

 <b>WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	<b>Health Scrutiny Sub Committee</b> <b>13 March 2019</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>Title:</b>	The Health and Wellbeing benefits of Warwick District Council's Direct Access Hostel	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Lisa Barker Head of Housing Services telephone: 01926 456043 e-mail: lisa.barker@warwickdc.gov.uk  Charlotte Lancaster Rough Sleeping Strategic Coordinator <a href="mailto:Charlotte.Lancaster@warwickdc.gov.uk">Charlotte.Lancaster@warwickdc.gov.uk</a> 01926 456335	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	31.5.18 -	
<b>Background Papers</b>		

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No (If No state why below)

The initiatives are designed to support people who sleep rough, enabling them to receive targeted support and to access accommodation suitable for their needs. Rough sleepers have complex issues and are amongst the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in our society.

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	15.2.19	Bill Hunt
Head of Service	14.2.19	Lisa Barker
CMT	15.2.19	Bill Hunt, Chris Elliot, Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	15.2.19	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	15.2.19	Andrew Jones
Finance	15.2.19	Andrew Rollins
Portfolio Holder(s)	15.2.19	Cllr Peter Phillips

<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>	
The proposals were subject to discussion with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG); Local statutory partners including Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police, Stratford District Council, and; Voluntary sector partners including Helping Hands, Salvation Army, Home Group, both night shelters, Coventry Cyrenians and P3.	
<b>Final Decision?</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>	

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 In June of 2018 Warwick District Council made an application to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for funding through the Rough Sleeping Initiative. Warwick District Council recognised the need to firmly tackle Homelessness and were successful in securing £370,000 for 2018/2019, with further funding agreed for 2019/2020. Warwickshire County Council were in support of this proposal and also provided £200,000 as a one off payment, recognising the health and wellbeing benefits provided.
- 1.2 This funding was used to provide a number of initiatives aimed at preventing and reducing Rough Sleeping within the District. The most important of these initiatives is William Wallsgrove House, WDC's first Direct Access Hostel. Since opening its doors, William Wallsgrove House has supported 85 unique individuals presenting as due to be sleeping rough on the night of admission. This number consists of those entrenched Rough Sleepers currently sleeping on our streets, those previously sofa-surfing and no longer able to and those who have recently lost their accommodation. The hostel has provided numerous benefits for the Rough Sleeping population, with 15 dorm bed spaces and 7 individual rooms; it offers shelter, washing facilities, food and safety alongside many additional health and wellbeing benefits. Structured support is provided to enable individuals to move onto further permanent accommodation where possible and signposting combined with effective joint working is applied to address mental health, alcohol and drug issues.
- 1.3 A street count carried out in November 2017 identified 21 individuals sleeping rough within Warwick District, compared to a recent street count carried out in January 2019, where 12 individuals were identified. This reduction is thanks largely to the availability of emergency accommodation at the direct access hostel and in addition to this we currently have 12 individuals housed via Coventry Cyrenians supported accommodation, also funded through the Rough Sleeping Initiative. Were we to be without these valuable services, it is our belief that we would return to a steep rise in the number of individuals sleeping rough on our streets.  
Rough Sleeping figures are rising in many area; with Homeless Link reporting since 2010 rough sleeping estimates show an increase of 165%, at the direct access hostel we are providing shelter to new individuals all the time.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the committee recognises the benefits of the direct access hostel to the health and wellbeing of the Rough Sleeping population.

## **3. Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Direct Access Hostel has provided numerous Health and Wellbeing benefits and improved our overall ability to improve community safety, by allowing police to take firmer measures to tackle begging and the voluntary and public sector to work more closely to deliver personalised services and plans which address individual needs effectively.

- 3.2 Some of the known benefits, as listed in the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, are as follows:

- Weekly Strategic meeting now held, (Rough Sleeping Initiative Meeting) including all statutory and voluntary partners involved in working with Rough Sleepers, to provide a joint approach to supporting individuals to access services effectively
- The provision of beds and access to support 24/7, every day of the year, with no cause to leave the premises in the day
- Gardening Project for Eco-therapy in the process of being set-up at Direct Access Hostel – currently working with WCAVA to recruit volunteers and BPS Gardenforce have donated all tools required
- Arts and Crafts/Mindfulness Project to be launched at the Direct Access Hostel – painting of the communal room already completed by Rough Sleepers
- Everyone Active pilot project being explored – to provide ongoing physical activity and positive habits through mentorship
- The forming of a closer working relationship between the Direct Access hostel and jobs clubs – meetings held with Brunswick Hub
- Foodbank vouchers now being administered directly from the Direct Access hostel, to prevent delays in accessing nutrition
- Make Every Contact Count training delivered to all hostel staff to promote positive engagement and recognise triggers
- Naloxone Training delivered to staff at hostel and Naloxone provided by Change Grow Live (CGL)
- CPR training provided to staff at hostel by the charity Evelyn's Gift
- Braids Barber have formed a working relationship with the hostel and regularly provide beard/haircuts at no cost to Rough Sleepers in sessions within the hostel
- Work is being done with Public Health to arrange access to GP services for those known to be banned
- Healthwatch have led a session for the Rough Sleeping Initiative Group meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February on 'Rights to Access Healthcare Cards'
- Flu Jabs administered by CGL to 5 Rough Sleepers staying at the hostel in December 2018
- P3 Outreach providing weekly drop-in session at the hostel
- Financial Inclusions sessions run by WDC on a weekly basis to address debt/financial issues
- Hostel consultation rooms being used by District Nurses to perform wound care and dressing changes
- 2 Rough Sleepers with dogs have been accommodated within 1 of the 7 individual rooms

- 2 Rough Sleepers have been supported to move to Private accommodation
- 4 Rough Sleepers are currently on the waiting list for Coventry Cyrenians supported accommodation, due to move in March, 2 have already moved on in February
- 1 moved to supported accommodation with Emmaus in January
- 1 moved to supported accommodation with Eden Villa in January
- 3 have been supported to move back with family or friends
- 1 awaiting Rehab Placement

#### 4. Policy Framework

##### 4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council's FFF strategy is designed to deliver the vision for the district of making it a great place to live, work and visit; to that end amongst other things the FFF strategy contains several key projects, this report shows the way we are implementing a significant part of one of the council's key projects.

<b>FFF Strands</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Money</b>
<b>External</b>		
<b>Health, Homes, Communities</b>	<b>Green, Clean, Safe</b>	<b>Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment</b>
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
Supporting the delivery of new initiatives to improve the health of rough sleepers through the provision of housing with support and associated services	The 'feel' of the town centre has benefited from rough sleepers moving into accommodation	Support services are assisting rough sleepers to become ready for training or work.
<b>Internal</b>		
<b>Effective Staff</b>	<b>Maintain or Improve Services</b>	<b>Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term</b>
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities

The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours		Seek best value for money
<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
The project has given rise to significant opportunities for Council staff to develop skills around partnership working with the private sector, community bodies and other public sector bodies	Work has been done to improve the delivery of services to rough sleepers and to develop a robust strategy to tackle rough sleeping across the district.	The initiatives were designed with clear exit strategies and taking into account the current review of housing related support being undertaken by WCC

## 5 Supporting Strategies

- 5.1 Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant ones for this proposal are explained here. The council adopted the current Housing and Homelessness Strategy in April 2017. This includes an objective of providing suitable accommodation, information and advice for the homeless in an effort to prevent and reduce homelessness and an action of "Implementing the extension of our legal duties to the homeless, including single people under the Homelessness Reduction Bill."

## 6. Changes to Existing Policies

- 6.1 There is nothing in this report which seeks to change existing Council policies. It does however set out how an existing action within the Housing & Homelessness Strategy is to be built upon and taken forward.

## 7. Impact Assessments

- 7.1 An impact assessment was not completed because the proposals provided for a greater level of service and support for the homeless and potentially homeless and have therefore had positive impacts upon recipients of the service

## 8. Budgetary Framework

- 8.1 There are no further financial implications at this time. All the initiatives developed locally have been funded via MHCLG's Rough Sleeping Initiative 2018-2020 and Warwickshire County Council's match funding contribution of £200,000. In addition to this Warwick District have heavily invested in the renovation of William Wallsgrove House and by way of a financial contribution of £100,000 per annum towards the project.

## 9. Risks

- 9.1 There is a risk that once funding ceases to be available in March 2020, the hostel will no longer be in operation and those benefiting from its service will return to Rough Sleeping and fail to receive the intensive support they require in order to make meaningful change and to move onto permanent and sustainable accommodation.

- 9.2 There is a high risk that without the hostel and Coventry Cyrenians accommodation being in place, we would see a steep rise in the amount of Rough Sleepers on our streets.
- 9.3 There is a risk that community safety would suffer and the police's powers to address street begging and anti-social behaviour, would be greatly reduced.
- 9.4 There is a risk that Warwick District would no longer be a great place to work, live and visit and public concerns surrounding Homelessness would increase.
- 9.5 There is a risk that Rough Sleepers now in receipt of valuable services would have no shelter, safety or support to address their complex needs

**10. Alternative Option(s) considered**

- 10.1 N/A