

Covid

Rough Sleepers and Complex Homeless

Purpose

- Outline Government advice to protect rough sleepers/complex homeless during the Covid emergency □
- Describe the partnership response including what we did, and lesson's learned □
- Outline anticipated short-term pressures □
- Describe how the rough sleeper response relates to other areas of ongoing strategic housing/health activity □
- To suggest some ideas for taking forward partnership work, and to seek the support of the Health & Wellbeing Board through specific recommendations

Background

- MHCLG instruction
- Somerset Response
 - Homelessness Cell
 - Accommodation

Clients Supported

Totals	MDC	SDC	SWT	SSDC
Accommodated	20	27 (at peak)	68 (at peak)	53 (36 at peak)
Refusing to engage	4	6	9	Varies: 2 to 6
Evicted	5	4	3	7
Moved on	10	9	10	22

Partnership working

The five headline achievements were as follows:

- Rapid delivery of appropriate accommodation and support
- Speed of decision making □
- Joined-up /partnership approach between housing, health and care
- A commitment from providers to help □
- Success stories - many residents (54 total) stabilised and able to move on

The Homelessness Cell has recently taken stock of the Covid rough sleeper response and is preparing a report for consideration by the Community Resilience Cell. Some of the emerging themes are as follows:

- The importance / success of joint working
- To recognise the complexity of housing related work
- The revolving door (clients continually in and out of a range of services) - how do we stop this?
- Thresholds and dual diagnosis - linked to the 'revolving door'
- Patient or homeless person? Are we viewing people correctly?
- Equality of access to support across Somerset
- The importance of tenancy support - how do we maintain delivery?

In the short term

Pressures

- Economic impacts
- Pressures on families
- Another Covid spike?
- Lack of move on accommodation
- Need to decant clients in to self contained accommodation

MHCLG Advice

- Move away from hostel provision
- Hub approach
- Integration of housing with health / care (joint commissioning)
- Employment, skills and training

Other related work

- LGA Improvement Plan - Better Futures for Vulnerable People in Somerset
- Positive Live - recommission (SSHG)
- P2I - recommission (Children and YP Services)
- Vulnerability Pathways - Understanding the journey into homelessness for adults in Somerset with complex needs (Public Health)
- Homeless Health Needs Audit (Public Health)
- Neighbourhoods (CCG)
- Health, Care and Housing Memorandum of Understanding (HWBB)

Going forward...

A commitment to view rough sleeping as a health, care and housing issue

A commitment to maintain Homelessness Cell partner engagement for the short term

To explore the concept of Homelessness Reduction Board for Somerset

To seek approval for research into a business case for integrated commissioning (housing, health and care)