

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

HOMELESSNESS (ROUGH SLEEPERS) TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

To further develop the multi agency approach to rough sleepers.

To reduce/eliminate rough sleeping in Northampton.

2. Outcomes Required

To develop an awareness and ownership of the issues of rough sleeping with all relevant partner agencies.

To understand the impact it has on policy and resources.

To recommend the development of a Rough Sleepers Strategy or Action Plan.

To agree a common definition of rough sleeping.

To agree the resources required and to assess value for money.

3. Information Required

- The relevant Council Strategies including affordable housing and the Homelessness Strategy
- The Council's Rough Sleepers' Strategy/Policy
- Best practice Strategies/Policies
- Ethnic origins and immigration status of rough sleepers
- Number of hostel spaces available
- Voluntary sector funding
- Details of the annual Rough Sleeping Count
- Details of the Local Area Agreement and the potential for addressing rough sleeping
- Help provided by local churches to rough sleepers
- Information from Maple Centre regarding health issues of rough sleepers

4. Format of Information

- Baseline Data
- Details of budget allocation
- Officer Reports/Presentations

- Rough Sleepers Quarterly Count
- Report back from Councillor Lane `sleeping rough`
- Report back from Rough Sleepers Meetings
- Report back from Soup Runs from the Cathedral (Barrack Road)
- Evidence from stakeholders:-
 - Portfolio Holder (Residential Operations)
 - Prison/Probation Service
 - Welfare Rights
 - Sample of town centre businesses
 - National bodies for rough sleepers such as Homelesslink
 - Rough Sleepers expert from the Department for Communities and Local Government
 - Local Churches
 - CAN
 - Neighbourhood Wardens/PCSO's
 - YMCA
 - Connexions
 - DAT

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Witness Evidence
- Desktop Research/web based
- Attending the quarterly rough sleepers count during November/December 2006
- Attending various meetings of the Homelessness (Rough Sleepers) Action Group
- Views of rough sleepers – hosting a `drop in` session
- Attend one of the Monday evening sessions, from the Cathedral in Barrack Road, offering soup to rough sleepers
- Contact the churches in the town to see what help that they offer to rough sleepers

6. Co-Options to the Review Committee

- Police Representative of the Community Safety Partnership
- Geoff Owens, Town Centre Manager, Town Centre Management.
- Eileen Kelly, Director, Mental Health Service

7. Evidence gathering Timetable

November 2006 to March 2007

2 November 2006 Scoping the review

November – December	Visits:- Quarterly rough sleepers count Cathedral (Barrack Road) – Offering soup to Rough Sleepers’
4 January 2007	Evidence Gathering
8 February	Evidence Gathering
27 February	Evidence Gathering
19 March	Finalise Chair’s report

8. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Fran Rodgers
Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff

9. Resources and Budgets

M Spencer, Housing Services Manager, and L Brede, Housing Needs Team Leader, to provide support and advice.

10 Final report resented by:

Completed by 19 March 2007. Presented by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

11 Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (September/October 2007)