

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	7th JULY 2020	CATEGORY: (See Notes) DELEGATED or RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL WHITTINGHAM. paul.whittingham@southderbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	HOMELESSNESS/ROUGH SLEEPING	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL WHERE THE REPORT AFFECTS THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE <u>OR</u> SPECIFIC WARDS	TERMS OF REFERENCE: (See Notes)

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee retrospectively approves the granting of permission to make a "block booking" of the Three Queens Hotel to use as temporary accommodation for homeless households affected by the Covid19 outbreak. This is following the Chief Executive's prior approval under his delegated authority during the suspension of Council and Committee meetings due to the pandemic.
- 1.2 That the Committee retrospectively notes that the commissioning of this service was subject to an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules, under Sections 4 and 5 and that this exemption has been ratified by the Finance and Management Committee on 2nd July 2020.
- 1.3 That the Committee approves a contribution of £10,000 from existing Homelessness budgets towards the continued support for households that have been accommodated in temporary accommodation. This contribution has already been approved by the Finance and Management Committee on 2nd July 2020.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 This report and the report attached at Appendix A outlines the Council's initial response to rough sleepers and other households made homeless during the Covid19 outbreak.
- 2.2 The report also seeks approval to confirm the Council's commitment to the Derbyshire-wide approach to supporting those households placed in temporary accommodation during the outbreak.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 After the outbreak of Covid-19, the Government issued a call to local authorities to get “everyone in”. This primarily referred to people who are sleeping rough. The Council does not usually have a statutory duty to accommodate everyone when homeless, so some people can be without shelter under normal circumstances. This call, fronted by Dame Louise Casey, placed responsibility on local councils to house more people than usual and incur the higher costs associated with this, principally to cover bed and breakfast costs. It also included a directive that communal night-shelters and street encampments be closed, as communal settings are a high risk for spreading coronavirus. The Derby and Chesterfield night shelters closed during the week beginning 16th March, placing additional demands on local councils where these were operating.
- 3.2 Several options were pursued unsuccessfully with other providers and the Council reached its own agreement with the Three Queens Hotel in Burton on Trent for the provision of meals and accommodation. The report providing details of this arrangement was approved by the Chief Executive on 29th May under his delegated powers and is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.3 As the “Lockdown” arrangements have eased so the focus of local councils who provide services to homeless households has changed towards making sure that support and accommodation continues to be available for homeless households.
- 3.4 A Derbyshire-wide Recovery Plan has been agreed with all other local authorities in Derbyshire and funding of £284,000 has been allocated across the County. All Derbyshire District and Borough Councils have been asked to contribute to the delivery of the plan with the Council’s contribution of £10,000 based on the relatively low numbers of rough sleepers in the area.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 On March 23rd all Councils in England were ordered to bring in everyone who was rough sleeping, and subsequently everyone who became homeless during the lock down. Based on Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) figures, local authorities have since accommodated up to 15,000 individuals in hotel and Bed and Breakfast establishments. In Derbyshire, councils have accommodated 80 people so far. At the start of the crisis local councils and Derbyshire County Council came together to collaborate on the temporary block booking of hotels to create much needed extra housing capacity to shield a large portion of the homeless and rough sleeping cohort.
- 4.2 This jointly funded initiative, has proven to be a major success and several agencies and organisations including homeless and rough sleeping outreach services, drug and alcohol teams, NHS teams, Police and council housing staff have worked together to support some of the most vulnerable people in society through the worst times of the Covid-19 crisis.
- 4.3 However, the existing provision in South Derbyshire will end on the 24th June. The hotel provision, although effective, cannot be retained indefinitely, although will continue to be used in emergencies. The people brought in, need an offer of support to help them through the next phase. Partner agencies have agreed a Recovery Plan to put the necessary resources in place to support and re-home as many people as possible into longer term accommodation.

- 4.4 Without a boost in support services and an increased supply in accommodation, most of the people accommodated in hotels, guest houses and B&B's will have nowhere to go, and current support services will be unable to provide the care and expertise required for the amount of people being released onto the streets. There is therefore an opportunity to build on the collaborative approach nurtured over the last few months.
- 4.5 Through the experience and current service delivery of key partners including P3 and Pathways of Chesterfield it is proposed to deliver an intensive and wrap-around support service to a cohort of approximately 60 (to be confirmed) individuals in Derbyshire who have been placed in temporary accommodation by the local authorities during the Covid-19 pandemic. These individuals are experiencing overlapping and challenging issues such as offending, drug and alcohol misuse and poor mental health. Due to their challenging needs South Derbyshire has accommodated five clients who would not normally have been accommodated in one hotel and other B&Bs.
- 4.6 If funding is secured to establish this Service it will be delivered by P3 in South Derbyshire, Erewash and Amber Valley. Pathways will focus support in Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover. Currently P3 delivers the Derbyshire Rough Sleeper Service. This Service will work closely with the Derbyshire Rough Sleeping Outreach Team (DOT) as it is currently engaged with this group of people, learning from their involvement, experience and local knowledge and ensuring a smooth transition for the individual from service to service. Data, knowledge and experience from the DOT will be used to undertake an audit of need, the level of support required and to help identify gaps in current service provision. This will in turn inform delivery using the Link-worker model.
- 4.7 The cohort for this Service is a complex group for whom existing provision will not sufficiently meet their needs. The existing services are unsuitable for their level of need and/or circumstances. There is also the acknowledgement that existing services that may be able to meet the needs of this group are already at capacity and, in many cases, operating waiting lists, thus creating a barrier to timely access.
- 4.8 Derbyshire Councils, P3 and Pathways of Chesterfield have developed a partnership model, drawing on the vast experience of supporting people who are experiencing homelessness, utilising current infrastructure across Derbyshire and building on the successful track record, working in partnership to support the people who need housing and support.
- 4.9 The proposal is that P3 will be the lead contractor for this project and will subcontract to Pathways of Chesterfield. P3 currently fulfil the country-wide Rough Sleeper Initiative contract which is funded by MHCLG and in partnership with Pathways of Chesterfield it has provided an exceptional level of commitment through the crisis. P3 has supported the most vulnerable and challenging clients placed in the hotels across the county to make sure people are safe. They have found accommodation during the difficult period of the lock down for people made homeless and they have established key partnerships with public health, NHS and drug and alcohol services.
- 4.10 The proposal seeks to operate a new 12-month wrap around service at a cost of £260,000, funded from contributions from partner councils, other public bodies and existing grants already received. Working in partnership will ensure that each council can secure support for the numbers of people from their area. South Derbyshire has five households in the current hotel and B&B provision and so it is proposed that a

contribution of £10,000 is made available by the Council to support the scheme. This contribution can be met from the Council's existing Homelessness Grant provision.

- 4.11 Each person will be allocated a Link Worker who will provide consistent support for as long as required (over the next 12 months) and will act as a trusted individual and single point of contact for both the person and any other individuals or services involved with them, coordinating support across multiple services.
- 4.12 The cost of six Linkworkers and a Senior Linkworker is £284,000 for 12 months (Including the re purposing of £60,000 exiting grant funding). The total cost is inclusive of all on-costs such as pension, national insurance, management, corporate support (IT, finance, HR) Training, IT equipment and travel. This cost will be shared across Derbyshire authorities on the basis of the forecast number of cases for each local authority.
- 4.13 Advice from the Local Government Association (LGA) in the recently published 'Local Authority Rough Sleeper Accommodation Guidance' has highlighted the need for councils to act quickly to source services during the Covid19 crisis. In recognition of the urgent need to move quickly to deal with the Covid-19 crisis, the government has issued Procurement Policy Notes PPN01/20 and PPN 02/20 in response. Chesterfield Borough Council is leading the project with support from colleagues across Derbyshire and will manage the procurement arrangements.
- 4.14 The LGA report has also highlighted the long established partnership work within Derbyshire and the 'Everyone In – Derbyshire Response', "Collective action has been rapid and the multiagency collaboration very strong, something achieved by working together over many years."

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Government have provided £1650.00 in additional funding towards the Council's additional costs for accommodating rough sleepers. Additional funding has also been sought from Derbyshire County Council.
- 5.2 The proposed contribution of £10,000 from the Council to the Recovery Plan can be met from existing Homelessness budgets.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 6.1 There are no employment implications for the Council created by this report.

Legal Implications

- 6.2 There are no direct legal implications for the Council created by this report.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 This report directly contributes to achieving the Council's aims regarding: Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable With partners encourage independent living

and keep residents healthy and happy in their homes. Promote health and wellbeing across the District.

Risk Impact

- 6.4 This report contributes to managing the Corporate risk: “Voluntary and Community Sector - a reduction in resources for partners who deliver services with or on behalf of the Council” by maintaining existing community sector resources at a time when demand for this resources has increased.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 7.1 There has been on going consultation with statutory and voluntary agencies regarding the ongoing provision of Homelessness services,

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 7.2 These services continue to be accessible to all members of the community and offer additional support to those wit Protected Characteristics as identified within the Equality Act 2010.

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 The contents of this report directly support the aims of the Council’s Sustainable Community Strategy by: “Supporting families, particularly those who are most vulnerable, leads to better outcomes for children and young people.”

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.4 There is no direct environmental impact identified of the activities within this report.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The Council and its partners across the County have been successful thus far in accommodating homeless households and rough sleepers during the Covid-19 outbreak
- 8.2 There is a clear need for on going support for these households which has been acknowledged by Government and is supported through additional funding
- 8.3 The Recovery Plan will assist the Council in continuing to discharge its legal duties to homeless households and tough sleepers during the Covid-19 outbreak.

9.0 Background Papers

Notes:

- * Category – Please see the Committee Terms Of Reference in [Responsibility for Functions - Committees](#). This shows which committee is responsible for each function and whether it has delegated authority to make a decision, or needs to refer it elsewhere with a recommendation.
- ** Open/Exempt - All reports should be considered in the open section of the meeting, unless it is likely that exempt information would be disclosed. Please see the [Access to Information Procedure Rules](#) for more guidance.
- *** Committee Terms Of Reference in [Responsibility for Functions - Committees](#).