

# HOMELESSNESS / ROUGH SLEEPING UPDATE

<b>Relevant Board Member(s)</b>	Councillor Jane Palmer
<b>Organisation</b>	London Borough of Hillingdon
<b>Report author</b>	Mark Billings, Hillingdon Council Debby Weller, Hillingdon Council
<b>Papers with report</b>	None

## 1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	The report provides an update related to the connections between homelessness, rough sleeping and ill health and work in Hillingdon to prevent homelessness and support homeless people. This is a follow up to a report in September 2019.
<b>Contribution to plans and strategies</b>	The links between health and homelessness and housing more widely are of relevance to Housing and Homelessness Strategies, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Better Care Fund.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no costs arising directly from this report.
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

**That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the contents of this report.**

## 3. INFORMATION

### **Supporting Information**

The meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 24 September 2019 received a report on homelessness as it was recognised as a cross-cutting area of concern that impacted on the health and wellbeing of residents. The Board agreed that a further report on this issue be added to the agenda for the meeting on 3 March 2020.

The previous report noted a wide range of negative health impacts relating to homelessness, rough sleeping and insecure accommodation and national and local initiatives to address them. This report provides an update.

### **National policy**

Homelessness and particularly rough sleeping remains high on the national policy agenda. The government's Rough Sleeping Strategy published in 2018, commits to halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it by 2027.

In January 2020, the Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick MP announced an extra £112 million funding, a 30% increase this year for councils to move more rough sleepers off the streets and into safe accommodation.

The February 2020 edition of 'Health matters'<sup>1</sup> a professional resource for local authorities and commissioners, focused on preventing and ending rough sleeping. This notes that the recent Homelessness Reduction Act and Rough Sleeping Strategy, underpinned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Rough Sleeping Initiative, and actions taken by other government departments, Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England mark a significant shift in Government's response to rough sleeping. Health matters also provides information regarding poor health outcomes for homeless people including infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, HIV and hepatitis C, musculoskeletal disorders and chronic pain, skin and foot problems, dental problems and respiratory illness. Compared with the general population, common mental health conditions (such as depression, anxiety and panic disorder) are over twice as high among people who experience homelessness, and psychosis is up to 15 times as high.

### **Hillingdon Homelessness data**

The most recent rough sleeper count took place on 30 January 2020. The total number of rough sleepers counted was 144. This consisted of 8 in-borough and 136 at Heathrow airport and is 38 higher than at the previous count on 28 November 2020.

### **Hillingdon activity related to homelessness and health**

The Council has successfully bid for further Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding for 2020/21 to continue work with rough sleepers, especially at Heathrow Airport where numbers remain higher. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of RSI funding that the Council has received. Details are being finalised, however the potential amount involved is a significant increase on the funding made available in the previous two years.

This will strengthen the multi-partner team to prevent rough sleeping. It will include a significantly strengthened outreach team supplied by Thames Reach (homelessness partner) as well as a post at Heathrow Travel Care, dedicated Council staff, floating support services and a complex needs worker provided by Trinity Homeless Projects (homeless partner) and accommodation managed by Trinity. Discussions are being finalised regarding additional services that may be provided at the Airport.

Health funding in West London has enabled the recruitment of two posts to provide additional mental health support and meet the needs of rough sleepers with chaotic lifestyles. These will work predominantly with rough sleepers at Heathrow Airport.

Additional rough sleeper provision for the winter includes:

- A winter night shelter in Hillingdon opened 20 January 2020 until 1 March 2020;
- A cold weather fund and provision for EEA nationals under a suspension of derogation to enable support that would not otherwise be available;
  - Up to 20 rolling bed spaces for UK nationals.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-rough-sleeping>

- Up to 10 spot purchase bed spaces for EEA nationals for 2 months.
- Associated support and subsistence.
- Securing three houses in multiple occupation housing for 5 people each and associated costs.
- Associated coaching, subsistence, reconnections and personalised budgets.
- The existing RSI and Rapid Rehousing Pathway (now combined with RSI) projects for 2019/20 continue to be delivered.

## **Hillingdon Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Review and Strategy**

The Hillingdon Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Review and Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 17 December 2019. One of the six priorities of the strategy is to eliminate the need to sleep rough in Hillingdon and there are numerous references to the physical and mental health needs of homeless households under this and a number of the other priorities in the strategy. Specific relevant actions in the strategy include:

- Review pathways and consider specialist support for homeless people with a dual diagnosis of substance misuse and poor mental health;
- Explore options to provide mental health support to rough sleepers (note the health funding for two mental health workers is addressing this action);
- Review membership of housing and social care panel and consider health/mental health input; and
- Review the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) and health profiles for Hillingdon as they relate to homelessness to inform future service delivery.

Joint work is currently being undertaken between housing, health and social care on a High Impact Change Model to address delayed transfers of care by ensuring focused and timely processes for identifying those in hospital who do not have a home to return to or are unable to return to their usual home.

The number of households requiring a full homelessness assessment is projected to be 1,984 for 2019/20 compared to 2,035 during 2018/19. There are, on average, 37 new placements into temporary accommodation each month.

## **Financial Implications**

As noted in the report above, the Council has been very successful in attracting grant for a number of Council initiatives. However, as this report is for information only, there are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

Activities referenced in the report to address ill health and/or homelessness will benefit the residents concerned.

### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

Issues related to health and homelessness were taken into account in the development of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Review and Strategy. A formal consultation

process took place between 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

#### **Policy Overview Committee comments**

None at this stage.

### **5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Hillingdon Council Corporate Finance comments**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

#### **Hillingdon Council Legal comments**

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Hillingdon Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Review and Strategy 2019 to 2024.