

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 18 July 2018

CONTACT OFFICER: Alan Sinclair, Director of Adults & Communities, Slough Borough Council

(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875752

WARDS: All

PART I

FOR INFORMATION

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING – THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To inform the Board about the work of the newly established Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Task and Finish Group (TFG).

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

2.1 The Slough Wellbeing Board is recommended to note this report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

The priorities of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) have been taken account of in the production of the Housing Strategy and homelessness and rough sleeping forms a key part of this Strategy.

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Housing is a key determinant of health and wellbeing and it is a priority in the new Wellbeing Strategy. Being homeless can exacerbate a household's housing situation and therefore their health will be affected as a result.

3b. **The JSNA**

Homelessness is a key plank of the Council's Housing Strategy. A new Homelessness Strategy is about to be written but the Housing Strategy identifies that:

- Homelessness and rough sleeping is reduced
- Specialist accommodation is available for adults and children (if needs cannot be met within ordinary housing solutions)

3c. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The key driver for the Housing Strategy is to deliver Outcome 4 of the 2018 Five Year Plan "Our residents will have access to good quality homes". As homelessness is one of the main routes to accessing accommodation in the borough, this area is relevant to the outcomes of the Five Year Plan. It also helps to deliver and makes significant contributions to each of the other outcomes:

- 1) Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives
- 2) Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs
- 3) Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit
- 5) Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.

4. **Other Implications**

- a) **Financial** - There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendation of this report.
- b) **Risk Management** – Increasing homelessness increases the financial risks to the Council.
- c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications** – There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.
- d) **Equalities Impact Assessment** - There are no equality issues arising from this report.
- e) **Workforce** - There are no workforce implications associated with this report.

5. **Summary**

- *A multi-agency homelessness and rough sleeping TFG has been established to bring together partners in the public and voluntary and community sectors to help Slough Wellbeing Board coordinate work in this area.*
- *At its first meeting on 2 May 2018 partners agreed that the main focus of this TFG would be rough sleeping.*
- *This TFG sits under the Slough Wellbeing Board and will provide regular reports to partners on its activities.*
- *This report is the first of these updates.*

6. **Supporting Information**

6.1 Slough Wellbeing Board hosted a themed discussion on homelessness in Slough at its meeting in March 2018. During the course of this discussion, the Board recognised that there was a gap in the multi-agency strategic work that was being undertaken on homelessness and it was proposed and agreed that a TFG would be established to explore how a more co-ordinated and strategic approach could be taken to reduce the growing problem. It was agreed that the Director for Adults and Communities would convene this Group and that it should include representatives from the Council's strategic housing and public health teams, Thames Valley Police, and Slough's primary care and the voluntary and community sectors.

6.2 This multi agency TFG has now been established. Key partners came together on 2 May to share what they know about this issue and scope the work. Partners agreed the following initial actions at this meeting:

- a) To review the Council's bid for funding under the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)'s [rough sleeping initiative](#) with a

summary of action areas, funding and timescales. Under this initiative the MHCLG has committed funding of £61 million for 2017/18 and 2018-19, with the potential for further funding for areas under significant pressure. Initiatives supported by this funding include £20 million for innovative new projects and £10 million for new models of funding in the form of Social Impact Bonds for those with complex needs;

- b) To review and summarise the [Public Health England Evidence Review](#): Adults with complex needs (with a particular focus on street begging and street sleeping) and investigate its relevance for Slough;
- c) To review any other relevant national/ regional good practise;
- d) To review Thames Valley Police's operational partnership meeting work with individual rough sleepers - to understand our current cohort of rough sleepers so we can understand their individual pathways, understand what may help them with their next positive pathway, gain useful information that may support others not to become homeless; and
- e) To arrange a roundtable discussion with key partners to discuss the outcome of actions (a) – (d) above and agree ways forward. This meeting has yet to be arranged but will take place before the summer.

7. **Comments of Other Committees**

7.1 There are no comments from any other committees.

7.2 The partnership work that we are doing in Slough to tackle rough sleeping was shared with colleagues at the Berkshire Chief Executives Group meeting on 10 May 2018. An invitation to participate in the forthcoming round table discussion with partners has also been extended to Berkshire colleagues.

8. **Conclusion**

8.1 The outcomes of the work of the TFG will be brought to the Board for the consideration later this year.

8.2 It should be noted that government has just announced a £260k budget to help Slough tackle rough sleeping.

9. **Appendices attached**

None

10. **Background Papers**

'1' - Homelessness: the current state of play - Report from 28 March 2018 meeting <http://www.slough.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s51193/HomelessnessreportMarch2018.pdf>

'2' Homelessness: presentation from 28 March 2018 meeting <http://www.slough.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s51209/Homelessness%20Workshop%20Presentation.pdf>