

## **HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**14 JANUARY 2019**

### **ROUGH SLEEPER ESTIMATE 2018**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To inform Members of the 2018 Annual Rough Sleeper Estimate requested by the Ministry for Housing Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) for Newark & Sherwood and to update on the current funding opportunities linked to the Government's Rough Sleeper Strategy published in August 2018.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 Since autumn 2010, all local authorities have been required to submit an annual figure to MHCLG to indicate the number of people sleeping rough in their area on a typical night. MHCLG produces a national statistical release based on the data each year.

2.2 Local authorities can arrive at this figure by means of an evidence-based estimate, a count of visible rough sleeping, or an estimate including a spotlight count. A count or estimate is a one-off snapshot of the numbers of people sleeping rough in an area and takes place between 1 October and 30 November each year.

2.3 When estimating or counting, it is essential that those included in the count figure fall into the following definition:

- People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments).
- People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or "bashes").

2.4 There is currently no national mechanism for recording every person who sleeps rough in England, however, the snapshot methodology aims to get as accurate a representation of the number of people sleeping rough as possible, while acknowledging that each process has its limitations.

2.5 Since 2015, the counts and estimates statistics have included additional demographic data on the numbers of women, men, under-18s, under-25s, support needs and British, EU and non-EU nationals represented among people sleeping rough.

2.6 Newark & Sherwood DC chose to carry out an evidence-based estimate on 12 November 2018 which was informed by an additional spotlight count supported by Framework's Street Outreach Team. This methodology was deemed to be the most appropriate for Newark & Sherwood due to:

- there being a mix of visible/accessible and hidden/inaccessible locations in the local authority area;
- the individuals sleeping rough or overall numbers of people sleeping rough in visible/accessible sites change frequently;

- there is regular intelligence gathering in place by a number of agencies;
- numbers of people sleeping rough are consistently low and they are already in touch with services;
- the local authority can gather sufficient intelligence on people sleeping rough via partner agencies.

### **3.0 Outcome**

- 3.1 Local intelligence from various partner agencies including Nottinghamshire Police, the local rough sleeper drop in service facilitated by Newark Churches Together and the spotlight count by Framework’s Street Outreach Team concluded that five rough sleepers spent the night on the street in Newark & Sherwood on Monday, 12 November 2018. This is in keeping with similar figures submitted in previous years.
- 3.2 Verification by Homeless Link has taken place to ensure the correct process was followed and that an appropriate mechanism was used with a range of local agencies involved to reach the single estimate figure.
- 3.3 Following verification, the final estimate figure was submitted to MHCLG for inclusion in the national figure of rough sleepers. However, the figure will not be included or recognised as an official government statistic until MHCLG publish the final figures, expected early 2019.
- 3.4 Newark & Sherwood have submitted similar figures in previous years (2017 – 4 rough sleepers, 2016 – 5 rough sleepers) evidencing local interventions are keeping figures consistent and low, unlike the national picture. The rough sleeper estimate also presents an opportunity for local authorities to look at the extent of rough sleeping and the needs and journeys of individuals to ensure that the right services are available to tackle and prevent rough sleeping in the future.

### **4.0 Government Rough Sleeper Strategy 2018**

- 4.1 The new Rough Sleeper Strategy 2018 outlines how the Government intends to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end rough sleeping by 2027. It is backed by £100m of funding investment and takes a three-pronged approach to ending rough sleeping through prevention, intervention, and recovery.
- 4.2 The funding streams linked to the strategy are outlined below and an update is provided regarding considerations/actions taken by Newark & Sherwood DC and our county partners:

<b>Funding Stream</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Newark &amp; Sherwood response/additional notes</b>
Rough Sleeping Initiative	The Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) was announced 27 March 2018. The RSI is backed by £75m over two years (£30m 2018/19 and £45m for 2019/20) and supported by a multi-disciplinary expert team who are working closely with local authorities.	Local cities allocated in 2017/18: Nottingham - £420,416 Lincoln - £376,747 Derby - £303,500  Similar amounts allocated in 2018/19

	<p>The initial RSI funding was targeted at those Local Authorities with the highest numbers of rough sleepers and funds interventions to prevent and relieve rough sleeping, and support people off the street.</p> <p>This funding is ring-fenced and carefully tailored to each Local Authority through MHCLG's RSI advisers.</p>	
Rough Sleeping Initiative (£11M for 2019/20)	<p>£11m of the RSI's 2019/20 fund will be distributed amongst Local Authorities that are not currently receiving RSI funding (known as the non 83).</p> <p>The fund will be focused on those areas which are developing partnerships, plans and effective interventions to achieve the goal of reducing the numbers of people sleeping on the streets of their city, town or rural area.</p>	<p>A single countywide bid is proposed to:</p> <p>Commission a Street Outreach Service post April 2019 across Nottinghamshire but with additional outcomes on the current Street Outreach Service which ends on 31.03.19.</p> <p>It is proposed that all district/borough authorities contribute between 5-10K per annum to any successful project.</p>
Rapid Rehousing Pathway	<p>As set out in the Rough Sleeping Strategy, the Rapid Rehousing Pathway is a response to rough sleeping that focuses on quickly supporting rough sleepers into homes. It looks to fill in gaps to settled accommodation in current local pathways.</p>	<p>An expression of interest, followed by a full bid has been submitted in Nov 2018 (led by Ashfield DC) on behalf of all 7 authorities to fund 4 navigators (Approx. £40k pa each Inc. on costs) plus a personal budget fund to be used by the navigators with their clients of £10,000.</p> <p>Total bid proposal: £200k pa</p>
Private Rented Sector (PRS) Access Fund	<p>The purpose of the £20m PRS fund is to support private rented sector access schemes in a local area, or boost the support offered by existing schemes to support homeless people into sustainable private rented sector accommodation. Schemes can include any type of intervention which is designed to increase access to, or sustain, private rented sector tenancies for those who are, or at risk of becoming, homeless.</p>	<p>Countywide bid submitted in Nov 2018 (led by Gedling BC) for a total of £231,000.</p> <p>Seeking to more effectively bolster services and create a more holistic provision for both landlord and tenants to assist single people who are or are at risk of becoming homeless.</p>

	This could include, for example, support with paying deposits, rents, tenancy training, or mediation services.	
Move on Fund	The Move on Fund is a grant of £100m delivered by Homes England and, in London, the GLA. Provision is for the construction, purchase, conversion, leasing or renovation, and reinstatement of properties. These are to be used exclusively as rented 'second stage' ("move-on") accommodation.	Two possible opportunities being explored are:  1. A joint bid for DA services between Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw; 2. A bid in collaboration with Newark and Sherwood Homes to enhance move on – linked to the TA review proposals
Cold Weather Fund	To enable local authorities and their partners to provide swift, bespoke interventions to rough sleepers in their area, as well as enhancement of existing services.	Currently being considered locally, no countywide discussions taking place regarding this funding opportunity.

## 5.0 **Equalities Implications**

5.1 There are only positive equality implications in relation to rough sleeping estimates, as all rough sleepers will be included and assisted to prevent them from sleeping rough. Equality implications matters will be carefully considered as part of the bid process and development of new services, if successful and reported on.

## 6.0 **Financial Implications – FIN18-19/7507**

6.1 As detailed within the Rough Sleepers Strategy overview there are opportunities for additional funding from MHCLG to assist rough sleepers countywide which the Council are exploring. Only one bid requires a Council contribution of between £5-10K per annum, which is intended to be funded from the Homelessness Reserve and is affordable should the bid be successful.

## 7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Members consider the contents of this report, make any necessary comments and support the Council's proactive approach of bidding for funds announced through the various funding streams linked to the Government's Rough Sleepers Strategy, with financial contributions being made from the Council's Homelessness Prevention Fund Reserve.**

Background Papers - Nil

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