

### **(CCC) Homelessness**

1. How many people in total has your authority accommodated (for at least one night) under the 'Everyone In', 'Protect' or 'Protect Plus' initiatives since March 2020?
2. Of the total number set out in (1) above, how many people are: (a) in emergency accommodation; (b) in settled accommodation; (c) in supported accommodation; (d) reconnected with family or friends; (e) no longer accommodated, having left accommodation without move on accommodation; or (f) no longer accommodated, (no destination recorded)?
3. Of the total number set out in (1) above, how many people have also been recorded by the authority on the H-CLIC recording system as being owed a prevention or relief duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017?
4. Regarding those not eligible for housing support under the Housing Act 1996, Part 7:
  - (a) Following the announcement of Everyone In on 26 March 2020, did your authority accommodate people who were ineligible for housing support under that initiative? If so, how many?
  - (b) Does your authority continue to accommodate people who are ineligible for housing support? If so, how many?
  - (c) How many people judged to be, or at risk of, sleeping rough have been turned down for housing support since 26th March 2020 because they were judged to be ineligible for housing support?
  - (d) If your authority no longer, as a matter of policy, accommodates people who are ineligible for housing support, when was that policy decision made and for what reason? Please provide a copy of the decision.
5. Please provide a copy of your authority's most recent rough sleeping 'move on' plan. This is the plan that was requested to be updated by the end of 2020 by the Secretary of State for Housing and Communities in his announcement of 5 November 2020.<sup>1</sup>

### **Response:**

Please see the attached documents 'CCC FOI 8705: Everyone In' and 'Annex A' which contain the response to your questions.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to [foi@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:foi@cambridge.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Published Local Authority Rough Sleeping Delivery Plan

Local Authority:	Cambridge
Total NSAP Funding Allocated (short-term immediate move on)	£ 963,483
Total RSI Funding Allocated	£ 486,457
Total Cold Weather Funding Allocated	£ up to 90,000
Total RSAP Funding Allocated (long-term capital and/or revenue for homes)	£ nil
<b>Total Rough Sleeping Funding Allocated 2020/21</b>	<b>£ 1,539,940</b>

### Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

What is your local area target for reducing rough sleeping during this year, and subsequent years?
We aim to bring our nightly counts below 10, then to below 5 within the lifetime of our rough sleeper strategy, with the ultimate aim that nobody needs to rough sleep on the streets of Cambridge.
Do you have a published Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy? If so, please provide a link
Our strategy is due for publication in early 2021. A draft (for consultation) is available here: <a href="https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/8846/draft-homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy.pdf">https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/8846/draft-homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy.pdf</a>

### Key Objectives

#### **End rough sleeping**

What is the overall plan for ending rough sleeping in your local authority?
From the draft strategy, our interventions can be summarised as follows:  <b>PREVENTING ROUGH SLEEPING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve our understanding of the nature and causes of rough sleeping in Cambridge.</li><li>• Work with partners to understand how prevention activities as a whole can help identify those at risk of rough sleeping and help to intervene early to prevent the flow of new rough sleepers onto the streets.</li><li>• Gain a better understanding of where rough sleepers have come from, develop a more proactive approach to reconnecting rough sleepers to where they came from, and review the offer available to those without a local connection.</li><li>• Aim to keep the number of rough sleepers below 10 for any one count, reducing to five through the lifetime of the strategy; and agree additional targets around length of stay and time taken to make a housing offer.</li></ul>

- Work with partners to explore how an emergency accommodation offer can be made available for anyone sleeping rough across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – with consideration for those leaving hospital and other medical settings
- Review the current approach to education around homelessness prevention amongst young people.
- Review the current approach to street begging and anti-social behaviour.
- For people thought to have no recourse to public funds, ensure help is available for those who may wish to apply for pre-settled or settled status.
- Promote and support effective implementation of the young people's assessment and care leaver protocols across all relevant partners.
- Review the prison leavers' protocol and identify how prison leavers' housing needs can be identified and addressed at an earlier stage.
- Work with South Cambridgeshire District Council to help prevent single homelessness within their district.

### **BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CHRONIC AND REPEAT STREET HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING**

- Work with providers to help speed up move on from hostels, whilst at the same time reviewing how evictions and abandonments can be reduced (we may use NSAP money to create space for rough sleepers by moving hostel residents)
- Work with providers to review the scope and effectiveness of hostel-based support, particularly in relation to move-on advice.
- Explore whether being excluded from moving on due to previous breaches of tenancy can be prevented.
- Work with sub-regional authorities to help improve City access to existing hostel beds.
- Work with the County Council to assess what balance between hostel and other accommodation might be appropriate going forwards.
- Promote and make private rented housing a more attractive option, to help make it available to a wider range of applicants (this links to the NSAP funding)
- Review the effectiveness of the Housing First model of provision and explore whether it should be extended to include private rented sector homes (possibly linked to NSAP).
- Explore with social housing providers whether there are opportunities for short life or low demand social housing available, including to single sharers.
- Expand the provision of modular homes and explore other innovative ways of providing accommodation to prevent and relieve single homelessness (this may form part of future NSAP bids)
- Continue to seek and make best use of funding opportunities to purchase new homes to accommodate rough sleepers (this includes the work funded by NSAP)
- Work with the County Council in considering the need for commissioning longer term supported provision for those for whom mainstream housing with support may not be suitable.
- Work collaboratively on shifting emphasis from a mainly streets-based towards more of a home-based service model.

### **Entrenched Rough Sleeping Cohort (Target Priority Group/Target Thousand Group)**

How do you plan to move your long-term and repeat rough sleepers into sustainable accommodation with support?

Our plans include:

- Procurement of 21 self-contained modular homes in partnership with Hill Construction and Jimmy's Cambridge – for individuals with significant support needs;
- Procurement of 12 bedspaces across six homes to be used for individuals with moderate support needs;
- Procurement of 20 PRS homes (one-beds and studios) to be used for individuals with moderate to significant support needs;
- Procurement of up to 37 self-contained properties (of which 8-10 to be available by March 2021) for individuals with complex support needs (Housing First);
- Commensurate support at a ratio of 1:6 (Housing First), 1:10 (Significant needs) and 1:12-15 (moderate needs), delivered in partnership with a range of other services (mental health, substance misuse, dual diagnosis, probation, employment and coaching, mentoring and skill-sharing) – see attached pathways map.

The above comprises both council and MHCLG-funded accommodation and support, as well as buy-in from non-commissioned / grassroots services (who have been crucial in helping us deliver a response to the covid-19 pandemic).

Additionally (and crucially) the plans include speeding up positive move-ons from existing supported accommodation, thus improving the flow from the street into hostel accommodation. We have made direct lets to many hostel residents, thus accelerating their move into social accommodation. We have delivered training on accessing both social and privately-rented accommodation and hold regular workshops to this end.

This year, we are using our SWEP provision as an opportunity to reach out to individuals who have abandoned, refused or been evicted from emergency accommodation offered as part of our pandemic response.

### **Shorter-term/Interim Accommodation & Immediate Support Plan**

How do you plan to move people currently in Emergency Accommodation into longer term provision to prevent a return to rough sleeping?

The plans for both Emergency Accommodation and rough sleepers overlap. The cohort is the same – and those moving into the accommodation listed above may be currently in emergency accommodation or may be rough sleeping.

For some in Emergency Accommodation, we will encourage an interim move to Jimmy's (assessment centre) with a view to moving on from there and benefitting from the support provided within the centre.

### **Longer-term Move-on Accommodation Plan**

How do you plan to deliver and design longer term accommodation and support options to tackle rough sleeping?

To expand on the above:

**Modular homes** – these are designed with rough sleepers in mind: small, dispersed clusters of self-contained accommodation for people who need their own front door in a community setting. The accommodation is of a manageable size for someone who may have never had their own place; it is fully furnished with grants available to help the

individual settle in. The accommodation is commissioned by the council with multi-agency support led by Jimmy's Cambridge.

**PRS accommodation:** we intend to take advantage of more favourable conditions for people seeking PRS accommodation. We will use NSAP money to guarantee the first year's rent for individuals, thus giving landlords assurance whilst individuals settle in. Individuals housed will benefit from council, RSI and NSAP-commissioned support.

**Supported Shared accommodation:** this accommodation has been designed to meet the needs of former rough sleepers who can manage a tenancy with one other person (but who might struggle to sustain accommodation in a larger HMO or within the 'mainstream' private sector).

**Housing First** – the Housing First for Cambridge programme seeks to provide up to 37 homes in the city for individuals with complex support needs and a history of rough sleeping. The programme comprises self-contained homes procured through local authorities, registered providers and (theoretically, at least) private landlords – as well as small clusters comprising HF residents and live-in 'neighbour support' workers.

### Support

The council is working with Cambridgeshire County Council and other partners to commission a comprehensive 'streets to home' service with the aim of helping people rapidly off the streets and into accommodation. A link worker will be required to lead on resettling individuals and ensuring they receive the support they need to get back on their feet. Ensuring that routine homelessness assessments are carried out for all rough sleepers will be part of that process, as will a review of the Jimmy's Cambridge allocations policy.

Once settled, new types of support services will be required which are tailored to individuals' needs, to help prevent people from returning to the streets.

To be successful this will depend on close collaboration with partners, including health and social care related support services, the voluntary sector, businesses and the wider community. We will also need to work closely with existing street-based services and with service users themselves to identify what role they can play in designing and facilitating this shift in approach.

### **Winter Planning**

What are the current winter plans for your local authority?

This year, our winter severe weather emergency provision (SWEP) sits alongside the ongoing offer of accommodation (which forms part of our COVID-19 response).

- **SWEP continues as an 'on-off' service** triggered by periods of cold or otherwise dangerous/unpleasant weather. It will be triggered at 36 hours' notice (so, by 9am Monday for a Tuesday night SWEP).
- **SWEP operates alongside the council's continued pandemic response:** the council has placed over 200 people in emergency accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to do so throughout the winter.
- **This year, SWEP offers a fresh opportunity** for individuals who have refused, abandoned or been evicted from other forms of temporary accommodation (such as the emergency accommodation provided during the COVID-19 pandemic). SWEP guests who manage their accommodation successfully may be offered a winter-long placement.

- **SWEP beds will be available to people are verified as rough sleeping in the city.** SWEP is primarily designed to keep individuals safe and warm when they have no other accommodation options. Therefore, we will not be offering SWEP beds to people who are able to stay temporarily with friends or relatives – though we will continue to work with them to find longer-term housing. Individuals looking to migrate to the city for a SWEP bed will be redirected to their local authority of origin, who will be expected to provide accommodation for them (as part of that authority’s pandemic response). The Cambridge Street Outreach Team (SOT) will be working throughout the winter with partners, to identify rough sleepers and make offers of accommodation, SWEP or otherwise.
- **All SWEP accommodation will be self-contained** with separate washing facilities and the provision of food. We are hopeful that we will house all SWEP guests in the city, but will provide free transport if, on occasion, we need to provide accommodation out of area.
- **SWEP forms only a part of the council’s overall response to rough sleeping and single homelessness.** All SWEP residents will be encouraged and assisted to access support for the city’s many and varied support services (in areas relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, substance misuse, employment, training and so on). SWEP offers an opportunity to begin to link people into the support they may need to stay off the street for good.

We do not have a finalised plan for our Cold Weather Fund bid but it may include:

- Payment of accommodation costs for people who cannot be accommodated within our existing provision;
- Weekend Street Outreach services to help identify rough sleepers and encourage them to access SWEP.

Please delete as appropriate: DRAFT

- *Please indicate whether this is a draft of your published LA Rough Sleeping Delivery Plan or the final version.*