vulnerabilities (subject to a successful funding application)</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Strategic co-ordination and increase in provision of appropriate supported accommodation options.</b></p> <p>Through Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group (DHOG) the number of additional supported accommodation options has increased as shown in section 7.</p>
9.	<p><b>Develop provision of 24/7 supported accommodation.</b></p> <p>The Council has recently submitted an application to MHCLG's Rough Sleeper Accommodation Project (RSAP) to enable the purchase and repair of 12 empty properties on the open market for use as additional units of supported accommodation in partnership with a Housing Association.</p>
10.	<p><b>Look at positive ways of engaging and communicating with the general public about helping rough sleepers</b></p> <p>An Alternative Giving Scheme is in development to assist in educating and engaging members of the public in supporting rough sleepers through focussed and centralised donation systems. This will contribute towards addressing the issue of begging activity in the town centre.</p>
11.	<p><b>Build in-reach services with hospitals/prisons to ensure no one is discharged to the street.</b></p> <p>The Council funds Healthy Futures, a hospital discharge service to prevent people from being discharged to rough sleeping.</p> <p>The Probation Link Worker ensures early engagement with housing and homelessness services to minimise the risk of offenders being released into rough sleeping.</p>
12.	<p><b>Review and update hospital discharge policies.</b></p> <p>To be developed through the Health &amp; Housing Systems Group</p>
13.	<p><b>Ensure provision of services for priority groups including Veterans, LGBT+, BAME, same sex couples and families, DV, MH and physical disabilities, care leavers, ex-offenders, Gypsy and Travellers</b></p> <p>The ethnographic research in partnership with Derbyshire County Council will provide invaluable information to enable all services to be fully inclusive and address specific needs.</p>
14.	<p><b>Build working relationships with the DWP including 'Homeless Champions' in every Job Centre Plus</b></p> <p>To be developed</p>
15.	<p><b>Ensure we offer the right services to people who have been victims of trafficking or modern slavery</b></p> <p>To be developed</p>
<b>Intervention:</b>	
16.	<p><b>Increase and expand the provision of local outreach work to include quick intervention to prevent people from becoming entrenched</b></p>

	See section 5 above.
17.	<p><b>Develop a 'Street Medicine' model including community prescription</b></p> <p>Derbyshire Health &amp; Housing Systems Group has homelessness and rough sleeping as one of 3 key priorities. The provision of primary health care is included.</p> <p>Links with NHS/CCG services enabled the effective delivery of the Covid-19 vaccination programme to rough sleepers during the winter months.</p>
18.	<p><b>Improve access to emergency accommodation including crash pads</b></p> <p>The provision of instant access accommodation has been developed on 2 separate occasions during the pandemic to deliver the Everyone In initiative and as part of the winter provision delivered as a safe alternative to the winter nightshelter.</p>
19.	<p><b>Future commitment to the provision of a winter night shelter including integration of health services into the services offered.</b></p> <p>This was not possible during the pandemic resulting in an alternative provision being identified a 35 unit self-contained facility.</p>
20.	<p><b>Explore provision of storage facilities for rough sleeper's possessions.</b></p> <p>To be developed</p>
<b>Recovery:</b>	
21.	<p><b>Work with partners to build a programme of recovery options to help people stay off the street</b></p> <p>The range of support and accommodation services outlined in the above sections have assisted in the delivery of this commitment.</p>
22.	<p><b>Work with partners to develop a needle exchange</b></p> <p>To be developed</p>
23.	<p><b>Explore provision of specialist mental health support from within housing options services.</b></p> <p>A specialist Mental Health Housing Options worker has been funded, forming an essential part of the Council's Homelessness Prevention service.</p>
24.	<p><b>Develop provision of intense support for individuals with high level and multiple needs</b></p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KEIS (Keeping Everyone In Service)</li> <li>• Supported Lettings</li> <li>• Housing First</li> </ul>
25.	<p><b>Implement a panel cross sector panel of experts for individuals with high level and multiple needs.</b></p> <p>We have developed Rough Sleeper Action Groups (RSAGs) which are multi-agency meetings to discuss and develop specific action plans for each rough sleeper.</p>
26.	<b>Engage with Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</b>

Conversations were held in early 2020 prior to the pandemic. This will re-commence in the coming financial year.
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- 4.8 The activity undertaken, knowledge and experiences gained through the delivery of the existing strategy has been incorporated into the development of the new proposed strategy
- 4.9 **North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021-23:** The proposed updated Strategy continues to be rooted in a partnership approach between the Council, other statutory services, the third sector and homeless people.
- 4.10 The Strategy continues to be 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.
- 4.11 Many of the commitments from the existing strategy remain in place as they are continuous commitments. However, new, and ambitious commitments have been added at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.12 These commitments will maximum outcomes and will act as a cornerstone for the delivery of additional activity.
- 4.13 A copy of the proposed strategy is attached as Appendix 2.

## **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 Not to approve the recommendation to implement the proposed strategy. It should be noted that the Council would be in breach of its legal requirement to have a published Rough Sleeper Strategy in place.
- 5.2 Not to approve the implementation of the proposed strategy would have a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of considerably vulnerable individuals. The strategy provides a co-ordinated framework for the delivery of essential services to protect the wellbeing of rough sleepers.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

- 6.1 The Rough Sleeper Strategy is a refreshed document that outlines why it is essential to provide a package of measures to enable vulnerable members of our community, without accommodation and suffering a range of multiple complex needs, to access services and to live safely and independently. The measures will have a positive effect on communities within the borough including the town centre environment.
- 6.2 The policy will be instrumental in delivering the following Council Plan objectives:
- Vibrant town centres
  - Help our communities to improve their health and wellbeing
  - Reduce inequality and provide support to vulnerable people

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

- 7.1 The preparation of the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy will have no direct financial implications for the Council.
- 7.2 Most of the outcomes achieved together with the future commitments have been achieved in partnership with a range of stakeholders each adding considerable value in terms of, existing staff resources, knowledge and experiences.
- 7.3 The recent strengthening of these partnerships has resulted in effective decision making and enabled services to become established and respond effectively to the pandemic. The new strategy aims to maintain this partnership structure and momentum.
- 7.4 The North Derbyshire area, along with the rest of the County, has benefitted from accessing external funding under the Rough Sleeper Initiative totalling, to date, approximately £500,000. Additional funding applications, recently submitted by the Council will, if successful bring a further investment into rough sleeping services across Derbyshire of £2.5million. Notification of the outcome of these applications is due In June 2021.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

- 8.1 The North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy complies with the Council's legal requirement to have a published strategy detailing its activities to resolve rough sleeping.

8.2 The strategy is consistent with the aims and objectives of the National Rough Sleeper Strategy.

8.3 The strategy will also enable the Council to deliver its statutory functions under Homelessness legislation.

## 9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

9.1 The forecast demand for the Homelessness Team is considerable due to the pandemic. It is expected that there will be an increase in requests for assistance due to:

- Removal in suspension of evictions on 31<sup>st</sup> May
- Domestic Violence
- Mental Health

9.2 The effective implementation of the preventative services contained within the strategy will assist in alleviating the pressures facing the Council's Homelessness Prevention team by addressing this complex customer group and meeting their needs through cross sector partnership work.

## 10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
The Council failing its legal duties to have a published Rough Sleeper Strategy	M	H	Development of an effective strategy provides effective risk management and delivery of statutory and good practice performance requirements.	L	L
The Council fails to comply with legal duties to protect and support Rough sleepers and homeless applicants	H	M	The strategy provides a framework for effective co-ordination and delivery of services and provision of accommodation	M	L

			options. The provides compliance with statutory duties but also protects the lives of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.		
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**11.0 Implications for consideration - community wellbeing**

11.1 Approval of the recommendations can only have a positive impact on community wellbeing, as it aims to provide support to the most vulnerable people in our community.

**12.0 Implications for consideration - Economy and skills**

12.1 Rough Sleeping and associated activity commonly has a detrimental impact on town centre environments. This strategy aims to reduce the numbers of rough sleepers in the community but also to address the needs of rough sleepers and reduce the risk of them returning to the streets. This will, in turn, promote the Town centre as a safe and attractive place to visit.

**13.0 Implications for consideration - Climate Change**

13.1 There are no direct connection between this strategy and the Council's Climate Change objective.

**14.0 Implications for consideration - Equality and diversity**

13.1 A full equalities impact assessment has been carried out on the proposed Rough Sleeper Strategy and is attached in **Appendix 3**.

**Decision information**

<b>Key decision number</b>	1036
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

**Document information**

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**Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1	Table of Commitments
Appendix 2	North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021-23
Appendix 3	Equalities Impact Assessment