

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Summary

To adopt a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for the Borough

Portfolio – Support & Safeguarding

Date Portfolio Holder signed off report – 12 June 2019

Wards Affected All

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to adopt the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-23 as the Council's strategic approach to preventing homelessness and supporting those residents who do become homeless

1. Resource Implications

- 1.1 The Council has been successful in securing a number of Government grants and all actions either have funding allocated or will only progress when suitable funding is identified.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council has a duty to review homelessness in the borough and produce a strategy in response to the review that seeks to tackle homelessness against its main causes, support those who could be, are or have been homeless and increase the supply of accommodation to meet identified needs.
- 2.2 From November 2019 the Government intends to introduce regulation to require local authorities to produce a Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- 2.3 This Strategy builds on the work of a succession of previous strategies that the Council has had in place since 2002. While many of the challenges remain there are new actions proposed around welfare reform and single homelessness/rough sleeping as these have been identified as issues in which some residents need additional support.

3. Options

- 3.1 The Council is required to have a Homelessness Strategy and the draft can be adopted in its current form or with amendment.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 The Council adopt the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2023.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The review of homelessness in the Borough found that the main causes of homelessness are the end of a tenancy in the private rented sector and family breakdown (including parental evictions, relationship breakdown and domestic abuse).
- 5.2 The key client groups identified were single people (including rough sleepers) and young families.
- 5.3 Two key, and often related, issues are welfare reform and the cost of private rented housing.
- 5.4 Private rented accommodation is both a source of meeting housing need as well as a source of homelessness.
- 5.5 In 2018/19 the Housing Solutions Team worked with 355 homeless households under the provisions of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 who were homeless or threatened with homelessness.

6. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities

- 6.1 Under the People theme of the 5 year strategy the Council has a priority to: 'Address housing needs within the community'.
- 6.2 Homelessness in all its forms is the most acute representation of housing need and this Strategy sets out the Council's response to the issue.

7. Policy Framework

- 7.1 Under the Homelessness Act 2002 all local authorities must have in place homelessness strategy based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their district. The strategy must be renewed at least every 5 years.

8. Legal Issues

- 8.1 The adoption of the draft Homelessness and Rough Strategy meets the Council's legal obligations.

9. Equalities Impact

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and is included at Annex C.
- 9.2 Positive impacts were identified for the following protected equality groups: disability, sex, age, and pregnancy and maternity.

9.3 No negative impacts for any protected equality groups were identified.

10. Consultation

10.1 A consultation draft of this Strategy has been shared with all partners and is available on the Council's website.

Annexes	Annex A - Executive summary Annex B - Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Annex C - Equality Impact Assessment
Background Papers	
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