

Briefing Note – Rough Sleeping

The Rough Sleeping Strategy was published in August 2018 which sets out the Government's commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it by 2027. This vision builds on the significant programme of work that is already underway to address homelessness as a whole; that is the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act, more funding and support for local authorities to prevent homelessness and the launch of the Rough Sleeping Initiative.

£100m of investment is available over the next two years and takes a three-pronged approach to ending rough sleeping through prevention, intervention, and recovery.

Prevention - Understanding the issues that lead to rough sleeping and being able to address them before people are forced to sleep on our streets is the focus throughout the strategy. It's clear there is not a one-size-fits-all solution and so the Government will be listening to individual groups (for e.g. LGBT people) to understand how they experience homelessness as well as working to build our understanding of the links between modern slavery and rough sleeping.

They will also be launching a range of new pilots to help those leaving prison find stable and sustainable accommodation and have committed new funding to intensive support for those with complex needs leaving care.

Intervention - Building on the work of the Rough Sleeping Initiative, the Government has aside up to £17 million to fund 'Somewhere Safe to Stay' pilots, to rapidly assess the needs of people at risk of rough sleeping and support them to get the right help. The pilots will work locally with NHS England and Public Health England to fill gaps in health services for people sleeping rough as part of the long term plan for the health and social care. This starts with £2 million this year, and they have asked NHS England to spend up to £30 million over the next 5 years on health services for people who sleep rough.

To support this the Government are also investing in training for front-line staff, including training on how to interact with those under the influence of substances including spice; identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery and domestic abuse; as well as how to effectively support LGBT people who are homeless.

They will be introducing 'navigators', specialists who will act as trusted confidantes to help people sleeping rough access the appropriate services and accommodation.

There's also funding for StreetLink, supporting the public, business and communities to engage positively with people who sleep rough through an improved app.

Recovery - A stable home is an essential element in a person's recovery from sleeping rough but it needs to go hand-in-hand with flexible support that is tailored to individual needs to help them keep it.

This includes £50 million of funding (Move on Funding) that will increase the supply of housing outside of London for people who have slept rough, or those who are ready to move on from hostels or refuges and need additional support. A further £19 million of funding provides flexible support in homes provided exclusively for people with a history of sleeping rough.

There's also funding to help local areas grow enterprises to support vulnerable people into accommodation, offering advice, building stronger relationships with local landlords and making efficient use of local housing supply. Further to this there will now be a homelessness expert in every Job Centre Plus to offer advice, signpost to information and services, and provide support.

In the strategy a shift to cross-departmental working shows that the Government recognises that homelessness and rough sleeping are not just about housing and makes progress in understanding of the complexity of rough sleeping and people's needs, and pledges more for women, non-UK nationals, LGBT people.

Gloucester's current Housing & Homelessness Strategy 2015-2020 recognises the need to develop a new service to meet the needs of rough sleepers, as a consequence, the Outreach Team was commissioned to encourage partnership working with local agencies to support vulnerable former EU workers or other migrants. In conjunction with County a review all accommodation based support services for homeless or vulnerable individuals was undertaken and this will further be re-commissioned. In the Government's new Rough Sleeping Strategy Delivery Plan the Government commits to work with the Local Government Association and Local Authorities to update their strategies and rebadge them as homelessness and rough sleeping strategies, and they are to be made available online and submitted to MHCLG. Local Authorities will also need to report progress and publish annual action plans.

Current Funding Streams/Bids for Rough Sleeping 2018-2020

Funding Stream	Lead	Brief	Outcome/ Date due	Notes
RRP Funding (Rapid rehousing pathway) – MHCLG	County Council	2 x SSTS (Somewhere safe to stay) hubs with specialist staffing. Provision is proposed to be open all year with 24 hour staffing.	Successful	Information on the bid is not to be shared until specs have been finalised with MHCLG. Full information will be released asap.
Cold Weather funding – MHCLG	County Homelessness Coordinator (CHC)	A bid was put in requesting £34,000 for: YMCA (Cheltenham) to extend their winter provision P3 to extend the Outreach team over the Cold Weather period. CCP provide a specialist SWEP worker.	Successful & Completed All evidence and outcomes due on 4 th Feb.	All funds have been allocated & evidence collected.
RSI funding (Rough sleeping initiative) - MHCLG	CHC	Initial bid put in requesting £143,430 for: Increasing Outreach team staffing Increasing Outreach team personalisation budget Increasing CHC (County Homelessness Coordinator) hours to make it a full time post (CHC post currently funded for 1 day by	Original bid sent on 14 th Jan 19. Updated bid due on 14 th February 19.	Formal feedback as been given on original bid with suggested amendments. Have received verbal feedback that bid is likely to be accepted once amendments have been made, but

		SIB, 3 days by Outreach and 1 day is paid for GCC. This bid will enable GCC to be reimbursed for extra working day).		this will be confirmed after final bid sent on 14 th Feb.
Move-on Fund -Homes England	To Be Confirmed (TBC)	Purpose of bid is to: increase the supply of suitable move on accommodation, helping people to recover by meeting the needs of those leaving rough sleeping, homelessness, and domestic violence. The fund aims to free up hostel and refuge spaces and provide accommodation that people can move straight into from the streets to avoid having to stay in a hostel or refuge all together.	Bids open until 30th September 2020	We have an opportunity to complete more than one bid for this. Discussions planned for CHIG+ re: potential bid for further Rough sleeping accommodation & further Places of Safety for Domestic Abuse
Offenders Accommodation Pilot – MOJ and MHCLG	TBC	The pilot offers accommodation and support for two years for male offenders. To cover HMP Bristol – estimated 80 service users; average 6 per month.	Tender will be launched on 13 th February 2019 and will be due in 14 th March 2019.	Conversation to be held in CHIG+ to discuss potential bid.
Private rented Sector access fund – MHCLG	Tewkesbury borough Council	To enable better access and sustainment of tenancies for those who are, or at risk of becoming homeless and rough sleeping by: Extending Housing Register (Homeseekerplus) to provide an advertising platform for inspected 'fit to rent' private sector properties. Provide a range of incentives to landlords to join a 'fit to rent scheme' Fund two full time staff members for 2 years Homeseekerplus private sector tenancy support officer Homeseekerplus private sector coordinator	Initial bid sent off in Nov 2018.	Sent off bid and has received feedback. Bid currently being amended.
Care Leavers at risk of rough sleeping funding	County Council	Can only be bid on by County Council. No further information known yet.		

CHIG+ = County Homelessness Implementation Group, attendees are Districts, County, NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group & Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)