

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

Using comprehensive data from the last 18 months to inform our bid the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Rough Sleeping Initiative 4 funding programme. we were able to secure 800k for this year, the previous year funding was 460k, so a significant increase in our funding to deliver services to rough sleepers in RBWM for 2021/2022.

Year 1 comparisons

The Council's most recent annual rough sleeping estimate took place in November 2020 with a total of 8 individuals identified as sleeping rough in the Borough. This was decrease 40 individuals identified from the previous year, which evidences the value of having a comprehensive rough sleeping pathway in RBWM. There is a keen focus by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for local authorities to continue to reduce rough sleeping with an overarching aim to have eradicated rough sleeping nationally by 2024.

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 last report to the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2021, the following support has been provided to 69 individuals of which:

- 71% have been supported to obtain ID
- 81% have been assisted to apply for welfare support such as universal credit
- 69% have been supported to register for primary care services
- 52% have received support for substance misuse
- 44% have been supported to access mental health services

- 53% have an offending history

Current cohort support needs:

All individuals verified as rough sleeping in the Royal Borough and admitted onto the rough sleeping pathway participate in a collaborative initial assessment designed to provide an overview of their health and wellbeing as well as identify their support needs.

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

- 90% of the cohort require support to ensure a meaningful use of their time, this can largely be attributed to the national lockdown restrictions imposed over the last 12 months as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic
- 85% of the cohort would like support to manage their money and personal administration
- 73% of the cohort would like support with self-care and living skills

A lack of activities to ensure meaningful use of time, coupled with difficulties managing money and personal administration can lead to anti-social activities such as begging which in areas with high levels of tourism, such as Windsor, can be particularly lucrative.

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 and Rough Sleeping Forum on allocation of funding for required services.

Funding received from the Alternative Giving Scheme to date is £2,170, it is recognised this figure is significantly lower than original anticipated amount when the scheme was launched, however this has been caused by the impact of lockdown and minimal marketing due to Covid 19. A marketing campaign to re-launch is due when all lockdown measures are lifted.

Meeting the needs of the current cohort

To ensure the needs of the current cohort are met, discussions are already underway with local providers to map how appropriate interventions will be delivered to those on the rough sleeping pathway. Opportunities to deliver the face-to-face interventions needed by individuals on the rough sleeping pathway have been exceptionally limited due to ongoing pandemic restrictions. It is hoped that as these restrictions are eased, funding received through the Alternative Giving Scheme will be used to provide:

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
- Tenancy ready training

Proposals for use of the funding received through the Alternative Giving Scheme will be presented to members of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Forum in September 2021.