

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

TUESDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2021

At 3.00 pm

by

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE ACCESS ON RBWM YOUTUBE

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
4.	<u>UPDATE ON HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS</u> To receive an update on homelessness in RBWM.	3 - 6

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BRIEFING NOTE

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Forum

Introduction

The homelessness and rough sleeping strategy action plan is monitored through the homeless forum and reported back to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The homelessness and rough sleeping forum exist to bring together partners to address some of the big issues in the borough around homelessness and rough sleeping. The forum is the vehicle for implementing and monitoring the homelessness and rough sleeper strategies action plan. The borough had not had a forum for a long time, however the first one since the newly updated strategy took place in October 2020. With over 30 people in attendance from a range of organisations and partners, including many within the voluntary and charity sector, the homeless forum was a great success.

Content of the Forum

The forum in October was an opportunity to review the homelessness and rough sleeping strategy, to make sure that its principles were embedded across both the council and its key partner organisations. It was also an opportunity to review the strategies action plan, and to make sure that all the actions had an appropriately assigned lead as well as any further actions required to achieve them. The homelessness and rough sleeping strategy action plan is split into 5 key priorities. Each one of these key priorities formed the basis of a breakout session during the forum. Breakout sessions functioned to bring together all the relevant organisations to go through the actions outlined in the 5 key priority areas and review the responsible lead and any further actions required to achieve it.

Break out session 1: Reduce the numbers of people becoming homeless

This breakout session was very well attended, with representation from the DWP, Resilience, Probation, Housing Solutions, Browns, along with the Maidenhead food bank and Driven forward. The group identified a two subgroups that needed to be developed, a focus group with Youth Services to conduct a gap analysis of homeless prevention education in schools, along with a multi-agency sub group to develop pathways for care leavers moving into independent accommodation, this has already been address through a newly created Care Leavers Panel. Actions were distributed to other partner organisations as part of this break out session.

Break out session 2: Reduce the numbers of households in temporary accommodation and improve the quality of that accommodation

This breakout session was attended by many of the registered providers in the borough, including Housing Solutions and Abri, Lookahead and Open for you also attended. The group discussed a wide range of issues around the demand for temporary accommodation and the cost to the borough. The focus of the discussion was new forms of temporary accommodation that could be pursued, and the importance of increased partnership working with accommodation partners what's paramount.

Break out session 3: Support people into good quality affordable and sustainable accommodation options

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This breakout session was attended from both the local registered providers, Radian and Housing Solutions. It also had attendance from Look ahead and DASH (the domestic abuse charity commissioned locally), internal partners from the environmental health service and housing benefit team also attended. There was a lot of positive discussion in this group around how to increase the supply of affordable accommodation and how to ensure that accommodation meets the needs of the client group. A subgroup was identified for setting up a landlord forum to increase engagement with the private rented sector and a subgroup to help improve pathways for young people leaving care, and this meeting has since been established; the Care Leavers Panel.

Break out session 4: Reduce rough sleeping and support for those who find themselves on the street

This breakout session was attended by the police and council wardens, along with representatives from Slough Borough Council's rough sleeper pathway and the Windsor homelessness project, both work closely with the rough sleeper pathway in Windsor and Maidenhead. The main topics discussed, focused on continually improving the good work already undertaken by the rough sleeper pathway team. The group also touched on making sure that the reduction in rough sleeping locally is maintained following the excellent work completed during the pandemic. It was agreed service mapping the wider process, showing the customer journey for rough sleepers would be beneficial to show beyond the rough sleeper pathway, including the involvement and support from other partner agencies.

Break out session 5: Improve the customer service provided to people approaching housing services

This breakout session had representatives from Brown's, Optalis and Public Health. A number of subgroups were identified, and links into other actions already highlighted. They including; reviewing how information was communicated across the borough on services and advice from all partner agencies involved in reducing homelessness, a show and tell style meeting arranged to effectively demonstrate services delivered and ensure partnership working is at the heart of service delivery and finally a group to focus on the development of a prison release protocol, developed by multiple agencies involved in prison releases and should dovetail with the borough's hospital discharge protocol.

Conclusion

The first homeless forum was well attended and productive including determining lead organisations for individual actions, subgroups proposed and engagement from wider voluntary sector and internal/external statutory services. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action plan has been updated to include action owners and feedback from the forum.

BRIEFING NOTE

Rough sleeping pathway and Alternative Giving Scheme

Background:

In 2019, the Council's annual rough sleeping estimate identified a total of 40 individuals believed to be rough sleeping in the Borough. Following a successful bid to the Government's Rough Sleeping Pathway Initiative Fund, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Rough Sleeping Pathway launched on 20 December 2019.

The pathway:

The Rough Sleeping Pathway comprises of three stages:

- Stage 1: Initial assessment centre
- Stage 2: Move on accommodation
- Stage 3: Independent accommodation

Following a mandate issued by central government in March 2019 that accommodation used by local authorities to accommodate rough sleepers should not comprise of shared units, stage 1 accommodation was decanted to a range of dispersed properties.

Year 1 number comparisons

The Council's most recent annual rough sleeping estimate took place in November 2020 with a total of 8 individuals identified of sleeping rough in the Borough.

The estimate and count for 2019/2020 recorded 40 rough sleepers, so this year's estimate is a significant reduction on the previous years recorded numbers.

Examples of support provided:

The rough sleeping team provide a range of support tailored to meet the needs of individuals on the pathway. Since the inception of the pathway in 2019, the following support has been provided:

- 38% have been supported to obtain ID
- 44% have been assisted to apply for welfare support such as universal credit
- 40% have been supported to register for primary care services
- 45% have received bespoke budgeting advice

Current cohort; support needs:

All individuals referred to the pathway participate in a collaborative initial assessment designed to provide an overview of their health and wellbeing as well as identify their support needs.

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Analysis of the support needs of those currently on the rough sleeping pathway highlights three key areas of support which are unmet:

- 40% of the cohort require support to ensure a meaningful use of their time
- 34% of the cohort require support to remain motivated
- 17% of the cohort require support to manage their money

Alternative giving scheme

The Council's Tap 4 Change Alternative Giving Scheme is designed to deter street activity such as begging, provide a mechanism for residents of the Royal Borough to ensure their donations are directed to those in need and to ensure that donors can be kept abreast of how donations are used.

Funds raised by the Council's Alternative Giving Scheme will be directed to meet the needs of those individuals currently on the Rough Sleeping Pathway, a briefing paper will be brought to the health and wellbeing board confirming funding received within the quarter and decisions made at the quarterly Homelessness Forum on allocation of funding for required services.

Meeting the needs of the current cohort

To ensure the needs of the current cohort are met, the following are examples of support which will be explored using funding from the alternative giving scheme:

Meaningful occupation:

- Art, drama and musical activities
- College opportunities relating to individual needs and requirements
- IT classes
- Volunteering and part time work opportunities

Support to remain motivated:

- One to one therapy such as CBT or motivational interviewing
- Volunteering and part time work opportunities
- Strength and skills-based training
- Team building activities

Support to manage finances:

- Financial literacy training
- Support to set up and manage jam jar accounts
- Support through the *Talking about Money* toolkit
- Job clubs leading to volunteering and part time work opportunities

Conclusion

The alternative giving scheme funding is allocated and monitored through the homeless forum based on the statistical data provided by the Rough Sleeper Initiative pathway and reported back to the Health and Wellbeing Board. An update will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board on a quarterly basis including any income raised through the alternative giving scheme, outcomes of funding provided on quarterly/annual basis and ongoing statistical data on those on the rough sleeper pathway.