
Homelessness Strategy Group Winter Action Plan 18/19

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 04 October 2018

Report Author: Sam Headland

Item for: Information

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the Homeless Strategy Group's Winter Action Plan, which seeks to provide extra support to rough sleepers, and to reduce the number of individuals needing to rough sleep over Winter.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board agree, endorse and promote the Winter Action Plan.

3. How the Health and Wellbeing Board can help

3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board can support the winter plan by raising awareness of ways to support rough sleepers in their advertising and media opportunities.

3.2 Individual members can support the plan by encouraging and guiding their relevant organisation to complete their areas of the action plan and commit to this on an on going basis.

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

4.1 Over the winter of 2017/18, various groups raised the profile of homelessness and rough sleeping in West Berkshire, including Healthwatch through the publication of their Homeless and Rough Sleepers Report 2018. In May 2018, The Homeless Forum was invited to become a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board and requested to produce a Winter Plan, in addition to reviewing the recommendations arising from the Healthwatch report.

4.2 The Homelessness Forum, a multi-agency operational group, has been run by the homelessness service provider Two Saints for a number of years. The Forum took the decision in early 2018 to revise its terms of reference and membership as it had become clear that a more strategic approach would be required. The Health and Wellbeing Board will also be well aware of the multi-agency approach of the Making Every Adult Matter programme to support individuals with multiple needs, including homelessness.

4.3 The Winter Action Plan provides clarity on the support available and the activities to be undertaken to reduce the number of people sleeping rough over winter and to ensure that there was sufficient emergency support in place. The Winter Action Plan is appended to this report which the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to endorse.

5. Supporting Information

5.1 A review of the provision made available for rough sleepers winter 2017/18 was undertaken and it was identified that a main area of improvement was communication between partner agencies. It was clear that there had been a breakdown in communication and agencies were working in silo, despite all working towards the same goal. This created confusion for individuals who were rough sleeping and for agencies when trying to support those individuals.

5.2 The process of producing the Winter Action Plan has led to relationships across statutory and voluntary organisations being rebuilt. The Winter Plan is also reinforced by a Communications Plan which sets out a proactive and collaborative approach to information sharing and service promotion. The HSG is now confident that stronger communication channels will lead to an improved level of service to rough sleepers.

5.3 There have already been improvements in partnership working with all parties making a valuable contribution towards completing actions laid out in the Winter Action Plan. Agreements are already in place around combining sources of voluntary support to assist existing emergency bed provision. A programme of day time activities and shelter over winter is also in process.

5.4 Additional funding has been successfully bid for West Berkshire Council, from the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) grant, and a Winter Outreach Worker has already been recruited. They are due to start on 1st October 2018. Extended provision for individuals being released from prison as no fixed abode (NFA) is also in place. Recruitment is underway for a homelessness prevention co-ordinator who will be overseeing the funding and completing performance reporting as required to the Ministry for Communities, Housing and Local Government.

6. Options for Consideration

6.1 The actions within the plan have been agreed to be realistic and achievable by a range of partners across the HSG. As part of the RSI grant, monthly numbers of people rough sleeping will need to be reported to the MCHLG, and this will contribute to understanding of the success of the Winter Plan.

7. Proposal(s)

7.1 It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board accept the HSG's Winter Action Plan and support through communications and expertise where appropriate.

8. Conclusion(s)

8.1 The Homeless Strategy Group was requested to produce a Winter Action Plan by the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval. Over winter the HSG will focus on implementing the plan and hopes to focus on supporting the delivery of West Berkshire Council's wider Homelessness strategy in the new year.

9. Consultation and Engagement

9.1 The Winter Actions Plan subgroup consisted of representatives from: West Berkshire Council Housing Options; Two Saints; Healthwatch; Thames Valley Police; Loose Ends; West Berkshire Homeless. Feedback was also sought from within the meetings of the HSG, which alongside the aforementioned agencies also has representatives from: CCG; Salvation Army; Swanswell; Public Health; Adult Social Care; Mental Health; Sovereign; Building Communities Together; SEAP and young people's services.

10. Appendices

Appendix A – Winter Action Plan 2018/19

Background Papers:

Homeless and Rough Sleepers Report 2018 (presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 18 May 2018)

Rough Sleepers Strategy

Health and Wellbeing Priorities 2018/19 Supported:

- Promote positive mental health and wellbeing for adults.
- Improve opportunities for vulnerable people to access education, employment, training and volunteering.

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 ensuring good services and emergency provision are available for people sleeping rough in West Berkshire this winter.

Officer details:

Name: Sam Headland
Job Title: Contracts and Performance Manager, Two Saints
Tel No: 01635 569 000
E-mail Address: Sam.Headland@twosaints.org.uk

Appendix A

Data Protection Impact Assessment – Stage One

The General Data Protection Regulations require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for certain projects that have a significant impact on the rights of data subjects.

Should you require additional guidance in completing this assessment, please refer to the Information Management Officer via dp@westberks.gov.uk

Directorate:	
Service:	
Team:	
Lead Officer:	
Title of Project/System:	
Date of Assessment:	

Do you need to do a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)?

	Yes	No
<p>Will you be processing SENSITIVE or “special category” personal data?</p> <p>Note – sensitive personal data is described as “<i>data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation</i>”</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be processing data on a large scale?</p> <p>Note – Large scale might apply to the number of individuals affected OR the volume of data you are processing OR both</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will your project or system have a “social media” dimension?</p> <p>Note – will it have an interactive element which allows users to communicate directly with one another?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will any decisions be automated?</p> <p>Note – does your system or process involve circumstances where an individual’s input is “scored” or assessed without intervention/review/checking by a human being? Will there be any “profiling” of data subjects?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will your project/system involve CCTV or monitoring of an area accessible to the public?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be using the data you collect to match or cross-reference against another existing set of data?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be using any novel, or technologically advanced systems or processes?</p> <p>Note – this could include biometrics, “internet of things” connectivity or anything that is currently not widely utilised</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answer “Yes” to any of the above, you will probably need to complete [Data Protection Impact Assessment - Stage Two](#). If you are unsure, please consult with the Information Management Officer before proceeding.