

**HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**  
**23 NOVEMBER 2020**

**ROUGH SLEEPER UPDATES**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To inform committee members of the annual Rough Sleeper Estimate 2020 for Newark and Sherwood and provide an update on the Rough Sleeper Initiative funding and work programme and update on the Winter Night Shelter plans for 2019/20.

**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.

2.2 MHCLG produces a national statistical release based on the data each year.

2.3 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.

2.4 The count or estimate is a one-off snapshot of the numbers of people sleeping rough in an area on a typical night and takes place between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November each year.

2.5 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”).

2.6 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.

2.7 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.

2.8 Newark and Sherwood District Council chose to conduct an evidence-based estimate in 2019 and agreed the same method in 2020, informed by an additional spotlight count supported by Frameworks Street Outreach Team. This methodology was deemed the most appropriate for Newark and 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 Annual Rough Sleeper Outcome**

- 3.1 The 2020 estimate, on the evening of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October into the morning on 16<sup>th</sup> October identified **six rough sleepers** as part of the spotlight count carried out by Frameworks Street Outreach Team.
- 3.2 A multi-agency estimate meeting took place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October and agencies collectively agreed that all six of those found rough sleeping are homeless and verified as rough sleepers.
- 3.3 Verification by Homeless Link has been sought to ensure the correct process has been adhered to, an appropriate mechanism used and a range of local agencies have been engaged to reach the single estimate figure.
- 3.4 Following verification, the final estimate figure have been submitted to MHCLG for inclusion in the national figure of rough sleepers.
- 3.5 The national figure following the 2019 estimate was released in February 2020 resulting in 4,266 people estimated to be sleeping rough on any single typical night last year. Final figures for 2020 will be released in February 2021 and therefore the figure should not be released publically until this date.
- 3.6 We have submitted the following figures in previous years (2019 – 2 rough sleepers with reduction attributable to successful collaborative work, 2018 – 5 rough sleepers, 2017 – 4 rough sleepers, 2016 – 5 rough sleepers).

### **4.0 Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding**

- 4.1 Members will be aware that funding has been successfully secured in Nottinghamshire under the MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) for the last two years. In December 2019, Ashfield District Council submitted a bid, on behalf of all the Nottinghamshire authorities for a third year.
- 4.2 The total MHCLG funding sought in this bid was £1,237,359 of which £881,961 was additional funding and £355,397 was underspend from the 2019/20 bid to be carried forward. In addition to this £140,000, match funding was pledged by district and borough authorities (£10,000 each with our contribution coming from the Homelessness Prevention Grant) and by Framework (£70,000). Public Health continue to fund assertive Outreach Substance Misuse Workers to work alongside RSI funded roles; the value of this support is £79,000 for 2020/21.
- 4.3 Back in January 2020, Nottinghamshire was awarded £836,916 additional funding by MHCLG and approval given to carry forward the £355,397 underspend. This means the total amount awarded compared to the amount sought was -£45,000.

4.4 The table below outlines the current apportionment of the funding:

Provision	Provider	Costs
Rough Sleeper Initiative Coordinator	Framework	£37,200
Lead authority (1 day pw to administer the funding)	ADC	£10,000
Street outreach team	Framework	£500,000
CPN	Notts Healthcare Trust	£61,141.50
Call Before You Serve	Derby City Council	£53,597.60
40 YMCA bedspaces (ADC/MDC)	YMCA	£100,237
Landlord liaison officers (3FTE)	N&SDC NCHA MDC	£80,183 + £37,500 personalised budget
Prison navigator	Framework (previously DLNRCRC)	£35,000 + £12,000 personalised budget
MH navigator	Framework	£35,000 + £12,000 personalised budget
Social lettings agency	N Galloway – ended June 2020	£27,884.60
Admin support	ADC	£15,000
New navigator team (4FTE) – ‘Nottinghamshire Prevention and Resettlement Service’	Framework – started Aug 20	£143,3000 + £34,500 personalised budget Note this is the 12 month cost from start date
Outreach wound care nursing	Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust	£31,468
GP enhanced access	CCG	£15,000
CGL outreach	CGL (Oct-Mar)	£57,299.40

## 5.0 The Well Winter Night Shelter

- 5.1 There are currently no legal protections for people sleeping rough in England during severe weather – the provision of shelter is not a statutory duty, even when conditions are life threatening. However, there is a humanitarian obligation on local authorities to do all they can to prevent deaths on the streets, and for their partners and the public to support these efforts.
- 5.2 However, since 2010 Newark and Sherwood provided a Severe Weather Emergency Shelter for rough sleepers, until 2019 when a Winter Night Shelter Provision was made available.
- 5.3 The Severe Weather Emergency Shelter was located at BarnbyGate Methodist Church and on average we had 10 different individuals making use of the shelter each year, which was open for an average of 17 nights and provided 37 bed spaces each year.
- 5.4 Due to a beneficiary of the Salvation Army donating a large sum of money (£22,000) and a successful application to the governments Cold Weather Fund (£10,000) we were able to

work in partnership with Salvation Army and Newark Baptist Church to provide a winter night shelter in 2019/20.

5.5 The shelter was open from November 2019 and remained open until mid-March 2020 when the shelter had to be closed early due to Covid 19 and guidance from Public Health that all communal sleeping arrangements and shared bathrooms had to be closed down. The shelter was located at Newark Baptist Church and had enough bed spaces for up to 13 people and on average, we welcomed 10 guests per night.

5.6 The shelter was made available to rough sleepers but also those at risk of rough sleeping; our aim being to engage with and assist people before crisis point. A drop in service was made available once a week at the shelter, consisting of key agencies (most of which funded by the RSI funding) such as drug and alcohol support services (CGL), Street Outreach Team, CPN's and housing.

5.7 The table below shows the outcome for all those that accessed the shelter:

Outcome	Ineligible	Social housing	Private Rented Sector	Supported Housing	Prison	Returned to parents/friends	Banned from shelter	Other – still working with/CGL	Lost contact/not engaging	
November	1		2		1			1	1	6
December	2	2	1	1		2		3	6	17
January			1	2		1	1	2	2	9
February				1			1		6	8
March							1		1	2
Total	3	2	4	4	1	3	3	6	16	42

5.8 As a result of the Covid pandemic, Public Health guidelines continue to prevent the use of communal sleeping arrangements and shared bathroom facilities. The Council are looking for an alternative provision and the faith and voluntary sector are still eager to work in partnership to find a solution.

5.9 The 2020/21 Winter Night Shelter provision will look very different but we remain confident that we will still be able to reach and assist just as many people. Current plans include a teatime drop in service at Newark Baptist Church, which will include a meal and support a triage assessment, which will result in a referral for emergency accommodation if necessary.

5.10 To combat the increase in the number of rough sleepers verified as rough sleeping and to assist those that make use of the teatime drop in service a multi-agency targeted Rough Sleeper Action Group has been created.

5.11 Emergency winter night shelter provision will be made available using our own stock and/or a small number of rooms at a local hotel/B&B.

## 6.0 Equalities Implications

6.1 The Rough Sleeper Estimate, Winter Night Shelter and Rough Sleeper Initiative funding does not discriminate or preclude anyone from any of the equalities strands accessing rough sleeper services if necessary.

6.2 Equality data is submitted as part of the Rough Sleeper Estimate to MHCLG and published as part of the national figures in February each year. The Winter Night Shelter and Rough Sleeper initiative is accessible via agency referral and the only criteria is that someone is homeless or at risk of rough sleeping. KPI's are collated and monitored which includes equality data.

## **7.0 Digital Implications**

7.1 There are no digital implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 Financial Implications – FIN20-21/3001**

8.1 The costs allocated to the winter night shelter have been calculated on the average spend of providing a Severe Weather Emergency Provision in previous years, and as a result of a successful bid to the Government's Cold Weather Fund in 2019.

8.2 The countywide Rough Sleeper Initiative allocated fund sits with Ashfield DC as the lead authorities for the joint bid.

## **9.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives**

9.1 The initiatives within this report link with the following objectives:

- Create vibrant and self-sufficient local communities where residents look out for each other and actively contribute to their local area
- Create more and better quality homes through our roles as landlord, developer and planning authority
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and increase feelings of safety in our communities
- Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents

## **10.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**It is recommended that the Committee note the content of this report and endorse the ongoing work to support rough sleepers and those vulnerably housed in the Newark and Sherwood District.**

## **Background Papers**

Nil

For further information, please contact Cheska Asman, Homelessness Strategy and Safeguarding Officer on Ext 5643 or Leanne Monger, Business Manager – Housing, Health and Wellbeing on Ext 5545

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