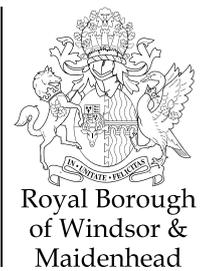


Subject:	Rough Sleeper Pathway Briefing Note
Reason for briefing note:	Update on Rough Sleeper Pathway
Responsible officer(s):	Russell O’Keefe – Director of Place Tracy Hendren – Head Housing & Environmental
Senior leader sponsor:	Cllr Ross McWilliams
Date:	March 2020

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SUMMARY

1. The briefing is for information only and to provide an update on the Rough Sleeper Pathway, the approach being taken, the details of each stage of the pathway and numbers of rough sleepers within the pathway.
2. The report will also outline the funding for the pathway and the breakdown of the funding including how the pathway is funded.

1 BACKGROUND

Every local authority undertakes an annual count of rough sleepers in their borough, there are three options to estimate the number of people sleeping rough for the national rough sleeping statistics;

- count-based estimate
- evidence-based estimate
- evidence-based estimate informed by a spotlight count

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead had previously opted to undertake an evidence based estimate, where on a given night, rough sleepers are counted if they are bedded down, however this year to ensure all rough sleepers were captured in the annual figure, The Royal Borough selected to undertake an evidence based estimate informed by a spotlight count. The evidence-based estimate ensured the gathering of intelligence from officers and partner organisations, this was then added to the number of rough sleepers found bedded down on a given night. This demonstrated an increase from 11 in 2018 to 40 in 2019, with the increase in the number of people estimated to be sleeping rough due to increased intelligence and knowledge of where people are sleeping rough in the local authority since the implementation of the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI). Whilst this demonstrated an increase in numbers of the 40 rough sleepers recorded 32 of the rough sleepers have been supported into accommodation through the newly implemented rough sleeper pathway.

In April 2019 a Rough Sleeper Team Leader and Rough Sleeper Outreach Worker were appointed to support rough sleepers off the streets and into accommodation options. The greatest challenge for the officers was the limited accommodation options and the intense support required from officers to ensure the accommodation options were sustainable for the former rough sleepers.

Additional funding was applied for from central government to implement a rough sleeper pathway, that enabled the pathway to be launched in December 2019. Further funding applied

for through this years RSI has been awarded enabling additional roles to be advertised and the team to be re-structure to support a 3 stage pathway.

2 Rough Sleeper Pathway – 3 stages

In November RBWM set out the new, comprehensive approach which introduced a clear pathway from sleeping rough, to supported accommodation and into longer-term sustainable accommodation.

The Rough Sleeper Pathway, which includes a three stage accommodation programme is described below;

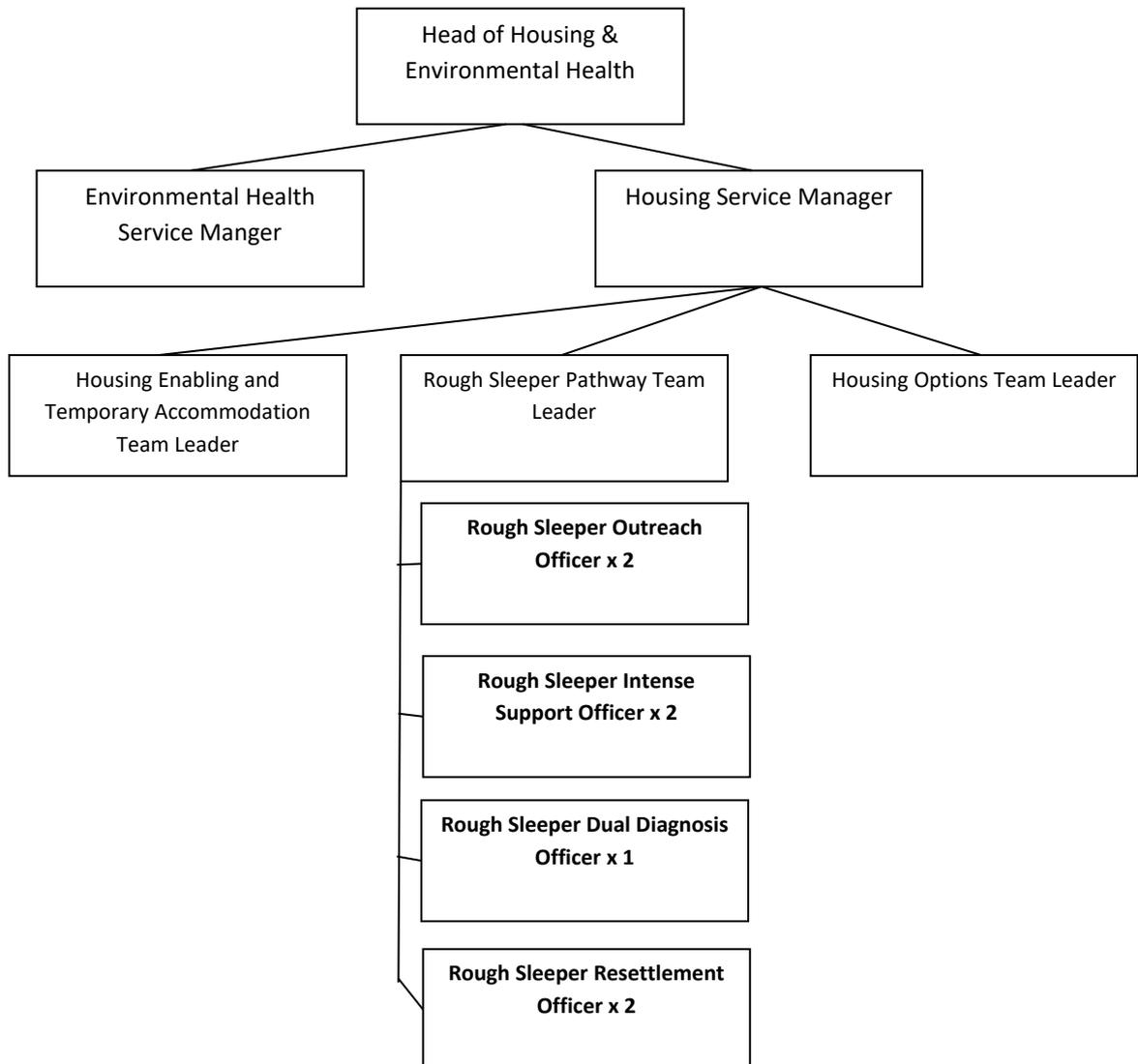
1. Stage one - will see those identified as rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping jointly assessed by the Housing Options team and Rough Sleeper Initiative Outreach team, and offered stage 1 accommodation, where the Rough Sleeper Initiative team will provide the required support and assessment leading to agreed actions and solution focused outcomes. The assessment will take place in the council offices with a referral being made to stage 1 accommodation. Within the first 10 days of approach the experienced outreach team will work with the rough sleeper and determine the bespoke pathway approach for each rough sleeper. This will include referring through to stage 2 intense support, reconnecting to another local authority or country.
2. Stage two – once assessed and ready to move on from stage 1 accommodation, service users will be offered stage 2 accommodation that includes intensive support provided by Brown Community Services CIC (BCS), which specialise in providing support to those who traditionally would not engage well with support services. Those in stage two accommodation will be given resettlement support including support with health, finances, employment and general life skills. Stage two support will be provided for a minimum of 12 weeks but up to two years depending on the requirements of the service user.
3. Stage three – when the service user is ready for independent accommodation they are then supported into private rented sector or social housing accommodation with ongoing support for up to six months from the Rough Sleeper Initiative Outreach team. The support whilst in self-contained stage 3 accommodation is to ensure the tenancy is sustainable and the service user does not return to rough sleeping.

To date 32 of the 40 rough sleepers from the 2019 rough sleeper count have been housed through the pathway.

3 TIMELINE DETAILS

- Rough Sleeper Initiative funding applied for in April 2019 and approved – Rough Sleeper Team Leader and Rough Sleeper Outreach Worker appointed
- Task & Finish Group Homelessness – Initial enhanced pathway proposal discussed and agreed at Task & Finish Group
- Cold Weather Provision Funding applications submitted to MHCLG for Rough Sleeper Pathway – Applied for 100k approved 50k
- Rough Sleeper Initiative funding applied for 690k 2020/2021 and approved – 490k
- Cold Weather Provision Funding additional application submitted March 2020 for 50k – awaiting outcome

4 Staff Structure – April 2020



5 RISKS

- 5.1 The rough sleeper pathway and related staff are externally funded from MHCLG on an annual basis, with additional funding being applied for four months in advance of the next tranche of funding being released.
- 5.2 There is no guarantee that funding will be provided from one year to the next, however, MHCLG have recognised the importance of providing a rough sleeper pathway and their commitment to this through the funding provision

5.3 Staff are on one-year fixed term contracts and therefore there is a risk that they could seek permanent employment elsewhere.

6 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 Recruitment is currently ongoing to ensure the additional posts are all in place for the 1st April 2020.
- 6.2 A dashboard is being developed to enable monitoring of the approach and report on outcomes