

	REPORT TO CABINET TO BE HELD ON 17 JULY 2018	
	Key Decision	NO
Corporate Aims All	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Chatt

REPORT OF: Director (LD) – 18/158

WARDS AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ROUGH SLEEPING IN SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD)

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To present the findings and recommendations of the Review of the Rough Sleeping in Scarborough Borough, as endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 4 July 2018. Report reference 18/130 attached.

RECOMMENDATION (S):

That the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Housing, and the Cabinet be recommended to undertake the following:

The Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Housing:

- (i) To make representations to North Yorkshire County Council to extend its funding beyond 2019 for the projects that it supports, such as Changing Lives/Horton Housing, and ask NYCC to consider funding in longer cycles in order to retain staff and provide continuity for service users, and to enlist the help of the Council's dual-hatted members in these representations
- (ii) To lobby central government to emphasise what the real issues are regarding problems with rough sleeping in a rural coastal location. Invite the Borough's MPs to visit and see the true picture of what is going on, and to challenge them to consider the effectiveness of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 in the light of the overall funding situation.

The Cabinet:

- (iii) To instruct officers to:
- revise the Changing Lives model as identified in this report to deliver better outcomes;
 - work with NYCC to look at options around improving dual diagnosis;
 - review and re-instigate the 'No Second Night Out' protocol;
 - consider ways of raising awareness among the public as to what help can be given to rough sleepers, and who to report identified rough sleepers to; and
 - consider ways of raising awareness of rough sleeping issues amongst Scarborough Borough Councillors e.g. by inviting them to attend tasking groups and homelessness prevention forums.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To protect and improve the existing services which support the prevention of rough sleeping, and to raise awareness of the associated issues.

HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:

Homelessness is a complex issue with a range of different agencies involved in supporting rough sleepers. Although the various organisations work well together, there is a risk that this work suffers through imperfect awareness of joint protocols and respective responsibilities. The greatest risk to these services however, is financial uncertainty, in particular North Yorkshire County Council support for Horton Housing and Changing Lives, and the future of the Flexible Homeless Support Grant and the Council's ability to meet its obligations effectively under the Homelessness Reduction Act. The recommendations in this report seek to mitigate this latter risk through lobbying at a regional and national level, and in general raising awareness about the challenges of rough sleeping in a rural coastal location. There are also risks associated with the current format of the Changing Lives project, which are mitigated by proposals to reconfigure the service.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This review, chaired by Councillor Heather Phillips and Councillor Lynn Bastiman (post-17 May 2018 when Cllr Phillips became a Portfolio Holder), was commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Board so as to support the Council's aspiration within its Housing Strategy, to end rough sleeping in the Borough, to formulate a series of recommendations to reduce rough sleeping, to raise awareness amongst the Council of the complexity of this issue, raise the profile of homelessness issues generally, and to use the adopted recommendations from the review to inform the delivery of the Council's Housing Strategy.

- 1.2 The findings of the review are drawn from the Task Group's series of meetings with the various partnership projects that support the prevention of rough sleeping in Scarborough Borough, and from the Council's Community Impact Team, and also from the Emmaus Hull and East Riding Project as a comparator.



Director

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Background Papers:

None.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT OR WISH TO INSPECT ANY OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER DONALDSON (SEE CONTACT DETAILS ABOVE)