

Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting

Item Title – Winter Provision for Rough Sleepers in Shropshire

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Summary:

The annual rough sleeper count took place in Shropshire the evening of Tuesday 20th November 2018. The figures were submitted to MHCLG as part of the national reporting.

Shropshire entered a figure of 21 verified rough sleepers. The count was formed from a spotlight count in Shrewsbury alongside known verified data from Task Force Meetings to provide an estimate for the market towns.

Housing Services activated Cold Weather Provision (CWP), which is a non-statutory provision of accommodation for all rough sleepers in the County, on Friday 14th December 2018. This will be ongoing till March 2019. CWP is an offer of accommodation to all current known rough sleepers as well as any that present during the winter months. This provision offers stability and security to rough sleepers identified by Shropshire's taskforce, and presents different opportunities for officers to engage with and provide support to those requiring it. Assistance is provided to explore a range of accommodation options in an attempt to find suitable, permanent accommodation away from street homelessness.

For those who refuse the offer of CWP there will be an offer of Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) during times when the weather is considered severe. An example of this would be consecutive nights of below freezing temperature. SWEP is offered in conjunction with Shrewsbury Ark utilising a mixture of volunteers and officers to staff the provision. To date this year, 3 nights of SWEP has been offered.

The Outreach service continues throughout the winter period, attending any reports of rough sleepers and making them aware of the advice and support available. Outreach covers the whole of Shropshire. How to report a rough sleeper is included at Appendix A of this report.

Financial Implications

MHCLG has funded Shropshire Council £20,000 towards the cost of Cold Weather Provision for the winter months of 2018/2019.

Recommendations

This report is for information only and the HWBB is requested to note its contents as well as circulate the 'how to report information' accordingly.

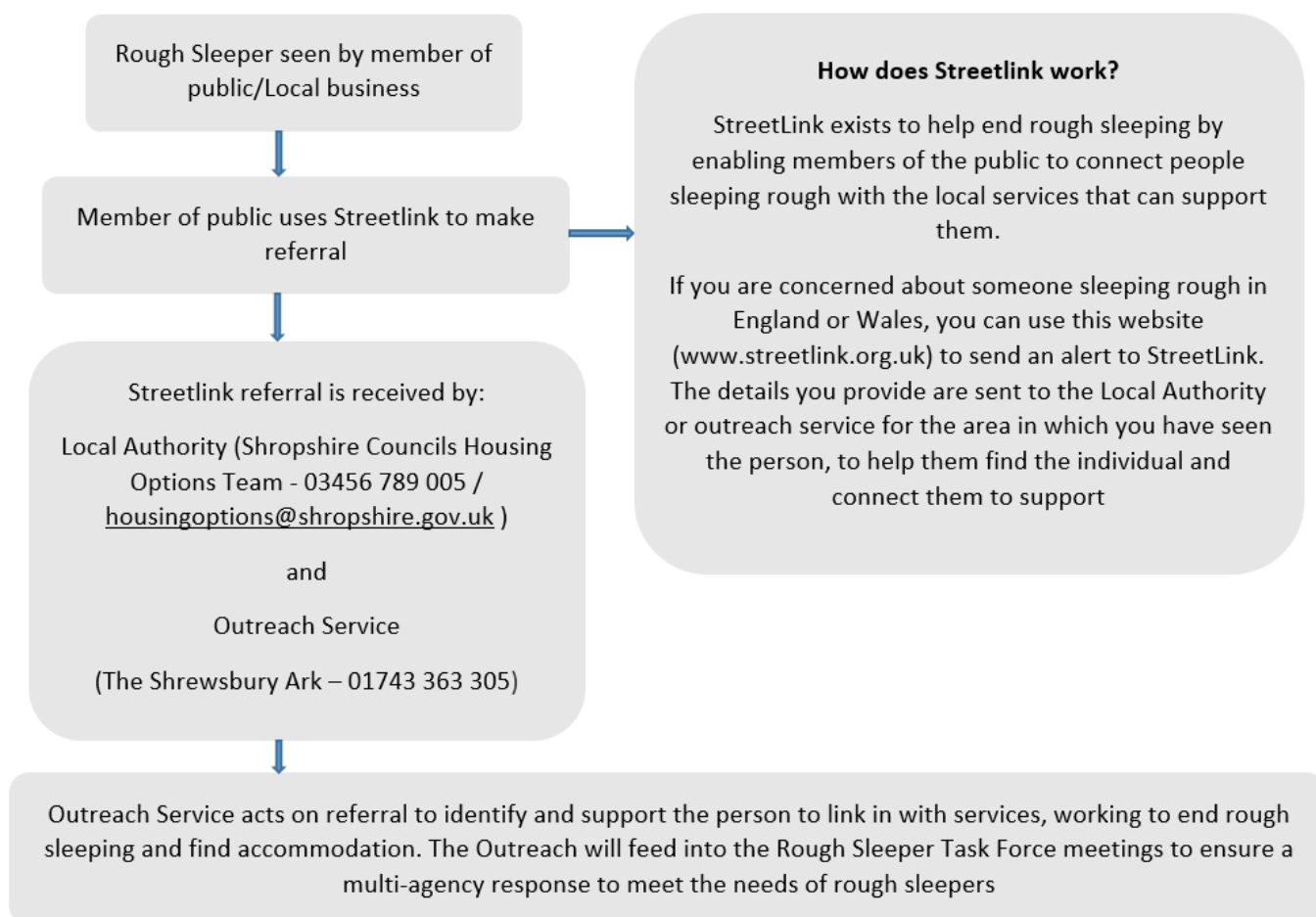
List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Lee Chapman
Local Member n/a – relevant to whole County
Appendices Appendix A – How to report a rough sleeper in Shropshire

Appendix A – How to report a rough sleeper:

Rough Sleeper Referral Tool for public and professionals

The Housing Options Team are the lead member of Rough Sleeper Task Force (RSTFG) which meets on a three weekly basis to address those identified as rough sleepers. We rely on partner agencies and the public for intelligence and work with the task force members to ascertain vital information, such as the rough sleeper location and circumstances. The Housing Options Team commission a Rough Sleeper Outreach Service who are a key member of the RSTFG and are the front line response to rough sleeping. The task force members collaborate to explore the intelligence provided in order to plan a front-line response to those identified as rough sleepers, with the aim of ending rough sleeping in Shropshire.

If you are a member of the public or a local service and wish to make the Local Authority and services aware of a rough sleeper, please find the process below:



The role of the Outreach Service

The Shrewsbury Ark Outreach Service aims to help people who are sleeping rough within Shropshire by going into the community, responding to referrals and supporting rough sleepers to try to secure accommodation. The Outreach reacts to reports of rough sleepers on the next working day, locating the person of concern, providing support and connecting them with vital services with the aim of ending the lifestyle of rough sleeping.