

Report on the impact of the Overview and Scrutiny work on Rough sleeping- 17th September 2012

Northampton Borough Council has made significant progress in developing services for Rough Sleepers since the publication of the Overview and Scrutiny Report.

A copy of the Executive Summary of O&S Homelessness (Rough Sleepers) Report 2007 is attached for information.

Northampton Borough Council was instrumental in ensuring the Places of Change scheme Oasis House, was built with relevant support provided for the 48 customers in residence. This scheme was aimed at addressing the growing demand from single homeless customers and customers sleeping rough. This scheme has helped to reduce rough sleeping in Northampton and provides much needed support to vulnerable single people.

Northampton Borough Council was successful this year in obtaining £250,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government to launch the No Second Night Out initiative to eradicate rough sleeping. Northampton Borough Council was one of only 19 Council's to obtain this funding across England and the second Council outside of London to launch the No Second Night Out scheme.

The No Second Night Out is a simple idea - anyone who ends up on the streets should get rapid help so they don't spend a second night out. It means:

- Encouraging the public to report and refer people sleeping rough for help;
- Rough sleepers being able to quickly access a place of safety, where their needs can be assessed and advice given;
- Rough sleepers being able to access emergency accommodation and other services they need; and
- Reconnecting rough sleepers from another area back to their community, where they can access housing and recovery services, and get support from family and friends.

Northampton Borough Council has now established an assertive outreach service to work with customers who are sleeping rough and provide advice, assistance and support to enable the customers to move from the streets in to accommodation with support.

Northampton Borough Council has received £240,000 during 2012, from Central Government to reduce single homelessness across Northamptonshire and has developed two initiatives:- a Social Lettings Agency and outreach work across Northamptonshire. These initiatives are currently being developed in partnership with all 7 Borough and District Councils in Northamptonshire.

As at the 4th September there are only 4 customers sleeping rough and Northampton Borough Council is working with the Police, Health Agencies and the Community Mental Health Team to assertively prevent these people from continuing to sleep on the streets.