
Reducing rough sleeping in West Berkshire: a plan to ensure no-one has the need to sleep rough

Committee considering report:	Executive
Date of Committee:	5 September 2019
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Hilary Cole
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	15 August 2019
Report Author:	Neil Coles
Forward Plan Ref:	EX3724

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To adopt a plan that sets out how the Council intends to address rough sleeping.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the plan titled – ‘Reducing rough sleeping in West Berkshire: A plan to ensure no-one has the need to sleep rough’ be adopted.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** The failure to adopt the proposed plan as required by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) may result in the clawback of funding secured through the Rough Sleeper Initiative and Rapid Rehousing Pathway funding streams.
- 3.2 **Policy:** The proposed plan links to the Council’s Homelessness Strategy.
- 3.3 **Personnel:** The proposed plan relies on staffing resource currently funded through the Rough Sleeper Initiative which currently does not provide funding after 2019/20.
- In the event that further funding opportunities are not offered or where funding bids are not successful the proposed plan may need to be reviewed to determine future deliverability.
- 3.4 **Legal:** None
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** None

3.6 **Property:** None

3.7 **Other:** None

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 The option not to adopt a rough sleeping plan was dismissed as the adoption of a plan is a requirement of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in connection with the Rough Sleeper Initiative and Rapid Rehousing Pathway funding awarded to the Council for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Executive Summary

5. Introduction / Background

- 5.1 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has awarded the Council Rough Sleeper Initiative funding for 2018/19 (part) and 2019/20 to deliver a range of specified services to address rough sleeping.
- 5.2 During 2018/19 the Council received £211,312 in Rough Sleeper Initiative funding and this increased to £261,820 for 2019/20. This funding is to be used to deliver a range of interventions agreed with and monitored by MHCLG, underpinned by the appointment of a Homelessness Reduction Co-ordinator post which is funded until March 2020.
- 5.3 Further funding was awarded following a bid to the Rapid Rehousing Pathway resulting in £102,560 funding for 2019/20 to deliver a Navigator post to provide support to rough sleepers, and a Supported Lettings Officer post to assist rough sleepers to secure sustainable accommodation.
- 5.4 There is currently no indication whether future funding streams will be available beyond 2020, and there remains a degree of uncertainty regarding future funding specifically targeting the prevention of rough sleeping. It is assumed therefore that no further Government funding will be available in the future for addressing rough sleeping.
- 5.5 A condition attached to the funding is that the Council adopt a rough sleeping plan that sets out how rough sleeping will be reduced.
- 5.6 'Reducing rough sleeping in West Berkshire: A plan to ensure that no-one has the need to sleep rough' is the proposed rough sleeping plan to meet MHCLG's requirements.
- 5.7 The Homelessness Strategy Group was consulted on the proposed plan on 31 January 2019 and 04 April 2019 and comments from partners have been incorporated into the plan accordingly.
- 5.8 MHCLG have also been consulted on the most recent draft plan and their comments have been incorporated into the proposed plan. MHCLG supported the Council's approach to deliver a plan with a range of largely generic actions that responds to the fluctuating diversity of the cohort of rough sleepers at any one time.
- 5.9 As of 31 July 2019 there were 11 rough sleepers across the district – a reduction from the 18 that were present in November 2018 when the annual rough sleeper count was conducted.

6. Proposals

- 6.1 The proposed rough sleeping plan builds on the work that is currently undertaken by the Council and partner agencies to address the problem of rough sleeping, and also sets out the context of rough sleeping in West Berkshire. The plan assumes that no further Government funding will be available once the current funding ends in March 2020.

- 6.2 As the cohort of people sleeping rough is small and does not comprise a static group of individuals, the proposed plan incorporates a range of generic outcomes rather than targeted outcomes based on a specific needs assessment of a static cohort of individuals.
- 6.3 The proposed plan does not replace the range of statutory duties placed on the Council in respect of homeless households under the various pieces of housing legislation - it is complimentary to these obligations.
- 6.4 The plan sets the challenging ambition of continuing to ensure that no-one has the need to sleep rough, and details 5 priorities to achieving this goal:
- i) Delivering targeted support and accommodation services that meet the needs of rough sleepers;
 - ii) Providing innovative solutions to assist entrenched rough sleepers leave the streets
 - iii) Improving the health and well-being of rough sleepers;
 - iv) Preventing residents at risk of rough sleeping from needing to sleep rough, and;
 - v) Tackling the negative public perceptions surrounding rough sleeping.
- 6.5 The plan includes a detailed action plan that sets out the key actions to deliver each of the priorities, and includes the responsible party and delivery timescales.
- 6.6 As the plan relates directly to operational matters it is important that it remains flexible to address emerging challenges, to respond to local factors, and to embrace future MHCLG requirements. Any necessary future amendments will be completed in accordance with existing delegated authority detailed within the Council's Constitution.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The proposed plan is required to be adopted to satisfy the funding requirements of MHCLG, and assumes that no further Government funding will be available once the current funding ends in March 2020.
- 7.2 Failure to adopt the plan may result in the withdrawal of future MHCLG Rough Sleeper Initiative and Rapid Rehousing Pathway funding and the requirement to repay funding previously awarded.

Background Papers:

1. Reducing rough sleeping in West Berkshire: A plan to ensure that no-one has the need to sleep rough

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Wards affected:

All wards

Officer details:

Name: Neil Coles
Job Title: Strategy, Development and Review Manager
Tel No: 01635 503020
E-mail Address: neil.coles1@westberks.gov.uk

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Data Protection Impact Assessment
- 8.2 Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 8.3 Appendix C – Reducing rough sleeping in West Berkshire: a plan to ensure no-one has the need to sleep rough

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:	Economy and Environment
Service:	Development and Planning
Team:	Housing
Lead Officer:	Neil Coles
Title of Project/System:	Reducing rough sleeping in West Berkshire: A plan to ensure that no-one has the need to sleep rough
Date of Assessment:	29/04/19

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><i>Note – sensitive personal data is described as “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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be processing data on a large scale?</p> <p><i>Note – Large scale might apply to the number of individuals affected OR the volume of data you are processing OR both</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will your project or system have a “social media” dimension?</p> <p><i>Note – will it have an interactive element which allows users to communicate directly with one another?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will any decisions be automated?</p> <p><i>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?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will your project/system involve CCTV or monitoring of an area accessible to the public?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be using any novel, or technologically advanced systems or processes?</p> <p><i>Note – this could include biometrics, “internet of things” connectivity or anything that is currently not widely utilised</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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.

Appendix B

Equality Impact Assessment - Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:

- “(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:***
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;***
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; this includes the need to:***
 - (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;***
 - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;***
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.***
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.***
- (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.”***

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	To adopt a plan setting out how the Council intends to address rough sleeping
Summary of relevant legislation:	N/A
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's key strategy priorities?	The proposed plan links to the Council's Homelessness Strategy
Name of assessor:	Neil Coles
Date of assessment:	29/04/19

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	No	New or proposed	Yes
Strategy	Yes	Already exists and is being reviewed	No
Function	No	Is changing	No
Service	No		

1 What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	To adopt a plan setting out how the Council intends to address rough sleeping.
Objectives:	To reduce the level of rough sleeping across the district.
Outcomes:	Reduced levels of rough sleeping.
Benefits:	Positive health impact on single homeless at risk of, or sleeping rough.

2 Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this. (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.

Disability	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.
Gender Reassignment	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.
Race	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.
Religion or Belief	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.
Sex	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.
Sexual Orientation	Positive impact	The plan seeks to reduce rough sleeping to all individuals at risk of street homelessness, or sleeping rough.
Further Comments relating to the item:		

3 Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The proposed plan impacts positively on all persons at risk of, or sleeping rough.	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of	No

people, including employees and service users?	
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The proposed plan impacts positively on all persons at risk of, or sleeping rough.	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the [Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template](#).

4 Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	No
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	

Name: Neil Coles

Date: 29/04/19

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) (rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.