

Bolsover District Council

Customer Services Scrutiny Committee

13th September 2021

North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021-23

Report of the Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Victoria Dawson – Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement

Contact Officer: Victoria Dawson – Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To advise the Customer Services Committee of the production of a revised draft North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021 – 2023. Committee comments will be noted prior to formal Executive approval of the Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Members review the attached North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021 – 2023 in advance of formal Executive approval and implementation

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Councillor Sandra Peake

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

The preparation of the North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy will have no direct financial implications for the Council. Most of the outcomes achieved together with the future commitments have been achieved in partnership with a range of stakeholders each adding considerable value in terms of, existing staff resources, knowledge and experiences. The recent strengthening of these partnerships has resulted in effective decision making and enabled services to become established. The North Derbyshire area, along with the rest of the County, has benefitted from accessing external funding under the Rough Sleeper Initiative totalling, to date, approximately £500,000. Additional funding applications, recently submitted by the

Council will, if successful bring a further investment into rough sleeping services across Derbyshire.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

The North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy complies with the Council’s legal requirement to have a published strategy detailing its activities to resolve rough sleeping. The strategy is consistent with the aims and objectives of the National Rough Sleeper Strategy. The strategy will also enable the Council to deliver its statutory functions under Homelessness legislation

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

The Strategy will assist in alleviating the pressures facing the Council’s Housing Needs team, by addressing this complex customer group and meeting their needs through cross sector partnership work. It should be noted there has been a significant increase in the requests for homeless assistance since the Eviction Ban ended on 31st May 2021 and approval has been given for a temporary Homeless Triage officer to assist with this.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies</p>	Yes
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	Yes/No

District Wards Significantly Affected	District wide Strategy
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Ward Members

Links to Council Ambition priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.
Customers - Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people Environment – Actively engaging with partners to benefit our communities

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

1.1 In 2016, Bolsover District Council, jointly with Chesterfield Borough Council and North East Derbyshire District published a North Derbyshire Homeless Strategy. This was updated in 2019 to become a North Derbyshire Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy. This document is due to expire in September 2021.

1.2 Due to the ever increasing importance of tackling rough sleeping it was agreed that the Councils would develop a standalone Rough Sleeping Strategy with the intention being to merge both strategies into one comprehensive Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy following the a review in 2021. This work has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting impacts upon services.

1.3 Since then all Derbyshire Authorities have agreed to have a county wide Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy with each Council having its own local plan sitting underneath this with an action plan detailing specific commitments in our area. This County wide strategy will supersede the requirement to have an individual strategy for each local authority. Estimated implementation of the County wide strategy is April 2022.

1.4 Alongside the national lockdown, MHCLG launched the “Everyone In” initiative requiring local authorities to accommodate all rough sleepers. This recognised that rough sleepers were considerably high risk of contracting and spreading the virus should they remain sleeping rough.

1.5 This accelerated partnership working across the County to enable the delivery of a multitude of services to protect rough sleepers from harm; and enabled the delivery of many of the commitments and outcomes contained in the Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-21.

1.6 Key services include:

- **Commissioning of largescale emergency accommodation** – to enable instant access to accommodation.
- **Derbyshire Outreach Team (DOT)** – street outreach team to make initial contact with rough sleepers.
- **Supported Lettings Workers** – Support Officers to assist rough sleepers into accommodation.
- **Keeping Everyone In Service (KEIS)** – Link workers to support to maintain accommodation and engage with wider support services.
- **Probation Link Worker** – based within Probation to link Offender Management and Housing services together
- **Housing First** – 14 Units of specialist accommodation for people with high level and multiple complex needs.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 It is a legal requirement to have a Rough Sleeper Strategy agreed and published.

2.2 The Rough Sleeper Strategy is a refreshed document that outlines why it is essential to provide a package of measures to enable vulnerable members of our community, without accommodation and suffering a range of multiple complex needs, to access services and to live safely and independently. The measures will have a positive effect on communities within the district and takes account of what we have done in partnership during the pandemic.

2.3 The proposed updated Strategy continues to be rooted in a partnership approach between the Council, other statutory services, the third sector and homeless people.

2.4 The Strategy continues to be based on the three 'pillars' of prevention, intervention and recovery that are identified in the National Rough Sleeper Strategy. These are:

- **Prevention** - To prevent new people from starting to sleep rough.
- **Intervention** - To intervene rapidly when people start to sleep rough to help them off the street.
- **Recovery** - To promote a person's recovery once they are off the street to build positive lives and not to return to rough sleeping.

2.5 Many of the commitments from the existing strategy remain in place as they are continuous commitments. However, new, and ambitious commitments have been added at **Appendix 1**.

2.6 These commitments will maximum outcomes and will act as a cornerstone for the delivery of additional activity.

2.7 A copy of the proposed strategy is attached as **Appendix 2**.

3 **Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 It is a legal requirement to have a published Rough Sleeper Strategy in place. This is an updated document following the success of the 2020-21 North Derbyshire Strategy and it will ensure that the Council continues to deliver prevention, intervention, and recovery to ensure people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping can access effective services and support.

4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 Not to approve the recommendation to implement the proposed strategy. It should be noted that the Council would be in breach of its legal requirement to have a published Rough Sleeper Strategy in place.

4.2 Not to approve the implementation of the proposed strategy would have a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of considerably vulnerable individuals. The strategy provides a co-ordinated framework for the delivery of essential services to protect the wellbeing of rough sleepers

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Table of commitments 2021-23
2	North Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Strategy 2021-23
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	