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# Homeless and Rough Sleepers Report 2018

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**Report being considered by:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**On:** 18 May 2018

**Report Author:** Joanna Reeves

**Item for:** Decision

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board to discuss Healthwatch West Berkshire's Homeless and Rough Sleepers Report 2018.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board invites the Homelessness Forum to become a sub-group.
- 2.2 The Chair of the Homelessness Forum to join the Health and Wellbeing Steering Group.
- 2.3 The Homelessness Forum should be requested to revise its name, terms of reference, membership and governance in order to operate as a strategic group.
- 2.4 The Homelessness Forum should review the data and recommendations presented by Healthwatch regarding rough sleeping in West Berkshire.
- 2.5 The Homelessness Forum should develop a long term strategy and action plan on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board to respond to homelessness and rough sleeping in West Berkshire. This should include 'quick wins' and a winter plan for 2018/19.

## 3. How the Health and Wellbeing Board can help

- 3.1 Request that the Homelessness Forum provide an update report in six months time to inform the Board on progress made.

<b>Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Executive for final determination?</b>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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## 4. Introduction/Background

- 4.1 Homeless people have a lower life expectancy than the rest of the population and are more likely to experience poor health. This is a significant inequality and it is a statutory responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board to lead improvement on the health outcomes of all West Berkshire's residents.
- 4.2 Homelessness is a consequence of a complex interplay between a person's individual circumstances, vulnerabilities and adverse structural factors, that requires different levels of intervention and a multi-agency response.
- 4.3 West Berkshire has a proactive and passionate voluntary and community sector which has long sought to support homeless people in West Berkshire. For example, Loose Ends began serving lunch on Sundays to local homeless people in 1990 and now they open five days per week.
- 4.4 Over the winter of 2017/18, various groups have raised the profile of homelessness and rough sleeping in West Berkshire. For example, a new charity, West Berkshire Homeless, was set up and ran a temporary night shelter at the Salvation Army. A solidarity sleep out also took place on 1 March 2018.
- 4.5 Healthwatch West Berkshire sought to understand the experiences of homeless people in accessing health and social care services and conducted qualitative interviews with 14 rough sleepers in November 2017. The information from the interviews was presented in the Homeless and Rough Sleepers Report 2018 which was published on 28 February 2018.

## 5. Options for Consideration

- 5.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board are invited to discuss the Homeless and Rough Sleepers Report attached as Appendix A.

## 6. Proposals

- 6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Steering Group discussed the report at some length at their meeting on 3 May 2018. They were informed that a meeting of the Homelessness Forum had taken place where it was agreed that a more strategic approach was required to move forward.
- 6.2 The Steering Group were of the view that the Homelessness Forum should be invited to become a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, subject to some changes being made in order to operate more strategically. Their recommendations are outlined in section 2 above.

## 7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Homelessness is an important topic with an increasing profile in West Berkshire. More work is required to understand homelessness in West Berkshire and design effective solutions. It is the view of the Board's Steering Group that the Homelessness Forum needs to be invited to become a sub-group of the Board to lead on the system's response to this issue and to ensure that the Board can have sufficient oversight.

## 8. Consultation and Engagement

- 8.1 Sally Kelsall - Housing Strategy and Operations Manager, WBC. Chief Inspector Lindsey Finch, Thames Valley Police. Matt Pearce – Head of Public Health and Wellbeing, WBC. Sam Headland – Manager, Two Saints. Gary Lugg – Head of Planning and Housing.

## 9. Appendices

Appendix A – Homeless and Rough Sleepers Report 2018, Healthwatch West Berkshire

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### Background Papers:

None

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### Health and Wellbeing Priorities 2017 Supported:

- ☐ Reduce alcohol related harm for all age groups
- ☐ Increase the number of Community Conversations through which local issues have been identified and addressed

### Health and Wellbeing Strategic Aims Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy aim(s):

- ☐ Give every child the best start in life
- ☒ Support mental health and wellbeing throughout life
- ☒ Reduce premature mortality by helping people lead healthier lives
- ☒ Build a thriving and sustainable environment in which communities can flourish
- ☐ Help older people maintain a healthy, independent life for as long as possible

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy aim by instigating a multi-agency strategic approach to support homeless residents of West Berkshire.

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