

	REPORT TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD TO BE HELD ON 4 July 2018	
	Topic	Rough Sleeping
Corporate All Aims	Task Group (if applicable)	Rough Sleeping Task Group

REVIEW OF ROUGH SLEEPING IN SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH

Report of the O&S Task Group (reference 18/130)

WARDS AFFECTED: All.

REASON REPORT REQUESTED: This review was commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Board following a presentation to the Board by the Housing Manager, Andrew Rowe in July 2017.

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To present the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the findings and recommendations of this review.

STATUS OF REPORT: This report is the work of the Member Task Group, on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, and where opinions are expressed it should be pointed out that they are not necessarily those of Scarborough Borough Council. Whilst we have sought to draw on this review to make recommendations and suggestions that are helpful to the Council and its partners, our work has been designed solely for the purpose of discharging our terms of reference. Accordingly, our work cannot be relied upon to identify every area of strength, weakness or opportunity for improvement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The Task Group wishes to thank all those who participated in the review – the Castle Health Centre Rough Sleeping Nurse Advisor, Changing Lives Project, Citizens Advice Bureau, Emmaus Project (Hull and East Riding), Rainbow Centre, Horton Housing, North Yorkshire Horizons, Salvation Army, and Scarborough Community Impact Team – all helped us to gather evidence.

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.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Task Group responsible for this review comprises Councillors Heather Phillips (Chair), Lynn Bastiman, Michelle Donohue-Moncrieff, Tony Randerson, and John Ritchie and with officer support from Andrew Rowe (Housing Services), Chris Brown (Housing Services), Sandra Rees and Anna Button (Community and Safeguarding Services) and Heather Donaldson (Democratic Services).

Objectives of the review

- To support the Council's aspiration within its Housing Strategy, to end rough sleeping in the Borough.
- To formulate a series of costed recommendations to reduce rough sleeping and associated street culture behaviour (e.g. street drinking, begging, anti-social behaviour) in the Borough.
- To raise awareness amongst the Council of the complexity of this issue and to raise the profile of homelessness issues generally.
- To use the adopted recommendations from the review to inform the delivery of the Council's Housing Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In February 2017 the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Board were sought on the Council's Housing Strategy 2017-2021. The strategy provided an overview of housing-related issues in the Borough, and identified the Council's key objectives. A key objective within that strategy is to end rough sleeping within the Borough. This aspiration reflects the Government's pledge to end and halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminate it by 2027.

2.2 The Board considered elements of the Housing Strategy for inclusion in its 2017/18 work programme, and these included elements of the strategy which related to the Homelessness Reduction Bill, and rough sleeping in the Borough.

2.2 On 13 September 2017, the Board considered the scope for a review of rough sleeping in Scarborough Borough, aimed at examining the elements which contributed to rough sleeping, how agencies could improve their partnership working, and how the numbers of rough sleepers could be reduced. The Overview and Scrutiny Board identified the following principal areas of investigation by the Task Group:

- What services and interventions are already in place to tackle the issue of rough sleeping? How sustainable are they? Are they effective?
- What are the gaps in service provision?
- What can the Council learn from other local authorities/agencies?

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 In addition to a survey of the implications of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (**Appendix 1**) and background information on why people end up sleeping rough and the Council's powers to help them (**Appendix 2**), the Task Group has engaged in the following evidence-gathering sessions:

- **1 November 2017:** Early morning rough sleeper sweep of Scarborough, followed by clients' breakfast at the Rainbow Centre. An opportunity to meet current and former rough-sleepers, and the staff from numerous organisations who work with them. Councillors and Officers participated.
- **8 December 2018:** Visit by Cllr Phillips to the Salvation Army, Scarborough.
- **Week commencing 15 January 2018:** Cllr Phillips attended an officer and multi-agency tasking group at SBC led by Sandra Rees, providing an insight into how all the different agencies share and act on intelligence received.
- **16 January 2018:** visit to the Rainbow Centre, Scarborough, by Cllrs Randerson and Ritchie.
- **23 January 2018:** Cllrs L Bastiman and H Phillips visited the Changing Lives Project, Scarborough.
- **29 January 2018:** Full Task Group/Officer benchmarking exercise to the Hull and East Riding Emmaus Project based in Hull. Kelly Thompson, Emmaus Project Director and Tim Gammon, Housing Strategy Policy Officer at East Riding of Yorkshire Council were present to answer questions and show the Group around the project.
- **27 April 2018:** Visit to Castle Health Centre, Scarborough, by Cllr L Bastiman and Phillips, to interview a nurse who supports rough sleepers in Scarborough.
- **9 May 2018:** Informal Task Group/Officer discussion at the Town Hall with representatives of local projects and organisations supporting rough sleepers, including some of the organisations otherwise unreachable (North Yorkshire Horizons, Salvation Army, Changing Lives, Horton Housing, Rainbow Centre, Scarborough Citizens' Advice Bureau).
- The Task Group has also met together on six occasions to assess the evidence gathered.

3.2 At each of the project/partnership visits, information specifically relevant to the principal areas of investigation was gathered as well as general opinion on the current and future challenges affecting rough sleeping prevention in Scarborough Borough. The discussions with Scarborough’s partnership projects were based around a series of questions which can be found at **Appendix 3** to the report.

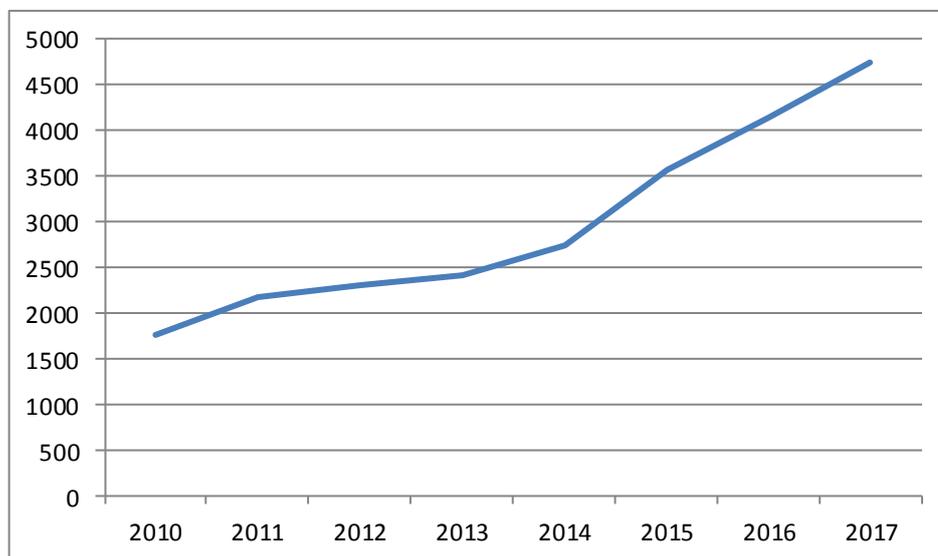
4. FINDINGS AND ASSESSMENT

4.1 Levels of Rough Sleeping in the Borough

4.1.1 The national level of rough sleeping has steadily been increasing in recent years. According to Government statistics rough sleeping in England has increased for the seventh year in a row.

4.1.2 There were 4,751 people counted or estimated to be bedding down outside in autumn November - a 15% rise on the year before and more than double the figure recorded five years ago. The figures provide a snapshot of rough sleeping on a typical night and showed about a quarter were in London.

Number of Rough Sleepers National (HCLG Homelessness Statistics – 2018)

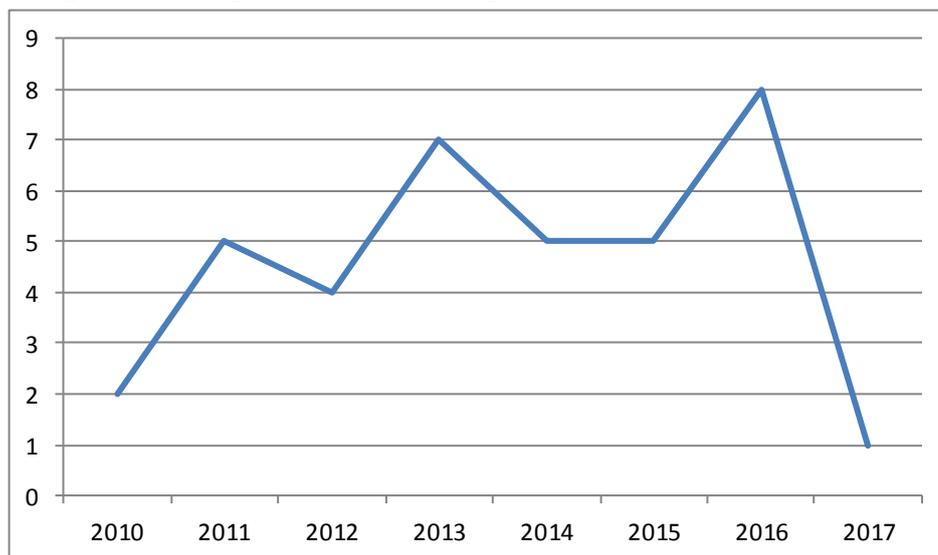


4.1.3 Although London accounted for almost a quarter of all rough sleepers, figures for individual authorities showed that many coastal towns such as Brighton and Hove, Southend-on-Sea, Eastbourne and Blackpool all recorded high rates. In Brighton there were 178 rough sleepers.

4.1.4 At the local level there is no real discernible trend around rough sleeping. Indeed the most recent official figure (submitted in November 2017) estimated

that only one person was sleeping rough at that time. This estimate was based on the outcomes of early morning ‘sweeps’ and through consultation with key partner agencies. This was a reduction on previous years and a reduction on the 8 rough sleepers that were identified in November 2016. Indeed on the morning that the task group accompanied agencies to identify rough sleepers in ‘hot spot’ areas only one rough sleeper was identified.

Rough Sleeping Levels – Borough



4.1.5 It is important to note however that rough sleeping within the Borough varies dramatically. Numbers can fluctuate and more people sleep rough during the summer months than during the winter. Local counts and intelligence have suggested that numbers have been as high as 20 previously. At the time of writing this report it is estimated that 8 individuals are currently sleeping rough in the Borough.

4.2 Services within the Borough that work to end Rough Sleeping

4.2.1 The Councils Housing Options Service

The Council has a range of statutory duties towards the homeless and these duties are discharged through the Council’s Housing Options team. This service provides housing advice, works to prevent homelessness and provides a statutory safety net to homeless households through the provision of temporary accommodation and the discharge of duty into permanent homes (either with social landlords or via private tenancies).

The Council’s housing options and homelessness service has historically been recognised for its good practice, and in 2016 was judged to be ‘good’ following a ‘Homelessness Gold Standard’ NPSS peer review.

The duties of the Council fundamentally increased in 2018 through the introduction of the **Homelessness Reduction Act 2017**. This act has particular implications in relation to services provided to rough sleepers. It

requires the Council to develop homeless prevention and relief plans to all homeless households (regardless of priority need and local connection to an area). Additional and ring-fenced funding was provided to the Council to help meet these new obligations in the form of Flexible Homeless Support Grant.

To support the new legislation, the Council was awarded a net increase of £138,000 in 2017/18 and £159,000 in 2018/19 through flexible homeless support grant. A further increase of £165,000 is allocated for 2019/20. Whilst a proportion of this ring fenced funding is being used to help offset housing benefit subsidy changes, the remainder is being used to bolster the Council's approach to prevention. This has included the recruitment of prevention officers and additional incentives for landlords to accommodate homeless people. To date only a proportion of these funds have been spent (a net increase of 2 staff) as the service feels its way with new legislation.

There is no long-term certainty around the future provision of the Flexible Homeless Support Grant.

Overall the Council's budget for homelessness in 2018/19 is £528,000. The majority of these costs relate to staffing £311,000 and the provision of temporary accommodation £120,000.

The Council spends £80,000 per year on services directly intended to reduce rough sleeping.

4.2.2 Community Impact Team (CIT)

The Community Impact Team plays an integral role in both helping to reduce levels of rough sleeping within the Borough along with the management of issues around tackling anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.

In partnership with the Community Safety Team, the Police, the Housing Options Team and Voluntary Sector partners, the CIT coordinates rough sleeper sweeps within the Borough. The purpose of these sweeps is to identify rough sleepers and to make efforts for these individuals to engage with services.

In addition, through the CIT rough sleeping 'tasking' meetings are held between agencies. Again the purpose of these meetings is to co-ordinate efforts between agencies to tackle rough sleeping and associated issues.

4.2.3 Rainbow Centre:

The Rainbow Centre is a key 'front-line' service in relation to it tackling rough sleeping. A social action project based in Scarborough, it is a registered charity and was set up in 1997 to address issues faced by homeless people. The project helps a range of community members, including the homeless, families in crisis and individuals facing challenges due to a history of substance misuse, poverty or returning from prison. The project has a strong church base – originally set up by congregation members from St Mary's and

Holy Apostles Church – and is supported by a range of individuals, churches, charities, local business and government.

In partnership with Horton Housing (see below) the Rainbow Centre is commissioned by the Council to provide a number of key services to help engage with and safeguard rough sleepers.

These services include **Winter Watch** (£20,000 per annum). This service provides an emergency service in severe weather conditions to all rough sleepers needing shelter during the winter months. This service is provided in addition to the Council's normal out-of-hours emergency homeless arrangements.

The Rainbow Centre also provides **Day Services** (£12,000) and on the Council's behalf run an **Assisted Travel Scheme** (£8,000). The purpose of this scheme is to help rough sleepers with no connection to the Borough relocate back to accommodation and support networks where they have somewhere safe to return.

4.2.4 Changing Lives Project:

Commissioned by North Yorkshire County Council with funding contributions from NYCC, Scarborough Borough Council and Yorkshire Coast Homes, the aim of the service is to change the lives of the most chaotic homeless individuals in Scarborough Borough to enable them to achieve positive sustainable outcomes, whilst reducing the financial strain on local resources.

The service provides intensive support to up to 18 individuals, offering timely access to a wide range of support services that work flexibly to engage and meet the needs of this particularly complex and chaotic client group. The service has two elements: (1) Accommodation Based Support: providing accommodation and intensive support to 6 individuals for a maximum period of two years; (2) Floating Support / Outreach: providing support to 12 individuals in the community.

Run by DISC and in partnership with the Borough Council and key agencies including the Police, clients can be vulnerable and potential victims of abuse, and often have a history of offending, rough sleeping, mental health problems and drug/alcohol problems.

The Borough Council makes a direct financial contribution to support this service (£40,000 per annum).

4.2.5 Horton Housing

Commissioned by NYCC, Horton Housing provides support services to 90 homeless people at any one time across the Borough.

Support is offered through a variety of means for people who live in the Borough, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or are vulnerable and need help to maintain their tenancy.

All homeless people placed by the Council in any form of temporary accommodation are offered support by default through Horton Housing. Essentially this means they are provided with a holistic assessment of their support needs and a support plan is developed and implemented to help them sustain their accommodation and sustain accommodation when they move on. Support workers work hand-in-hand with the Council's housing options service and the temporary accommodation provider.

4.2.6 North Yorkshire Horizons

This service, commissioned by NYCC, offers a range of free non-judgemental and confidential services for individuals and their families whose lives are affected by drugs and/or alcohol.

The service aims to support people to stay safe and live happier, healthier lives free from drugs and alcohol, through the provision of experienced professionals who work one-to-one with people to develop a treatment and recovery plan. NY Horizons also offers group therapy, family support, health screening, detox, and peer-mentoring.

4.2.7 Castle Health Centre Nurse Service:

This service offers healthcare and advice to rough sleepers and the homeless through a drop-in service. The work is carried out by one dedicated nurse offering a wide range of services three days a week for a total of 24 hours. This sole nurse also undertakes outreach work, which can involve visiting known rough sleepers on the streets or in squats – wherever they feel safest. People can be referred from any agency.

4.2.8 Salvation Army:

The Salvation Army is a faith-based and charitable organisation which offers support to rough sleepers by meeting their immediate needs of food and shelter, transport and crisis finances. They work in close partnership with the Rainbow Centre to support rough sleepers on the streets on a weekly basis. The Salvation Army is financed by donations and given excellent support by its local congregation.

4.2.9 Whilst the above services have a specific remit around tackling rough sleeping it is important to note that there are a range of other organisations that play a key part in supporting the Council to tackle and prevent homelessness. These include **Foundation Housing**, who provide both homeless prevention and accommodation for homeless young people as well as accommodation and support to offenders; **Domestic Abuse Services**, who provide a range of services to support victims of domestic violence and the **Citizens' Advice Bureau** which provides free, confidential and impartial advice to people with money, benefit, housing or employment problems.

5.0 ASSESSMENT

5.1 Partnership Working

5.1.2 One of the key findings the review has highlighted is the genuine and passionate commitment between agencies to work together to prevent rough sleeping in the Borough.

5.1.3 There is excellent communication between the partnership organisations and a genuine desire to work together and meet to discuss their issues. Most of the staff members between different organisations know each other, and they are already very effective collaborators. These organisations also work well with the Council and the Community Impact Team. These factors, coupled with the broad range of services available are probably the main reason why rough sleeping prevention is comparatively successful in Scarborough. Regular rough sleeper sweeps and multi-agency problem solving appear to work and help the Council to keep a grip on the issue.

5.1.4 It was apparent during the review however that not all staff members from all agencies were fully aware of all the joint protocols in place. For example not all organisations were fully aware of the out-of-hours emergency arrangements that are in place or indeed who to contact where rough sleepers are identified.

5.1.5 In 2013 the Council adopted a **No Second Night Out** protocol:

<https://democracy.scarborough.gov.uk/documents/s54837/13374>

Essentially this protocol is an agreement and commitment between all agencies to work together to ensure that nobody should spend more than one night out on the streets and that everybody should receive some form of housing and support option.

5.1.6 The Council coordinates a broader Homelessness Strategy Steering Group between agencies on a quarterly basis. It is recommended that through that group the No Second Night Out agreement is refreshed and relaunched with the intention of reinvigorating that commitment and understanding between different organisations. At the same time it is recommended that new refreshed publicity around this pledge, e.g. information for the public as to how

they can best help rough sleepers and who to report identified rough sleepers to, is relaunched.

5.7 Financial Uncertainty

- 5.7.1 Whilst it is clear that range of provision and work done by agencies is positive and contributes to relatively low rough sleeping levels, the biggest issue that came out of the review was the level of financial uncertainty for key services going forward and the impact on levels of rough sleeping, should they end. .
- 5.7.2 The Council funds a range of services to prevent rough sleeping (see Paragraph 4.2) and faces significant financial challenges and savings targets of its own. Specific services provided to rough sleepers are very much additional to the 'statutory' core duties the Council has toward the homeless. However it is clear that these services play a vital role. For example in 2017/18 the winter-watch service provided emergency accommodation to over 100 people. Without this kind of emergency provision there is a very real risk that some people would die from the cold during the winter months.
- 5.7.3 Whilst it is within the gift of the Council to make decisions around its own budgets, of greater concern is the uncertainty around the future funding for services commissioned by NYCC. Funding for a range of key services around homelessness was historically provided from Government in the form of a ring fenced Supporting People grant. This grant was administered by upper tier authorities. Some years ago the ring fence to this grant was removed and commissioning arrangements were ended.
- 5.7.4 NYCC face significant savings pressures and contracts for key services, (Horton Housing and Changing Lives), both end in September 2019. There is no certainty going forward as to whether they will be recommissioned.
- 5.7.5 Indications from NYCC are that the contract for Changing Lives may be extended to tally with a wider savings review being undertaken by Government in relation to the provision of accommodation based support services nationally. Whilst there is a recognition that the Changing Lives Service needs to be reconfigured, the potential loss to any service that provides both accommodation and support to the most chaotic individuals is likely to have a direct impact on rough sleeping levels in the Borough.
- 5.7.6 There is much uncertainty however around the Horton contract. This service plays an integral role in helping the Council meet its core statutory duties. Should this contract end then there is a strong likelihood that the housing association temporary accommodation provider used by the Council to meet its statutory duties would stop working with the Council. Quite simply, the provision of a large number of flats for homeless people without the provision of housing support would be financially unviable and unsustainable. Any such change would have significant cost implications for the Council. In addition the loss of such a support service (that helps vulnerable people sustain tenancies) would have a further knock-on effect on levels of homelessness and rough sleeping more generally.

5.7.7 It is recommended that the importance of these services and the implications of potential cuts to these services are fully understood by North Yorkshire County Council and that representations are made to the County on this issue.

5.8 Implications of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017

5.8.1 The task group recognises that the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act has significant implications for the Council. It broadens the duties of the Council towards homeless people. It requires the Council to provide a more meaningful service to all homeless people regardless of their history or where they come from. The Act means that more work will be done with rough sleepers in the future because Housing Relief Plans must be developed.

5.8.2 Whilst the aspirations and intentions of this Act are positive, without sufficient levels of funding to support its implementation, there is a very real risk that the new legislation shall not have its desired impact.

5.8.3 There is no long-term certainty around additional funds paid to the Council and the wider funding pressure on all areas of Local Government (including NYCC) could mean an increase in homelessness and rough sleeping, particularly if housing support services are cut to offset financial pressure on social care.

5.8.4 It is recommended that the Council lobby central government to emphasise what the real issues are regarding problems with rough sleeping in a rural coastal location, and invite our MPs to visit and see the true picture of what is going on. The Council needs to challenge them to consider the application of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, in the light of the overall additional funding situation that could hamper the Act's aspirations.

5.9 Range of Provision and Reconfiguration of Changing Lives Service

5.9.1 In general the overall the range of services provided for rough sleepers in the Borough is good (see Paragraph 4).

5.9.2 It was clear from the visits and round table discussion that whilst emergency provision and services are available for rough sleepers there is often a real frustration amongst agencies as to what to do with the most chaotic individuals who simply will not engage, or will not take up offers of housing or who are simply too chaotic for the range of services available.

5.9.3 In 2012/13 the Council developed the Changing Lives Service specifically to tackle these issues around the most chaotic and difficult to work with individuals: <https://democracy.scarborough.gov.uk/documents/s47035/12465>

- 5.9.4 The Cambridge Centre was originally commissioned to provide this service. The contract was extended in 2015. In 2016/17 the Cambridge Centre was amalgamated with DISC.
- 5.9.5 It was concluded by the task group following their visit and discussions with the provider and other agencies that whilst the Changing Lives model is playing a role in 'managing behaviour' and preventing certain individuals from sleeping rough, to date the original aspirations of the project to help turn round the lives of the most chaotic individuals are not being met.
- 5.9.6 Other issues identified were very high staff turnover within the project, low morale within the staffing, issues around staff safety, a lack of access to specialist mental health services, problems with anti-social behaviour, and problems with clients who would not engage. It was also clear that the expectations of some agencies was too high and the original aspiration of the project too ambitious. This feedback very much mirrored problems highlighted by the provider. A key issue highlighted by the provider has been problems with certain clients not engaging or indeed threatening other residents and staff. When this has happened the provider has not been able to evict the client quickly (because of the length of the legal process). Where this has taken months to resolve it has significantly hampered the ability of the provider provide meaningful services to other occupants.
- 5.9.7 It is therefore a key recommendation of the task group that work needs to be done to address these issues and to ensure that project does not fold and provides better outcomes. Overall the need for such a scheme is very much recognised by the task group.
- 5.9.8 Following the task group's review, officers have commenced discussions with NYCC and DISC around options to reconfigure the service. Several ideas are being explored to both help sustain the project and improve outcomes overall. These include:
- The potential development of a 'staged' approach to the provision of accommodation. Essentially this would mean developing an additional first stage facility (that provides shared accommodation and intensive management and support). The benefits of such an approach would be that within the first stage residents have no real security of tenure reducing the risk to the provider and introducing an element of sanction within the scheme. Those clients who undermine the scheme or who show no willingness whatsoever to change would effectively be filtered out from the scheme early on. Those clients who show a willingness to change and engage with the service would quickly move onto stage 2 within the scheme, which would be the existing facility at Newburn House.
 - A review of some of the existing referral arrangements to the scheme.
 - The ending of the 'outreach' element of the scheme to focus all resources on the accommodation-based element of the scheme.

5.9.9 This emphasis on working with clients that show some reasonable prospect of changing echoes with the ethos of the Emmaus Project in Hull, visited by the task group in January. That project also works with homeless people with drug and alcohol problems and very much focusses on those clients who want to change. Whilst this approach does of course mean that the resources spent by the Council and NYCC are targeted to those more likely to achieve a positive outcome, it also means that those clients with no willingness to change become further excluded from service provision.

5.9.10 At the present time these are just ideas that are being explored. Clearly any service reconfiguration would need to be done within the context of the financial challenges highlighted in this report. Outcomes from any agreed changes shall be highlighted to Members as part of the Council's Homeless Strategy and Review this autumn.

5.10 Dual Diagnosis

5.10.1 The key challenge identified by the task group and highlighted by all agencies is the challenge of those who have a dual diagnosis, e.g. they have mental health problems and drug and/or alcohol addiction. The two problems exacerbate and contribute to one another.

5.10.2 Although NY Horizons offers a great deal of support in relation to drugs and alcohol withdrawal, the difficulty is that mental health services tend not to provide support to people if they also have drug/alcohol problems, and specify that these addictions must be dealt with first. This is understandable in part, on the grounds that it could be difficult to give a proper mental health diagnosis whilst the client is affected by drugs and alcohol. However, many clients would find it particularly challenging or impossible to cope if required to tackle their addictions without mental health support.

5.10.3 There was a clear view echoed by agencies that more needs to be done around this issue of dual diagnosis. Too often it is this client group that falls through the net simply because they are too challenging to deal with.

5.10.4 It is recommended by the task group that these issues need to be flagged up and highlighted with NYCC (who commission both mental health and drug and alcohol services). Work has already commenced around this and officers are working up proposals to put to North Yorkshire County Council around better join-up and resourcing in this area. Outcomes from these discussions will be highlighted as part of the Councils Homelessness Strategy Review in October 2018.

5.11 Public and Member Awareness

5.11.1 A key objective of the review was to raise awareness around some of the difficulties and complexities around the issue of rough sleeping. For the task group members this has very much been achieved and we are grateful to the agencies that have given their time to support the review.

5.11.2 The task group further recommends that more work is done to raise awareness of rough sleeping issues amongst Scarborough Borough Councillors more generally, including invites to attend tasking groups and homelessness prevention forums.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.11 The Rough Sleeping Task Group seeks the Overview and Scrutiny Board's endorsement of the following recommendations to the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Housing/Cabinet:

To 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.

To 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-institute 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.

6 IMPLICATIONS

Policy

6.1 None.

Legal

6.2 None.

Financial Implications

6.3 There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report. However, the financial and human costs of any government/NYCC funding cuts would be significant and are likely to have a serious detrimental impact upon local support mechanisms. Potentially the cost to the public purse would be greater than the amount of the cuts themselves.

Environmental and sustainability implications

6.4 None

Equalities and Diversity, Staffing Implications, Planning Implications, Crime and Disorder Implications

6.5 None.

Cllr Lynn Bastiman Chair of the Rough Sleeping Task Group

Background papers:

None

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT
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